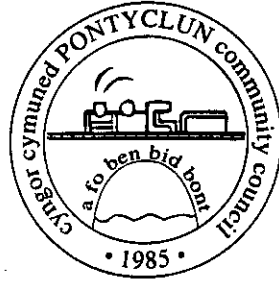


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

Clerc i'r Cyngor
J.H.G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.
"Mandalay"
Heol Bontfaen
Talygarn
Pontyclun
CF72 9BZ

Ffôn/Ffacs: 01443 227094



APPENDIX No 1
Pontyclun Community Council

Clerk to the Council
J.H.G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.
"Mandalay"
Cowbridge Road
Talygarn
Pontyclun
CF72 9BZ

Tel/Fax: 01443 227094

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 5 November, 1997

PRESENT: Community Councillors C G Bendle, T J Burton, J G Davies, (for part of meeting) R O Edwards, M M Griffiths, R G Norman (for part of meeting) and M Rea (Chairperson)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Steve Kettle (for part of meeting) and one member of the public.

1. **Apology for absence**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Community Councillor J V Huish

2. **Groundwork Merthyr & Rhondda Cynon Taff**

The Council received a slide presentation from Mrs Margaret Hanigan-Popp on the work of Groundwork Merthyr & Rhondda Cynon Taff.

Mrs Hanigan-Popp explained that the organisation came into existence in January, 1987 as the Merthyr Tydfil Groundwork Trust and extended its operations into the Cynon Valley in 1989. The reorganisation of local government in 1996 had resulted in the Trust extending its operations into Rhondda and Taff Ely.

Groundwork aims to look at new ways of tackling environmental issues within the built up areas and on the urban fringe and the local Trust is part of the national Groundwork network. Groundwork Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff is helping to regenerate the valleys' environment by undertaking effective schemes in partnership with local communities - voluntary groups, schools, businesses, local authorities and the government. The Trust's schemes bring

M. J. P.

benefit to local communities and to visitors.

The Trust's projects are funded from a wide variety of sources including statutory and grant aiding bodies, Europe, cash donations, charitable trusts and fee earned income. The implementation of projects is carried out by contractors, staff, volunteers or, in a few cases, by the Trust's own implementation team.

RESOLVED: That the Council prepare a list of possible environmental projects in the Community for further discussion with Groundwork Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff.

3. **Chairperson's business**

There were no items of Chairperson's business.

4. **Police matters**

(a) **Garages destroyed by fire**

P C Keddle advised that following the recent incident on the Cefn yr Hendy Estate when a number of garages were destroyed by fire he was able to report that the persons responsible had been detected.

The matter was noted.

(b) **Brunel Arms - Public Entertainment Licence**

P C Keddle reported that the recent application by the landlord of the Brunel Arms, Pontyclun, had been refused. An appeal had been lodged and there would be no change in the licensing arrangements until the appeal hearing had been determined.

The matter was noted.

(c) **Taxi parking**

Councillor Burton drew P C Keddle's attention to the amount of inconsiderate parking by taxi drivers in the vicinity of licensed premises in Pontyclun at night. The practice of parking on pavements was widespread and it frequently resulted in complaints from residents. P C Keddle responded that the police were aware of the problem and had asked taxi drivers to remove their vehicles from pavements on a number of occasions. He believed that the situation could be improved by the creation of a taxi rank.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make enquiries with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about identifying suitable sites for taxi ranks in the vicinity of Station Approach and Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

(d) **Parking of coaches**

Councillor Bendle drew P C Keddle's attention to the growing practice of some coach drivers of parking their vehicles near the junction of the A4222 and the access road to the Ynysddu Farm Estate, Pontyclun. Councillor Bendle pointed out that as the parking took place on to a bend the practice was dangerous.

5. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 1 October, 1997**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 1 October, 1997, be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Missing hedgecutter**

The Clerk reported on the discussion which had taken place between Members of the Council and the Handyman in an attempt to clarify the circumstances surrounding the loss of a hedgecutter. Despite a thorough re-examination of the facts it had not been possible to throw any further light on the incident. In the circumstances a new hedgecutter had been purchased and a claim made on the Council's insurance policy for the loss. A letter had also been sent to the police in Pontypridd confirming earlier verbal notification of the loss. Measures had also been introduced with the Handyman to improve security.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **Proposed leaflet on footpaths**

The Clerk reported that he had had considerable difficulty in arranging a meeting with representatives of the Ramblers' Association to coincide with the availability of the Community Centre. A meeting had finally been arranged for the evening of Wednesday, 12 November, 1997, at 7.00 p.m. in the Pontyclun Community Centre.

In view of the potential contribution of local knowledge from all Members the Clerk had convened the meeting as a special meeting of the Community Council.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

(c) **Licensing - The Brunel Arms, Pontyclun**

Councillor Bendle commented on the recent application for a Public Entertainment Licence by the licensee of the Brunel Arms, Pontyclun, and expressed his concern that the system for adjudicating the application provided for councillors, all of whom lived outside the Community and were unlikely to be aware of local conditions, to decide the application.

Councillor Bendle also drew the Community Council's attention to the apparent contradictory position of the local Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council member for Pontyclun, who was also a Member of the Pontyclun Community Council.

Councillor Bendle pointed out that when the licensing application was discussed at the Community Council the Member declared an interest and took no part in the Community Council's deliberations. However, when the same application came before the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council the Member concerned wrote a personal letter to the Chairperson of the Licensing Committee supporting the application in the knowledge that there was strong local opposition from residents to the application. Councillor Bendle was at a loss to understand the actions of the Member. He believed that the Member should explain his apparent contradictory stances.

The Chairperson advised that it was inappropriate to discuss the matter in the absence of the Member concerned.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk seek guidance on the matter and report back to the next meeting of the Community Council.

(d) **Twinning**

Councillor Griffiths referred to the information on Twinning which had been passed to her following the Council's meeting of 1 October, 1997, and asked that the information be formally discussed at the next meeting of the Community Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange for Twinning to be included on the Community Council's agenda for 3 December, 1997

7. **Role of the Community Council's Finance Committee**

The Council discussed the paper submitted by Councillor Griffiths and enclosed as Appendix 3 to the Agenda.

RESOLVED: That a motion to disband the Council's Finance Committee be considered at the 1998 Annual Meeting of the Community Council.

8. **Utilisation of reserves**

The Council discussed the paper submitted by Councillor Griffiths and enclosed as Appendix 4 to the Agenda.

RESOLVED: That the matter be placed on the agenda for the Community Council's meeting of 3 December, 1997.

9. **Footpath access to the Ivor Woods from Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler**

The Council again discussed the possibility of the footpath access from Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler, to the Ivor Woods. Members recalled that a proposal to lay a concrete footpath along the perimeter of the football field had been considered by the Council some years earlier but had not been progressed at that time for a variety of reasons.

The Clerk advised the Council that if the scheme was to be advanced it would be necessary for the consent of the landowner to be obtained before any quotations were invited from contractors.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make enquiries of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to establish whether that authority owned the land in question.

10. **Possibility of the employment of a roadsweeper**

The Council discussed the reply of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils in response to the Community Council's enquiry about the possibility of employing a roadsweeper in the Community.

The advice from the Association was that it was unlikely that there were any specific powers which would allow the employment of a roadsweeper. The Association did point out, however, that it was open to the Council to exercise its limited discretionary powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, to provide a service.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

11. **Fencing and trespass problems in the vicinity of Pontyclun Station**

The Council received two replies from Railtrack about concerns expressed a year earlier over fencing and trespassing on the railway in the vicinity of Pontyclun Station.

Railtrack did not think that a gate at the top of the flight of steps leading to the Station would prevent access to railway property by children. However, the Area Liability Manager for Railtrack gave an assurance that a survey of the condition of the fencing around the station would take place in the near future and a better idea would be gained of what action could be taken to reduce trespass.

In Railtrack's second letter it was confirmed that the erection of a gate would not eliminate trespass problems. The maintenance of fences along the railway appeared to be an on-going problem since Railtrack's contractor was regularly replacing fences in the area.

RESOLVED: That the letters be noted.

12. **Parking difficulties in Station Road, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed a letter from Williams Ross, Accountants, of Midland Chambers, Pontyclun, about difficult parking conditions in Station Terrace, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk respond to Williams Ross pointing out that the Community Council had no control over on street parking in Station Terrace and that their letter was being forwarded to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

Additionally, that the Community Council had made strenuous efforts in recent years to increase the number of car parking facilities in Pontyclun and, wherever possible, the Council would encourage the public to use the additional car parking facilities available in the adjacent to the Pontyclun RFC and Sportsclub and Pontyclun Community Centre.

- (ii) That a copy of the letter be sent to the police.

13. **Proposed children's play area - Cefn yr Hendy development**

The Community Council received the letter of the Director of Leisure of Tourism of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council who stated that as part of the new Cefn yr Hendy development the developer is required to provide a children's play area to the value of £50,000. The children's play area would include a tarmac surface suitable for roller-blading.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

14. **Miskin Residents' Association**

The Council received copies of the Association's Annual Report in addition to an invitation to attend the Association's annual meeting. The annual meeting was held on 26 October, 1997, and had been attended by Councillor Burton.

Councillor Burton reported that the meeting had not been well attended but that those members who were in attendance were keen, enthusiastic and well able to pursue the goals of the Association.

It seemed likely that the Association would approach the Community Council for grant aid.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

15. **Applications for financial assistance**

RESOLVED: That the following grants be made:

- (i) Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Urdd Gobaith Cymru - £100.00
- (ii) Victim Support - £100.00 *
- (iii) Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru - £100.00

* Councillor Norman declared an interest in this application and left the meeting

16. **Annual Meeting of Taff Ely Drug Support (TEDS)**

The Council received an invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting of TEDS to be held at 7.00p.m. on the evening of Thursday, 13 November, 1997.

RESOLVED: That due to the unavailability of any of the members present at the Council's meeting to attend the annual meeting of TEDS, the Clerk make enquiries about the availability of Councillor Flood to attend.

17. **Revised bus timetables**

The Council received copies of revised bus timetables for the Pontypridd to Bridgend service. The Clerk advised the Council that he had already arranged for the new timetables to be displayed in Community council noticeboards.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Clerk be confirmed.

18. **Planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ending 3, 10, 17 and 24 October, 1997**

The Council discussed planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ending 3, 10, 17 and 24 October, 1997.

RESOLVED: That no observations on the planning applications be made to the planning authority.

19. **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 21 to the Agenda.

20. **Reports from Members**

(a) **Police presence**

Councillor Bendle reported that it was pleasing to see an increased police presence in the Community of late. The public felt considerably reassured at the sight of police officers on foot patrolling streets.

The matter was noted.

(b) **Footpath on land parallel to the M4 motorway**

Councillor Edwards referred to the footpath to the north, and running parallel with, the M4 motorway on Dr Wynne Davies'

land. Councillor Edwards pointed out that the stile on the footpath was becoming overgrown with bracken and brambles and requested that the undergrowth be cut back.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange for the Council's Handyman to cut back the undergrowth.

(c) **Absence of traffic warden**

Councillor Burton drew the Council's attention to the absence of the traffic warden in Pontyclun. It was unclear why the traffic warden had not been seen for some time but there was no doubting the deterrent value of random visits in ensuring that traffic regulations were being observed.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk pursue the matter with the police.

(d) **Community Skip Placement Schedule**

The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, advised the Council that he had discovered the reason why Groesfaen had been omitted from the recent skip placement schedule received from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. It appeared that for operational convenience Groesfaen had been grouped for skip placement in the "mid area" which covered Llantrisant and Talbot Green.

RESOLVED: That whenever skip placement schedules were being sought for the Community of Pontyclun a request be also made for a copy of the schedule for the "mid area"

(e) **Erection of hoarding**

The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, asked whether any response had been received from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about the advertising hoarding which had recently been erected at the northern end of the Corner Park Garage in Mwyndy.

The Clerk replied that an acknowledgement had been received from the Director of Planning stating that the report from the Community Council would be investigated.

The matter was noted.

(f) **Proposed bus shelter in Groesfaen**

The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, referred to the consultant's report on highway conditions in Groesfaen which had been commissioned by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. Councillor Rea advised the Council that he would ask the consultant to identify a suitable location for the erection of a bus shelter at the earliest opportunity.

The matter was noted.

21. **Any other business of an urgent nature**

(a) **Concrete "eggs" in Pontyclun**

Councillor Bendle referred to the concrete "eggs" which had been laid by the Highway Authority in one of the lay bys in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. Councillor Bendle said that the late night anti social behaviour of youths in Pontyclun had extended to removing the "eggs" and throwing them into the highway. He was concerned that the antics of the youths could lead to a serious injury being sustained by an innocent party.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk bring the matter to the attention of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council with a request that the "eggs" be removed before a serious injury was caused to an innocent party.

(b) **Review of County Electoral Arrangements for the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taff**

The Clerk reported receipt of a report from the Boundary Commission setting out its final proposals following its review of the electoral arrangements within the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taff. The report had been submitted to the Secretary of State for Wales.

In summary, the Boundary Commission had recommended that the number of members in the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council remain at 75. However, it had been proposed that for the Pontyclun Ward representation be increased from one to two members. For the existing Hawthorn and Rhydyfelin Wards it had been proposed that the two wards be amalgamated and that the ward be represented by one member.

The report was noted.

(c) **Proposed footbridge in Brynsadler**

The Clerk referred to the Community Council's proposals for the erection of a footbridge in Brynsadler and reported that a reply had been received from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

The Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering stated that the Community Council's proposal had been added to a list of possible future minor schemes under consideration by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and it would be included within the list of capital schemes to be considered for that authority for the 1998/99 Capital Programme.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(d) **Railway embankment - Pontyclun**

The Clerk reported that he had been following up correspondence with Railtrack about the removal of vegetation on the railway embankment to the east of Pontyclun Station.

In a recent letter from the Area Liability Manager of Railtrack it was stated that, following a change of office, the Area Liability Manager had not been able "to suitably file documents prior to 1997." He said that after searching for a long time he was afraid that he had not been able to locate the papers to which the Clerk referred to in his latest letter. The Area Liability Manager apologised for this and requested copies of the Community Council's correspondence. The Clerk had arranged to forward copies of earlier correspondence.

The matter was noted

(e) **Proposed bus shelter in Groesfaen**

The Clerk read out a letter from Mrs M Miles of Brofiscin Farm, Groesfaen, one of the Trustees of Babel Chapel, in reply to the Community Council letter enquiring of the possibility of a small plot of land at the front of the Chapel being made available for the construction of a bus shelter in Llantrisant Road, Groesfaen.

Mrs Miles said that she had spoken to the other Trustees and a meeting would be held with the Minister. Mrs Miles pointed

out that that the church yard at the front of the Chapel was holy ground but she anticipated that the governing body would agree to the proposal provided that the proposed bus shelter was not too conspicuous.

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken in the matter until the Chairperson had had an opportunity to speak to the consultant preparing a report on highway matters for the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(f) **Highway matters in the vicinity of Station Terrace, Pontyclun**

The Clerk drew the Council's attention to a copy of a letter which Mr L H Bailey of 4 Station Terrace, Pontyclun, had sent to the Highway Authority about the many unresolved matters in the vicinity of Station Terrace, Pontyclun. The copy letter had originally been forwarded to Councillor Flood and at Councillor Flood's request the Clerk brought the contents of the letter to the Community Council's attention.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(g) **The Reverend Glyn Austin**

The Clerk read out a letter from the Vicar of Pontyclun with Talygarn, the Reverend Glyn Austin, who thanked the Community Council for its warm letter of welcome to the Community. Vicar Austin looked forward to a long relationship with residents of the Community and offered his services to all members of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(h) **British Heart Foundation**

The Clerk advised the Council that two invitations had been received by the Community Council to attend a Charity Concert to be held in Bethel Baptist Church on the evening of 22 November, 1997, in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

RESOLVED: That the invitations be passed to the Chairperson, Councillor Rea, and his wife and that in the event that they were unable to attend the invitations be passed to Councillor Bendle and his wife.

