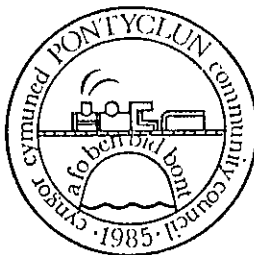


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
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"Mandalay"
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Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 6 April, 1994

PRESENT: Community Councillors Mr C G Bendle, Professor I D Bowen, Mrs A Burton, Mr T J Burton, Mr J R Dilworth, Mr E V Griffith (Chairperson), Mr R G Norman and Mrs O P Phillips

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

P C Steve Keddle for part of the meeting

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors V P James and G Moir.

2. ^{Alleged} Undercharge for water consumption at the public conveniences, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun

The Clerk informed the Council that Mr Colin Miles of Welsh Water had contacted him during March about the ^{alleged} undercharge for water consumption at the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. A site meeting had taken place when it was demonstrated that the water meter was functioning correctly and Welsh Water were satisfied that the Council had received the water which had been invoiced. The Clerk had invited Mr Miles along to the Council's meeting of 6 April, 1994, to make a presentation to the Council. Mr Miles had accepted the invitation.

The Clerk reported that when he rang Mr Miles' office earlier that afternoon to confirm the arrangements for Mr Miles' presentation he had been informed that Mr Miles was on sick leave following a car accident and would not be attending the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact Mr Miles on his return to duties with a view to getting him to make his presentation to the Council's meeting of 4 May, 1994.

3. Chairperson's business

There were no items of Chairperson's business.

C G Bendle

4. Minutes of the Council's meeting of 2 March, 1994

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 2 March, 1994, be approved as an accurate record.

5. Matters arising

(a) 1994 Sponsored Walk in aid of Kidney Research

The Clerk reported that another highly successful sponsored walk in aid of kidney research had been staged on the morning of Sunday, 20 March, 1994. It was confidently expected that when all sponsorship had been paid into the bank a sum in excess of £500.00 would have been raised.

RESOLVED: That letters be sent to the Secretary of the Pontyclun Rugby Football Club and Mr R C Kennard of Castell-y-Mwnws thanking them for the assistance they readily gave in making the walk a success.

(b) Proposed Community Centre/Day Centre

The Council discussed the letters of 1 March, 1994, and 25 March, 1994 from the Chief Environmental Services Officer of the Borough Council about the proposed Community Centre/Day Centre in Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

(c) Matters concerning Purolite

(i) Purolite Joint Liaison Committee

Councillor John Dilworth presented a detailed report on his attendance at the last meeting of the Purolite Joint Liaison Committee meeting. Councillor Dilworth had queried the absence of "matters arising" as an agenda item at Liaison Committee meetings. It was agreed that future agendas would incorporate this item.

Members of the Committee were provided with a summary of the monthly complaints about odour emissions received by the Borough Council since August, 1993. A map was also distributed giving the location of each of the 13 odour monitoring sites in the vicinity of the plant. Only two of the monitoring sites were in Pontyclun. A further site had been agreed for Brynsadler.

The Committee was told that the chemical processes at the plant had been registered by the H M Inspectorate of Pollution under the provisions of the Environment Protection Act. The Committee was also informed that an evaluation was taking place of the BIONASS process which had been introduced in an attempt to reduce the offensive smells emanating from the plant. Reference was made to the mechanical malfunction which occurred at the plant during January. It appeared that the manufacturing process was aborted and there was no risk to the public. As a precaution the fire service stood by.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Chief Fire Officer of the Mid Glamorgan County Council for confirmation that there was no danger to the public as a result of the January incident.

(ii) Purolite Standing Conference

Councillor Dilworth reported that the matter of the additional monitoring point was also raised at the Standing Conference. Additionally, concern was expressed about two apparent cases of poisoning. Both cases were under investigation by Dr Mukherjee. Despite the claims of management at the plant that they were doing everything to the highest standards there was a strong feeling that more could be done to make the plant more acceptable to residents living in the vicinity.

RESOLVED: (i) That further monitoring point be requested for Cefn-yr-Hendy, Pontyclun.

(ii) That the Clerk make enquiries about the possibility of obtaining a suitable person to address a future meeting of the Council about the inherent dangers of the Purolite plant.

(d) Medical advice to the Community Council

The Clerk reported that he had obtained the agreement of the County Council's Occupational Physician to provide a medical advice service to the Community Council as and when needed. Arrangements had been made for the Community Council's Handyman to be medically examined shortly.

The matter was noted.

(e) Centenary of the Local Government Act, 1894

Councillor John Dilworth reported that he had written to the headteachers of the Pontyclun Primary School and Y Pant Comprehensive School. The headteacher of the Primary School had responded enthusiastically to the suggestion of an essay competition. To date no reply had been received from the headteacher of Y Pant Comprehensive School. Councillor Dilworth intended contacting the headteacher at Y Pant again.

The report was noted.

(f) Dog fouling in public places

The Clerk reported that the matter of dog fouling had been discussed at the meeting of the Borough Council/Community Councils Joint Liaison Committee meeting held on 29 March, 1994.

There was a reluctance by the Borough Council to enforce existing byelaws since the penalties were inadequate. It was estimated that the cost of bringing a prosecution was in the region of £100 whereas the fine for a successful prosecution was only £5.

New byelaws were currently being promoted by the Borough Council, in conjunction with the Welsh Office, where fines in successful prosecutions would be more realistic. Enforcement of the byelaws would become the responsibility of the Borough Council's dog wardens. It was planned to hold a dog awareness day prior to the introduction of the new byelaws.

The report was noted.

(g) Tabernacle Chapel, Pontyclun

The Clerk reported that he had contacted an elder of the Chapel about the need for maintenance work. The Clerk had been told that arrangements for repair work were in hand but that the builder would not be able to start work for about six weeks. In the meantime, a roofer had been engaged to carry out urgent repairs.

The report was noted.

(h) Proposed reorganisation of local government

Councillor Delme Bowen enquired whether a reply had been received from the Welsh Office about the electoral arrangements for Pontyclun under the proposed

arrangements for the reorganisation of local government. Councillor Bowen reminded the Council that the proposals would provide for only one member for Pontyclun at the unitary authority. In practice, Pontyclun would become, virtually, largest ward at the unitary authority. When account was taken of the agreed residential development at Cefn-yr-Hendy, where upwards of 900 units of accommodation could be built, plus the likelihood of Ynysddu Farm Estate, Pontyclun, being formally recognised as part of Pontyclun, the Pontyclun ward at the unitary authority would be grossly under-represented.

The Clerk responded that he had not yet received a reply from the Welsh Office.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up again with the Welsh Office.

(i) Representation of the Llanharry Community Council on the Purolite Standing Conference

Councillor John Dilworth referred to the controversy surrounding the the absence of Councillor P Boston from Llanharry Community Council meetings and her eligibility to be a member of the Purolite Standing Conference. The latest advice, which had been received from the local representative of the National Association of Local Councils, was that Councillor Boston retained her eligibility as a member of the Llanharry Community Council. The views of the District Auditor were still awaited.

The report was noted.

6. Development of Pontyclun Railway Station

The Council discussed the letter from the County Engineer and Surveyor dated 1 March, 1994, in which he said that he could not agree to the request for additional facilities in the vicinity of the Pontyclun railway station.

The Council was dissatisfied with the response of the County Engineer and the very slow progress being made to finalise the station development. There was an overwhelming case for the completion of the station development as soon as possible and the improvement of the access route to Tylagarw. It appeared that the County Council blamed the need to resort to a compulsory purchase order for the slow progress in finalising the development on the south side of the station.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk write to the County Engineer and Surveyor to establish when the station development would be completed.

(ii) That County Councillor Delme Bowen continue to press the County Council for a firm commitment to improve the access to Tylagarw from Pontyclun.

7. Draft Agreement on the Maintenance of Rights of Way

The Council considered the draft agreement for the maintenance of rights of way which had been drawn up by the County Council.

RESOLVED: That in view of the detail contained in the draft agreement the matter be deferred to the Council's meeting of 4 May, 1994.

8. Quality of water in the river Ely

The Council discussed the letter of 23 March, 1994, from the National Rivers Authority. The N R A agreed that the river Clun had been seriously polluted for many years due to the discharge of effluent from the coal by-product plant at Cwm Coke Works, Beddau. In addition, the sewage treatment and disposal arrangements in the catchment area were seriously overloaded until recently.

The N R A was optimistic that improvements would take place in the medium term. It pointed to the rebuilding of the Rhiwsaeson sewage works and the recent transfer of responsibility for the monitoring of effluent discharge to the H M Inspectorate of Pollution.

Councillor Tudor Burton expressed his reservations on the optimistic forecast of the N R A. He referred to a recent meeting he attended where he had requested information about the seepage of toxic chemicals from the former Brofiscin Quarry, Groesfaen. The representatives of the N R A appeared embarrassed and were reluctant to discuss the matter.

RESOLVED: That the optimistic report of the N R A be welcomed but that the reservations of Councillor Burton be noted.

9. Ely Catchment Management Plan Consultation Report

Councillor Tudor Burton reported on his attendance at a public meeting convened by the National Rivers Authority to launch the Ely Catchment Management Plan Consultation Report.

Councillor Burton was of the view that while the N R A appeared to be working towards improving the environment of the River Ely catchment area there were certain aspects of their plans which were unclear and gave cause for concern. In particular, the possibility of residential development of areas designated as flood plains.



RESOLVED: That the Clerk comment to the N R A that the Community Council welcomed publication of the Consultation Report and that areas designated as flood plains in the Plan should not, under any circumstances, be approved for residential development.

10. The Taff Ely and District Police Consultative Committee

The Council discussed a letter from Superintendent A J Sullivan at the Divisional Police Office, Pontypridd, drawing attention to the declining attendance at meetings of the Taff Ely and District Police Consultative Committee. Schedules were enclosed setting out attendance at the Committee's last four meetings. A list was enclosed of the delegates from the Community Council to the Committee.

It was felt that the Committee was carrying out a valuable role and the Community Council would be disappointed if the Committee was disbanded. However, it was pointed out that Members, who gave their services voluntarily, frequently had many calls on their services. It was not possible for nominated Members to attend every meeting which which was convened.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk reply to Superintendent Sullivan expressing the support of the Community Council for the continued operation of the Committee but pointing out that due to the many calls on Members' services it would not always be possible for a Member of the Pontyclun Community Council to attend Committee meetings.

(ii) That the Clerk clarify with Superintendent Sullivan that the Council's delegate to the Committee is Councillor Tudor Burton and the substitute delegate in the event of Councillor Burton being unavailable is Councillor Gordon Norman.

11. Proposed National Parks Boards

The Council discussed detailed correspondence from the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils on the proposals for the replacement of National Parks Committees by "independent" Boards as envisaged in the private Bill introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Norrie.

The Association strongly urged all Community Councils to write to their district councils asking them to oppose the Bill and clauses in the Local Government (Wales) Bill which would enable the Secretary of State for Wales to create Boards and new National Parks circumventing the existing the requirement to hold a public inquiries.



Under the Norrie Bill it was believed that Boards were likely to tilt the balance against economic development and job opportunities over wide areas of rural Wales at a time when jobs were being lost at Trawsfynydd in Snowdonia, Trecwn in Pembrokeshire and the Aman Valley on the edge of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Taff Ely Borough Council and the MP for Pontypridd, Dr Kim Howells, requesting them to oppose the Norrie Bill and the clauses in the Local Government (Wales) Bill.

12. Use of back lanes by motorists as short cuts

Councillor Mrs Anita Burton drew the Council's attention the increasing, and dangerous practice of motorists using back lanes in the vicinity of School Street, Lewis Street and Merthyr Street, Pontyclun, as short cuts to avoid traffic congestion on the Llantrisant Road.

Councillor Burton pointed out that the lanes were not suitable for vehicular traffic and there had been several instances of pedestrians being involved in "near misses" as a result of motorists taking short cuts. Councillor Burton believed that if something was not done to curb the practice it would only be a matter of time before there was a serious injury to a pedestrian.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk take the matter up with the police and the County Engineer and Surveyor.

(ii) That Councillor Delme Bowen raise the matter with the County Council.

13. Application for financial assistance

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance from the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

RESOLVED: That the application be deferred to the Council's annual grants allocation meeting.

14. Payment of creditors

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix No. 17 to the Council's agenda.

15. Planning Notifications for Weeks ending 25 February, 4, 11, 18 and 25 March, 1994

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made to the Borough Council:



Application No. 94/0127/#3

That the Council oppose the application on the grounds that:

- (i) There would be inadequate provision for access.
- (ii) The development was considered to be unsuitable in that it would be subject to significant noise from adjacent buildings.
- (iii) The proposal would lead to an over-intensification of development in the area.

Application No. 94/0154/13

That the Council oppose the application on the grounds that:

- (i) That the application is outside the Local Plan
- (ii) There would be inadequate access to the proposed development.
- (iii) There is a presumption against residential development on arable land.

Application No. 94/0172/16

That the Council oppose the application on the grounds that:

- (i) That the proposed development forms part of the flood plain of the river Ely.
- (ii) That the increased demand placed on the sewerage system would be unacceptable in view of the problems currently being experienced by residents of Tegfan, Pontyclun.
- (iii) There would be an unacceptable increase in traffic using the narrow approach roads to the site
- (iv) The relaxation of objections by the National Rivers Authority to the original proposal for development was made on the assumption that only twenty two properties were to be built.



The Council also discussed the proposal to construct a spectators' stand on the football field at the Ivor Park, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That no comment be offered to the Borough Council at this stage.

16. Reports from Members

(a) Prizegiving at Y Pant Comprehensive School

The Chairperson, Councillor Eric Griffith, was pleased to be able to report that he had been invited to the recent prizegiving ceremony at Y Pant Comprehensive School, Pontyclun. The ceremony had proved to be a memorable occasion and he was privileged to have represented the Community Council.

The report was noted.

(b) Duffryn Isaf Sewage Treatment Works

The Chairperson, Councillor Eric Griffith, reported that he, together with the Clerk, had attended the official opening ceremony of the Duffryn Isaf Sewage Works in Llantrisant on the afternoon of Friday 25 March, 1994. All the guests in attendance had been given a guided tour of the new facility which would play a significant part in the proposals of Welsh Water to modernise sewage facilities in the Ely Valley and subsequently improve the water quality of the river Ely.

The report was noted.

(c) "Keeping children safe in Taff Ely"

Councillor Cyril Bendle reported on his attendance at the recent seminar entitled "Keeping children safe in Taff Ely". Councillor Bendle stated that he wished to attend the seminar because he, and his wife, had a deep interest in the subject matter. In the event, he was very disappointed with the content of the seminar. Only one small part of the seminar was directly related to keeping children safe. The remainder comprised a presentation by a doctor who failed to make his presentation relevant to the subject matter.

The report was noted.

(d) Complaints of pollution in Talygarn

Councillor Delme Bowen informed the Council that his



report into the complaints of airborne pollution in Talygarn had now been finalised and that he would be providing a copy of the report to Mrs Bufton of "Highwinds", Talygarn. The report showed that while there were small traces of chemicals present on the samples he had taken from Mrs Bufton's garden, the main problem was the presence of fungi. Councillor Bowen stated that he would deposit a copy of his report with the Clerk.

(e) East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils

Councillor John Dilworth reported on the presentation given at the last meeting of the Area Committee by Mr John Puzey, Director of Shelter Cymru. Mr Puzey emphasised that Shelter Cymru was an autonomous charitable body specialising in offering assistance to the homeless in Wales. Mr Puzey stated that official estimates of the numbers homeless in Wales were significantly understated. He believed that the true figure was in the region of 60,000. Mr Puzey was hopeful that later in the year Shelter Cymru would be able to establish an all-Wales free phone line for anyone in need of housing advice.

The report was noted.

(f) Re-organisation of local government

Councillor John Dilworth reminded the Council that in the period leading up to unitary authorities taking up their duties there would be "transition committees". The role of transition committees would be to carry out preparatory work prior to re-organisation. The effectiveness of the new unitary authorities would depend on the ability of existing authorities to cooperate in identifying the key issues and presenting clear options to the new authorities. The Wales Association of Community and Town Councils was of the view that approaches should be made to ensure that there was an input to the work of the transition committees by community and town councils.

Councillor Dilworth also reported that the Audit Commission had become involved in the arrangements leading up to reorganisation to avoid duplication of work. It was proposed that information be held on a data base.

The report was noted.



(g) Special meeting of the Area Committee

Councillor John Dilworth reminded the Council that the Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils had convened a special meeting at the Municipal Offices, Pontypridd, on the evening of 26 April, 1994, for the purpose of discussing problems associated with the clearance of contaminated former industrial sites. The guest speakers at the meeting would be the County Council's Land Reclamation Officer, Mr P E Wright and Mr D G Griffiths, Director Land Reclamation, Welsh Development Agency.

RESOLVED: (i) That Councillor Dilworth's report be noted.

(ii) That the attendance of Members at the meeting be treated as an approved duty

(h) Additional parking facilities, Llwynypennau, Groesfaen

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that contractors had started work at Llwynypennau, Groesfaen, on providing additional parking facilities for residents of Llwynypennau Cottages. Work was scheduled to last several weeks.

The report was noted.

17. Any other business of an urgent nature

(a) Cardiff Bay Barrage

Councillor Cyril Bendle spoke of his fears for the centre of Pontyclun if it was true that the Pioneer Quarry was anticipating securing a contract to supply stone and aggregate for the construction of the Cardiff Bay Barrage. The village already suffered adversely from the effects of several hundred loaded trucks passing through the village daily. Moreover, there was little doubt that a large number of the truck drivers drove through the village in excess of the speed limit.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk bring the Council's concern to the attention of the police.

(b) Lay-by "test eggs"

Councillor John Dilworth drew the attention of the Council to the "test eggs" which had been positioned by the County Council in a lay-by on the western side of Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. It was unclear what the

obstructions were supposed to achieve and how long they were to remain in position.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the County Engineer and Surveyor for clarification of the objectives in placing the "test eggs" and to establish how long it was proposed to leave them in place.

(c) Gilfach Goch Ambulance Station

Councillor Gordon Norman alerted the Council to disturbing reports that the ambulance station at Gilfach Goch, which was designed to respond to the needs of 40,000 people living in the western end of Taff Ely, had been closed for several evenings during February and March. Furthermore, it appeared that even when the station was open, only one ambulance crew was on duty instead of the customary two crews. On the occasions when the Gilfach Goch station was not operational the western end of Taff Ely had to rely on the ambulance cover from the station at Hawthorn, situated in the eastern part of the Borough.

It was unclear why there should be such an alarming reduction in the level of service especially as the General Manager of the Mid Glamorgan Health Authority had offered reassurances to Mr Ray Powell, MP, as recently as 23 May, 1990, that the level of service from Gilfach Goch ambulance station "will not be eroded in any way"

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk take the matter up with the General Manager of the Mid Glamorgan Health Authority.

(ii) That the reduction in the level of service be drawn to the attention of the Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils.

(d) Burglaries in the Community

P C Steve Keddle warned the Council that there were believed to be two gangs of criminals operating in the Community who had been responsible for a large number of break-ins in recent weeks. Much personal property had been stolen in addition to several vehicles. PC Keddle urged Members to encourage residents to be extra vigilant at this time and to report any suspicious activities by strangers to the police.



The report was noted.

(e) Annual Audit

The Clerk reported that he had received notification from the District Auditor that the annual audit of the Community Council's accounts would take place on 6 June, 1994. The Clerk confirmed that that all preparatory work prior to the audit would be completed by 6 June, 1994.

18. The meeting ended at 10.25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. J. Bondle". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally on the page.