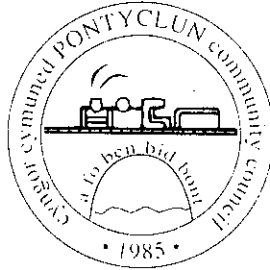


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

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Pontyclun Community Council

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Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held at the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 6 April, 2005.

PRESENT: Councillors D Clayton Jones, C Davies, M P Griffiths, D G Henderson, Ms S R Jenkins, A R Lane, R G Norman, M Rea and Mrs P Thomas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Steve Kettle and Inspector Mence of the South Wales Constabulary and seven members of the public for part of the meeting.

1. **Apology for absence**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Mrs V A Cale.

2. **Declarations of interest**

Declarations of interest were invited from Members.

RESOLVED: That any disclosures be included in the Register of Disclosures.

3. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 2 March, 2005**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 2 March, 2005, be approved as an accurate record.

4. **Matters arising**

(a) **Station Terrace**

A wide ranging discussion took place on the traffic congestion problems facing residents of Station Terrace.

Contributions to the discussion were also made by residents and the police. Residents were disappointed to hear that the Borough Council had decided not to proceed with a scheme to construct a new access to the Ely Valley Industrial Estate from Station Terrace.

Another proposal to provide a new access road from the western side of the Ely river was being investigated. It appeared that this route was already being used on occasion. Residents were also encouraged by the prospect that the Highway Authority was considering the possibility of placing traffic restrictions in Station Terrace which would restrict parking and limit the weight of vehicles using the Terrace to 7.5 tons.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the Community Council write to the Borough Council urging that the plan to provide additional car parking spaces, through SEWA, at Pontyclun Station be resurrected.

(ii) That Councillor Rea forward the report considered by the Borough Council to the Clerk which lead to the decision not to proceed with the access road from Station Terrace and that this report be circulated to Members and residents.

(iii) That the Community Council urge the Borough Council to provide residents of Station Terrace with residents only parking permits on the merits of the case without waiting for a review of the current policy for the issue of permits.

(iv) That the Borough Council be asked to erect bollards at the western end of Station Terrace to prevent heavy goods vehicles accessing the Ely Valley Industrial Estate from Station Terrace.

(b) **Rhondda Cynon Taff (Taff Ely) Local Plan**

The Clerk advised the Council that the Council had been provided with a copy of the Rhondda Cynon Taff (Taff Ely) Local Plan at its last meeting because it was the latest version and contained modifications from the Plan adopted in 2003.

The Borough Council had provided the Community Council with two additional copies of the plan.

RESOLVED: That the two additional copies be handed to Councillors Lane and Norman.

5. **Police matters**

Inspector Mence and P C Keddle presented the latest crime figures for the area.

Inspector Mence was pleased to be able to report that the latest year end statistics for his area showed that there had been an overall reduction in crime by 34%. These figures were very encouraging and while there were slight fluctuations within specific crime categories it was very pleasing to note that crimes involving vehicles and street assaults were significantly below the previous year's figures. Inspector Mence paid tribute to the hard work undertaken by the police officers under his control. The achievement was particularly welcomed when account was taken of the 5,000 increase in population which had taken place in recent years.

Inspector Mence hoped that the increased policing demands placed on him would result in additional officers being made available. In the meantime, it was important for him to target criminal activity by using the resources at his disposal in the most effective way.

In response to a question from Members Inspector Mence stated that Pontyclun did not suffer from drug dealing on a large scale. He was aware that drug taking took place but that it was on a small scale by users. If he became aware of any significant dealing activity he would be seeking convictions.

In response to another question Inspector Mence stated that the police would object to licensing applications where there were grounds for believing that problems would occur.

In response to a question on police coverage, Inspector Mence pointed out that, on occasion, he was called upon to provide police coverage for other areas. On these occasions it was inevitable that police response times would not be as rapid as normal.

Inspector Mence made the point that youth annoyance was on the increase but that the solution to this problem lay with communities. It was not the function of the police to provide facilities for the youth.

P C Keddle advised that the next police surgery would be held in the Bethel Baptist Church, Pontyclun on 4 May, 2005.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Community Council extend its congratulations to Inspector Mence and his officers for achieving a significant reduction in criminal activity during the previous year.
 - (ii) That the Community Council advertise the achievement of the police in attaining the excellent result by placing the details of the crime reductions in its noticeboards on receipt of the details from Inspector Mence.
 - (iii) That the Community Council discuss the provision of youth facilities in the Community at its next meeting.

6. **Land at Brynsadler Mill, Pontyclun**

(i) **Mr Richard Wistow, Ecologist**

The Clerk informed the Council that he had received a telephone call from Mr Wistow earlier in the day to say that he would not be able to attend that evening's meeting due to a family commitment. He would however, be able to attend the Community Council's meeting on 4 May, 2005.

The report was noted.

(ii) **Letter from the Chief Executive of the Welsh Development Agency**

The Council received the letter of the 18 March, 2005, from the Chief Executive of the Welsh Development Agency in response to the Community Council's request for a lease on the land.

The Chief Executive stated that the Executive Director of Land Development and Legal Services is currently reviewing the future status of the land and had been asked by the Chief Executive to contact the Community Council when the way forward is clearer.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the WDA for an indication on when the Community Council might hear from the WDA and offer the Council's assistance as an aid to making progress.

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Ely Valley Industrial Estate –**

Letter from Councillor Eudine Hanagan

The Council received a letter from Councillor Eudine Hanagan who outlined the reasons why the Borough Council had arrived at its decision not to progress the scheme for an access to the Ely Valley Industrial Estate from Station Terrace, Pontyclun.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That as the subject had been fully discussed under item 4(b) on the Agenda that no further discussion take place.
 - (ii) That Councillor Hanagan be thanked for her letter and reminded that the Community Council was still awaiting a reply to its request for a site meeting at Station Terrace, Pontyclun.

(b) **Request to purchase land in Miskin**

The Council received a letter from solicitors acting for Mr and Mrs Penman of The Lodge, Miskin, who had indicated their wish to purchase their rights under the Leasehold Reform Act to purchase the freehold title of land in the ownership of the Community Council in Miskin.

- RESOLVED:** That the Community Council reply to the effect that it would be prepared to sell the land in question to Mr & Mrs Penman on the terms outlined in the Community Council's letter to Mr & Mrs Penman dated 25 September, 2004.

(c) **Standards Committee dealing with community council issues**

The Council discussed the views of the Borough Council that the existence of a separate Standards Sub Committee to deal entirely with community council matters was a duplication of efforts especially as experience had shown that there were very few complaints against community council members.

The Borough Council sought the Community Council's view on whether it wished to continue with a separate Standards Sub Committee or whether it is happy to replace the existing committees by one Standards Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk inform the Borough Council that the Pontyclun Community Council favours the existing committees being replaced by one new Standards Committee.

(d) **Draft Commissioner For Older People (Wales) Bill**

The Council considered the publication in draft form of the Commissioner For Older People (Wales) Bill and was invited by the Welsh Assembly to offer comments on the proposed legislation.

RESOLVED: That the Council decline to comment on the Bill.

(e) **Membership of One Voice Wales**

In line with the Community Council's earlier decision, the Council considered whether to re-new its membership of One Voice Wales after the organisation's first year of operation.

RESOLVED: That given the organisation's difficulties in its first year of operation, the Community Council renew its membership of One Voice Wales for 2005/06 with the proviso that the position be reviewed again at the end of the organisation's second year of operation.

(f) **International Book Day, 2005**

The Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins, gave a report on her attendance at an event at the Pontyclun Primary School to mark International Book Day.

The event had proven ^{→ Rea} to be highly successful with The Chairman and Councillor presenting certificates and book tokens to children who had been successful in a competition which was judged by a librarian in the Borough Council.

The Chairman was impressed by the reception she received from the children and had agreed to return to the school to read a story.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council support International Book Day at the Pontyclun Primary School on an annual basis.
- (ii) That the Council arrange for 8 prizes of book tokens to the value £10 each

to be presented at each annual event.

- (iii) That the Council write to the Librarian who judged the competition to thank her for her encouragement and involvement in the event.

(Councillor Rea left the meeting at 8.12 p.m.)

(g) **Planning applications**

The Council discussed planning applications contained in the latest Weekly Notifications.

RESOLVED: That the following comment be made to the Planning Authority:

Application No. 05/0441/10

That while the Community Council has no objection to the proposal it wishes to draw attention to the fact that the land subject of the application is prone to subsidence.

(h) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 9 to the Council's agenda.

8. **Matters reported for decision since the despatch of agendas**

(a) **Green Pontyclun**

The Council discussed the paper produced by Councillor Dan Clayton-Jones and Henderson containing proposals for making certain areas of the Community more attractive during the summer months.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council purchase 3 planters, for the western side of Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, and three hanging baskets for the eastern side of Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

- (ii) That the views of shopkeepers and the Highway Authority be obtained before proceeding with the plans.

- (iii) That sites be sought for the planning of trees.
- (iv) That the Council explore the possibility of arranging Best Garden and Best Grass Verge Competitions
- (v) That the Council arrange for a colourful display of plants to be provided underneath village nameplates in the Community.
- (vi) That the Council provide a budget of £2,000 for the provision of hanging baskets and planters.

(b) **Annual Photography Competition**

Councillor Henderson proposed that the Community Council introduce an Annual Photography Competition with the entries being placed on public display.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council agree to the proposal to hold an Annual Photography Competition.
- (ii) That the following prizes be awarded:

1 st prize:	£100
Best Adult (18 plus):	£50
Best Teen (11-17)	£50
Best Junior (under 11)	£50
- (iii) That the subject of the 2005 Competition will be "The Best of Pontyclun"
- (iii) That the closing date be 30 October, 2005

(c) **Brynamlwg Children's Playarea, Pontyclun**

Councillor Norman drew the Council's attention to the commitment of the Borough Council to refurbish the children's playarea in Brynamlwg, Pontyclun.

The commitment had been given several years ago since current furniture did not meet required standards. In the interim, the playarea had been locked and was not available to local children.

RESOLVED: That a site meeting be held at 10.00a.m. on Sunday, 17 April, 2005, to enable Members to gain first hand knowledge of the problem.

(d) **Parking problems in Heol y Coed, Pontyclun**

Councillor Norman drew the Council's attention to the grossly inadequate parking facilities for residents of Heol y Coed, Pontyclun.

Councillor Norman pointed out that some years ago a programme had existed for the creation of parking facilities at several locations on the Cefn yr Hendy Estate. Where improved facilities had been created they had proved to be very successful. Unfortunately, the programme was never completed with the result that in Heol y Coed considerable damage had been caused to grass verges and heavy goods vehicles were regularly parked in residential areas.

RESOLVED: That a site meeting be held on the morning of Sunday, 17 April, 2005, for Members to gain first hand knowledge of the problem.

(e) **New Cefn yr Hendy School**

Councillor Norman expressed his concern at the possibility that the full size football pitch, with community facilities, which had been promised for a site adjacent to the new Cefn yr Hendy School was now likely to be a junior size football field.

RESOLVED: That a site meeting be held on the morning of Sunday, 17 April, 2005, for Members to gain first hand knowledge of the problem.

(f) **Auditor appointment**

The Clerk circulated copies of a letter which had been received from the Wales Audit Office outlining changes to the organisations responsible for the external audit of the Community Council's accounts. It was proposed that the Wales Audit Office should act as the Community Council's external auditor for the 2004/05 and 2005/06 accounts.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Community Council agree to the proposal.

(ii) That the Council express its wish that the "lighter touch" audit which would be undertaken by the Wales Audit Office should result in a "lighter fee"

9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Local Government Partnership Scheme Annual Report, 2003-2004**

Members received copies of the Local Government Partnership Scheme Annual Report, 2003-2004.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **Boundary railings at the Maesyfelin playing fields**

The Clerk reported that he had arranged a meeting with a contractor recommended by the Borough Council to inspect the condition of the boundary railings and to report on their condition. The meeting was arranged for 2.00 p.m. on 14 April, 2005, and any Member of the Council was welcome to attend the meeting.

The Clerk also reported that he had written to the Borough Council asking that, now that ownership of the playing fields had been clarified, a lease be arranged for use of the fields by the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club.

RESOLVED : That the report be noted.

(c) **Welsh Assembly Government's spending plans 2005/08**

The Council received details of the Welsh Assembly Government for the three years 2005/08.

The Clerk advised that the details had been displayed in the Community Council's noticeboards.

RESOLVED : That the details be noted.

(d) **Road Traffic accidents in Talygarn**

The Council received the response of the Borough Council to the Community Council's earlier concerns about a spate of road traffic accidents in Talygarn.

RESOLVED : That the response be noted.

(e) **Litter Pick of 12 March, 2005**

Councillor Griffiths gave a report on the successful litter pick which took place on the morning of Saturday, 12 March, 2005, on the banks of the river Ely between Merthyr Street and Lewis Street, Pontyclun. The area had earlier been identified for a litter pick as part of the river walk leading to the baseline study by Rivercare.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That an exhibition of the work undertaken be arranged with a view to securing the support of the public and, in particular, anglers who use the river Ely.
 - (ii) That the River Care project be placed on the agenda of the next monthly Community Council meeting.

(f) **Ogmore Centre Trust**

The Community Council received a letter from the Ogmore Centre Trust thanking the Council for its cheque for £50 and the presentation by Councillor Norman.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(g) **Tonyrefail Ladies' Choir**

The Council received a letter from the Tonyrefail Ladies' Choir which sought the Community Council's assistance in recruiting new members for the Choir. The letter from the secretary of the Choir also drew attention to the availability of the Choir to provide entertainment at local events.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted and that copies be placed in the Community Council's noticeboards.

10. The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.