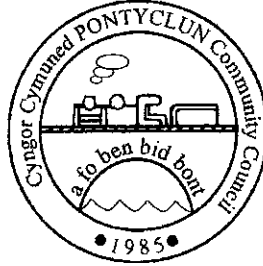


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun**Pontyclun Community Council**

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Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 6 December, 2006

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs V. A. Cale, C. Davies, P. Griffiths, S. Jenkins, A. R. Lane, R.G. Norman and P. Thomas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Sergeant Jones and PCSO Jitka Tomkova of the South Wales Police Force for part of the meeting

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors D. Clayton-Jones, D Hayes and M Rea.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were received.

3. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 15 November, 2006**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 15 November, 2006, be approved as an accurate record.

4. **Matters arising**

(a) **Directional sign to River's Edge, Pontyclun**

The Clerk informed the Council that he had made enquiries about the erection of the directional sign to "River's Edge" which had been erected on the grass verge immediately adjacent to the kerb at the cul de sac in Millfield, Pontyclun.

The Clerk was able to confirm that the sign had been erected by the Highway Authority as a result of requests for better signage by local residents. It was unclear whether the sign had been

erected on land adopted by the Highway Authority but if it had not, and was later the subject of a complaint, the Highway Authority would consider re-siting the sign.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk establish whether the land on which the sign had been erected was land adopted by the Highway Authority.

(b) **Community Council Strategy Update**

The Council discussed the latest position on its Strategy Document. Discussion on the Document had been deferred from the Council's November meeting.

RESOLVED:

Station Terrace parking

- (i) That the Council remind the Borough Council that a timetable is still awaited for the introduction of regulations to control parking in Station Terrace.
- (ii) That the Council write to Andrew Davies, A.M., drawing attention to the long standing plans for additional park and ride facilities at Pontyclun railway station and asking whether he would place pressure on the South East Wales Transport Alliance to ensure that the original commitments were kept within the current SEWTA programme.
- (iii) That the Council write to the First Great Western railway company protesting at the plans to terminate InterCity passenger services from London at Cardiff Central Station.
- (iv) That a copy of the letter to First Great Western be sent to Andrew Davies, A.M.

Clun River Project

- (i) That the Council contact the Llantrisant Community Council about the possibility of constructing a second footpath on the north side of the river Clun as a joint project with the Pontyclun Community Council.
- (ii) That the Chairperson, Councillor Sarah Jenkins, contact Ben Williams of the Keep Wales Tidy Campaign, with a view to organising a Spring Clean Up before the vegetation along the river banks begins to grow.

Publicisation of Footpaths

- (i) That a second print of the highly successful Footpaths No.1 leaflet be undertaken.
- (ii) That plans be made for a Footpaths No.2 leaflet and that a budget of £500 be provided for this.

Flower planters

That in view of the outstanding success of the flower planters organised by the Council in 2006, the Handyman's views be sought on the possibility of siting further planters at the following four sites in the Community:

1. Park Lane, Groesfaen
2. The junction of Llanharry Road and Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler.
3. The grass verge near the Pontyclun Fire Station
4. In Beechlee Road, Miskin.

Regenerate railings around Maesyfelin Playing Fields

That the Council establish from the Borough Council the extent of the repair works to be carried out to the existing railings.

Public Participation in "Planning for Pontyclun"

- (i) That a further "Have Your Say Day" be held and that the venue be the Bethel Baptist Church, Pontyclun.
- (ii) That the Borough Council be requested to make available for the meeting a copy of its highway plans for Pontyclun following the recent highway survey.

Directory of Pontyclun's Voluntary Groups

That the Clerk provide the Chairperson with a list of the voluntary groups, and where appropriate e-mail addresses, of the organisations which had received grants from the Community Council in the Autumn of 2006.

Communications

- (i) That the Council set itself a target of two newsletters to residents in each year.
- (ii) That the Council progress its website.

(c) **Independent Internal Audit of accounts for 2005/06**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had contacted the Council's Independent Internal Auditor and extended an invitation to him to attend a meeting of the Council to explain the concerns which led to him issuing a qualified certification of the Council's accounts for 2005/06.

The Auditor had responded that he had carried out his audit in a professional way using standard audit principles. While he was prepared to address written queries raised by the Council he would not be in a position to attend a Council meeting.

The Clerk read out comments on the Auditor's report received from Councillor Griffiths. The Clerk invited Members add to the comments received from Councillor Griffiths. A number of questions were received. The Council discussed whether the comments and questions should be forwarded to the Internal Auditor.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Internal Auditor with a view to meeting him together with the Chairperson to discuss the comments and questions raised by Members.

(d) **Local Development Plan – Preferred Strategy**

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Borough Council with a view to getting a presentation to the Community Council by a representative of the Borough Council.

The Clerk had been advised that a number of community councils had made similar requests and, as a result, the Borough Council intended arranging a presentation for all community councils within the Borough in the New Year.

RESOLVED: That in advance of the meeting the Clerk obtain a copy of the draft Local Development Plan and arrange for copies be made available to all Members of the Council.

(e) **Board of Governors – New Cefn yr Hendy School**

The Clerk reported that he has contacted Councillor Davies about the possibility of him representing the Community Council on the Board of Governors of the new school at Cefn yr Hendy. Unfortunately, due to his commitments as a governor on the Board of Governors of Pontyclun Primary School, Councillor

Davies was not in a position to represent the Council on the new school's Board of Governors.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange for a notice to be displayed in the Community Council's noticeboards drawing attention to the vacancy on the Board of Governors.

(f) **Precept notification for 2007/08**

The Clerk reported that he had received a request from the Borough Council for an early notification of the Community Council's precept for 2007/08. The statutory deadline for the notification of the precept for 2007/08 is 1 March, 2007.

The Clerk advised that while it is possible to make an early decision on the Council's budget and precept, the effect of the precept on the Council Tax could not be judged since the notification from the Borough Council on the Band D equivalent had not been received. It was expected that this notification would be received towards the end of December.

RESOLVED: (i) That provided the Band D notification letter had been received in December, the Council consider its budget and precept requirement at its January, 2007, meeting.

(ii) That at its budget and precept meeting the Council consider the possibility of providing a sum of money towards the cost of constructing a footpath adjacent to the new sports field on Cefn yr Hendy.

5. **Police matters**

(a) **Crime Statistics**

Sergeant Jones tabled the Crime statistics for the area for the month of October. He discussed some of the crimes contained in the report.

(b) **Theft of lights**

Councillor Norman drew Sergeant Jones's attention to the theft of a set of garden lights from David's Court, Pontyclun, at some time on the previous weekend. Sergeant Jones advised that he would arrange for a member of the police to call at David's Court to obtain details of the theft.

(c) **Parking problems in the vicinity of the Spar store, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

Members drew Sergeant Jones's attention to the parking problems experienced outside the Spar store in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. The problem is particularly acute on weekdays between 3.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. when parents are collecting children from the nearby primary school and delivery vehicles are unloading supplies for the stores. The parking problem in this area had been discussed at the recent PACT meeting.

Sergeant Jones responded that new parking measures invariably took a long time to introduce. He wondered whether solutions with shorter time-scales might be more effective. As possible measures he suggested restricting the delivery of supplies outside 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m., the erection of CCTV notices and traffic calming.

RESOLVED: That the problem be brought to the attention of the Highway Authority.

(d) **Dangerous road junction**

Councillor Chris Davies drew Sergeant Jones's attention to dangerous traffic conditions at the junction of Llantrisant Road and Clun Avenue, Pontyclun.

The cause of the dangerous conditions was twofold; vehicles were permitted to park too close to the northern end of the Llantrisant Road thus considerably reducing the view of drivers emerging from Clun Avenue; additionally, a recently created parking bay in Llantrisant Road, directly opposite the junction with Clun Avenue, restricted the amount of space available to drivers in Llantrisant Road, especially traffic wishing to turn into Clun Avenue.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk draw these dangerous driving conditions to the attention of the Highway Authority.

6. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Boundary Commission's review of community boundaries**

The Council discussed the letter from the Boundary Commission dated 15 November, 2006 in which details were given of the review of boundaries in the communities of Llanharry, Llanharan, Pontyclun, Llantrisant, Hirwaun, Rhigos and Pen-Y Waun.

The Commission's letter was accompanied by suggestions for alterations to boundaries made by the Borough Council. The Commission also asked that notices advertising the review, and inviting comments from the public, be placed in prominent positions.

The Community Council was asked to provide its initial observations to the Commission by 17 January, 2007. A further opportunity for comment would be available after the Commission had published its draft proposals.

The Community Council discussed proposed alterations to the Council's boundaries in some detail. The Council believed that any proposals for alterations should be accompanied by support for the change from residents.

RESOLVED: (i) That Councillors Dawn Hayes and Pegi Thomas be responsible for obtaining expressions of support from residents of Ynysddu for the inclusion of the whole of the Ynysddu Farm Estate within the boundary of Pontyclun Community Council.

(ii) That Councillor Paul Griffiths be responsible for obtaining expressions of support from residents of the Clos Brenin for the inclusion of the whole of the Close Brenin Estate, Brynsadler, within the boundary of the Pontyclun Community Council.

(b) **Former Park Hall cinema site, Pontyclun**

The Council received copies of correspondence in circulation in the Community about the possibility of two retail units being located on the site of the former Park Hall cinema in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. It was claimed that one of the units had been pre-let to Tesco Express. The other proposed unit was un-let at this stage.

The Clerk advised the Council that any new retail development on the site would require planning consent from the Planning Authority. To date, no application for consent had been made. If an application is made the Planning Authority is under a statutory duty to decide the application within a period of 8 weeks.

The Council was addressed by Mr Richard Cotter, proprietor of the Spar store in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. Mr Cotter said that he was opposed to a Tesco Express store coming to Pontyclun. He stated that he had carried out a survey of the range of goods that a typical Tesco Express store would sell. He



had concluded that a Tesco Express store would not sell any goods which were not already available in the shops of Pontyclun. Mr Cotter claimed that the arrival of a Tesco Express store would result in the closure of many shops in Pontyclun. In addition Mr Cotter claimed that there would be a massive increase in through traffic, more illegal parking, fewer official parking spaces, all day gridlock including articulated lorry deliveries in Cowbridge Road and safety concerns for all pedestrians including the local school children.

Mr Cotter accepted that no planning application had yet been submitted but he believed that it was important that the public be alerted to the possibility of a Tesco Express store being located in Pontyclun at the earliest opportunity. He believed it was important to organise opposition against a Tesco Express before a formal application was lodged.

RESOLVED: That the Council contact One Voice Wales for a legal view on whether it would be appropriate for the Council to make a statement on its position in advance of a planning application being submitted to the Planning Authority.

(c) **Weekly Planning Notifications**

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

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

Application No. 06/1782/10

That the Council reiterate the comments made when this application was originally considered by the Planning Authority.

(d) **Best Illuminated House Competition, 2006**

RESOLVED: That judging of this year's competition be undertaken by Councillors Cale, Jenkins and Thomas on 15 December, 2006.

(e) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 10 to the Council's agenda.

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

Obsolete IT equipment

The Clerk reminded the Council that it had earlier agreed to dispose of obsolete IT equipment owned by the Council, and of very little value, by donating the items to local voluntary organisations.

The Clerk had asked the Internal Auditor for his views on the proposal. The Auditor replied that the Council should take steps to ensure that, to prevent any possibility of an infringement of the Data Protection Act, all confidential information on the hard drives of the equipment should be wiped clean before donating the items. Software packages could be bought which would erase the contents of the hard disks. Alternatively, the Council might wish to scrap the items provided the hard disks were rendered unusable before disposal.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk scrap the items of obsolete equipment after first rendering the hard disks unusable.

8. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for 2005/06**

The Community Council received copies of the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for 2005/06 which had been audited by the Council's Independent Internal Auditor.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(b) **Festive decorations, 2006**

The Clerk reported that arrangements for the provision of Christmas trees to shopkeepers in Pontyclun were well advanced and that the first trees would be erected the next week. The erection of a large Christmas tree outside The Bridge Depot was scheduled to be completed at the end of the week

The following week would see the erection of Christmas lighting from 8 selected lighting columns in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. Consent for the erections had been obtained from the Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(c) **Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan**

The Clerk read out a letter which had been received from the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council about that Council's plans for progressing its Local Development Plan.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

9. The meeting ended at 9.27 p.m.

