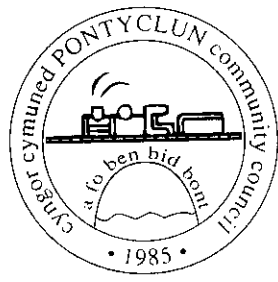


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

Clerc i'r Cyngor
J.H.G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.
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Pontyclun Community Council

Clerk to the Council
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Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held at the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 6 February, 2002.

PRESENT: Community Councillors C G Bendle, Mrs V A Cale, C Davies, J G Davies, J V Huish, R G Norman, M Rea (Chairperson), S Rogers and Mrs P Thomas.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Three members of the public and, for that part of the meeting when CCTV was being discussed, Alan Smith, CCTV Manager for Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillor J R Dilworth and P C Steve Keddle.

2. **Declarations of interest**

Declarations of interests were made by Members.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make the appropriate entries in the Register of Disclosures of Personal Interests under Section 81 of the Local Government Act, 2000.

3. **Chairperson's/Leader's business**

(i) **Council Tax**

Councillor Huish reported that initial indications showed that the increase in Council Tax planned by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council for 2002/2003 was likely to be in the region of 4.8% to 4.9%. While preliminary indications of increases had not been received from all local authorities in Wales, those that had been

received indicated that the increase planned by Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council was likely to be the second lowest in Wales.

The report was noted.

(ii) **CCTV in Pontyclun**

Councillor Huish reported that plans for the installation of CCTV in Pontyclun were well advanced. Columns to house cameras had already been erected and it was planned that the system would be operational in the late spring. Confirmation had been received that the running costs of the system would be borne by the Borough Council.

The report was noted.

(iii) **Traffic calming**

Councillor Huish reported that a scheme had been drawn up by the Borough Council for traffic calming in Heol Miskin. The scheme was presently the subject of public consultation.

The report was noted.

(iv) **Highway re-surfacing**

Councillor Huish reported that the Highway Authority intended re-surfacing the highway in Brynsadler in the second week in April.

The report was noted.

(v) **Speed restriction in Llanharry Road, Brynsadler**

Councillor Huish reported that the Highway Authority planned to extend the 30 m.p.h. speed restriction in Llanharry Road, Brynsadler, in a westerly direction.

The report was noted.

(vi) **Concessionary fares**

Councillor Huish reported that plans for revisions to Borough Council's concessionary fares scheme were underway. It was intended that the revisions would become effective from April, 2002.

The report was noted.

4. **Police matters**

In the absence of P C Kettle there was no report from the police.

Councillor Mrs Cale expressed her concerns about the siting of one of the recently installed CCTV columns. Councillor Mrs Thomas also expressed concern about the low level of illumination at the pedestrian crossing in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: (i) That the former item be discussed with Alan Smith, CCTV Manger later in the meeting.

(ii) That the Clerk report the Council's concern about the latter item to the Highway Authority asking that, in the interests of pedestrian users, a method of improved illumination be provided at the crossing.

5. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 5 December, 2001**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 5 December, 2001 be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Development at the former Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre**

It was reported that while the Planning Authority had given consent for the proposed development at Talygarn House and buildings in the immediate vicinity, it was unclear whether consent had been awarded for proposed residential development at the greenfield sites.

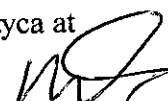
The Clerk agreed to make enquiries on the status of the application and report back to a further meeting of the Council.

The Council referred to its meeting on 5 December, 2001, when representatives of Cowbridge Developments had addressed the Council, and wished to re-emphasise that it was not opposed in principle to development of the greenfield sites. It did, however, have concerns that the development could have implications for further residential development in the vicinity.

(b) **Christmas celebrations, 2001**

It was reported that two very successful painting competitions celebrating Christmas had been held at Y Pant Comprehensive School and at Pontyclun Primary School.

The winners of the competition at Y Pant were Dale Tanner, Sarah Jane Jenkins and Natasha Jones while the winners at Pontyclun Primary School were Craig Spiller, Rhidian Holly and Jack Harries. A special prize had been awarded to Amey Kasprzyca at the Primary School.



On behalf of the Community Council presentations were made at the Primary School by Councillors Mrs Anne Cale and Graham Davies, together with Councillor Lorraine Jones, Chairperson of Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

The report was noted.

(c) **New Ethical Framework/Code of Conduct for Councillors**

The Council discussed the information provided by the Monitoring Officer of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, and the National Assembly at Appendices 2, 3, 4 and 5 to the Agenda.

The Clerk referred to the training course provided by the Monitoring Officer to assist Members with their new responsibilities and produced copies of the handouts provided at the training courses.

It was noted that there remained a number of areas in the new legislation which required clarification by the Welsh Assembly and that further guidance would be issued.

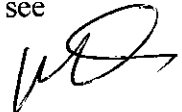
RESOLVED: That the Council follow the guidance of the Borough Council and adopt the following documents for use by the Community Council:

- (i) Copy form of Agenda item re Declaration of Interest to be used as a standard item.
- (ii) Form of Declaration of Interest to be distributed at each meeting for completion by Members if they have an interest to declare.
- (iii) Form of Register of Interests

(d) **Wales Association of Community & Town Councils' guide "Planning"**

Members received the recently produced guide "Planning" published by the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils.

Members stated that they valued the content of the document since it was written in plain English and it was felt that the publication would be of considerable assistance in formulating proposals on future planning applications. While acknowledging the value of the publication, one Member felt that he would have liked to see guidance given on the density of dwellings.



RESOLVED: That the document be welcomed.

(e) **Weekly Planning Notifications**

The Clerk advised the Council that due to mechanical problems with the Council's photocopier it had not been possible to provide copies of Weekly Planning Notifications to Members as he had envisaged. The Clerk was hopeful that the problems would be resolved shortly and that the despatch of Notifications would become a weekly routine.

The report was noted.

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **CCTV installation in Pontyclun**

The Council received a presentation from Mr Alan Smith, CCTV Manager for Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council on the proposed CCTV installation for Pontyclun.

Mr Smith outlined the background to the plans for the introduction of CCTV in Pontyclun. He distributed copies of a map showing the proposed location of cameras in the village. He explained that originally it was intended to erect three cameras but that it had been possible to increase this number to four through careful planning and the negotiation of competitive contracts.

Mr Smith explained that each camera would monitor for 24 hours and for 365 days a year. Each camera was capable of being manipulated, remotely, through 360 degrees. Monitoring would be carried out at the CCTV control centre at Sardis House, Pontypridd, where immediate contact with the police could be made in the event of an untoward incident arising.

Mr Smith confirmed that Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council would bear the cost of maintenance for the system and that the contribution by the Community Council would be towards the capital cost of the installation. It was planned that the system would be fully operational by late Spring.

At the end of his presentation Mr Smith answered a series of questions from Members.

RESOLVED: That the information received on behalf of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council be noted.

(b) **Precept for 2002/2003**



The Council discussed its current financial position and the need to set a precept for 2002/2003.

RESOLVED: That the Council increase its current precept by 5.5% and that the Clerk report a revised budget statement for information to the next Council meeting.

(c) **Disabled access to the Ivor Woods, Brynsadler**

The Council discussed the letter from the Pontyclun Football Club dated 16 December, 2001, together with a letter from Groundwork Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff, dated 22 January, 2002.

The Council noted that to complete the final length of the footpath would cost an additional £1,674.07. Groundwork had indicated that while most of this expenditure could be found from within Groundwork's budget they were looking for a contribution towards the cost of £400.00 from the Community Council.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council agree to make an additional contribution of £400.00 to enable the scheme to be completed.

(ii) That the Clerk write to the Borough Council to establish whether that authority would reimburse the Community Council for the additional expenditure incurred in the footpath improvement.

(d) **District Auditor's letter on the 2000/2001 annual audit**

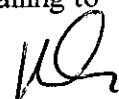
The Council received the District Auditor's certificate stating that in his opinion the financial statements presented fairly the financial position of the Pontyclun Community Council at 31 March, 2002 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

The Council discussed in detail each of the points raised by the auditor in his letter dated 9 January, 2002.

RESOLVED: That the advice of the District Auditor be noted but that the following issues be raised:

(i) **Legality**

The Council accepts the advice on the delegation of powers. However, the £1 offer for the Talygarn property was as a direct result of a member failing to



follow the decision of the Council – not as a result of the incorrect delegation of powers.

The minutes correctly state that a presentation was made to the retiring handyman. No public money was used for the presentation. As the Council's actions were totally correct, the Council fails to see why this item was included in the audit letter.

The Council understands the principle of not committing future Councils to expenditure beyond current members' terms of office. However, the Council feels that some guidance is needed to avoid a situation where members are afraid of committing expenditure during their last months of office.

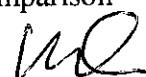
(ii) **Banking matters**

The Council noted the critical comments on the level of service offered by the Council's bank during the year. While it was true that in the last year the service had not been to the bank's normal high standard, the Council believed that in the last 17 years it had received a first class service from its bank.

(iii) **Payments**

The Council believed that, in the circumstances, the Clerk's actions in getting the second hand vehicle inspected by the AA prior to purchase to be prudent and reasonable given that the Council had already sanctioned the purchase of a replacement vehicle. Quick action was needed to purchase the vehicle. Neglecting to have an AA inspection could have resulted in the Council incurring considerable avoidable expenditure.

There was no duplicate payment for a new filing cabinet. The one and only payment was correct. The comparison



made with a missing toilet sign was not a fair comparison. The toilet sign was stolen from the handyman in the course of his duties.

(iv) **Handyman**

The Council has paid its handyman on the same basis, including an attendance allowance, for over 10 years without any comment at audit. The rate of payment is not out of line with general wages and bonus levels for former blue collar staff in local government.

The Council was surprised at the allegation that it had been said that the handyman made a contribution towards the cost of fuel for taking the Council van home. This allegation is completely refuted. In the circumstances it was not surprising that there was no evidence of any income being received. It was accepted that a notification of this taxable benefit should have been made to the Inland Revenue.

(v) **Local Government Act, 1972, Section 137, as amended**

The Council was surprised at the failure to note that the minutes of the Council clearly showed that the criteria to be taken into account before making grants to local organisations were considered by the Council. Following advice from previous audits, 5 separate factors were taken into account, and minuted, before any award was made. It was noted that the latest advice from District Audit only referred to 3 separate factors. No reference was made to the 2 factors which no longer have to be taken into account.

(e) **Society of Local Council Clerks**

The Council considered details of the 2002 Annual Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks.



RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to attend the Conference and that the Clerk present a report on his attendance to a subsequent meeting of the Council.

(f) **Queen's Golden Jubilee**

The Council discussed whether it wished to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

The Council was of the view that as the Queen had a visit to South Wales planned as part of the Jubilee celebrations, and it was likely that the Borough Council would be organising events, and offering advice to Community Councils, it was inadvisable for the Community Council to plan any celebrations at this time.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council await advice from the Borough Council on the matter.

(g) **Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee**

The Council discussed the letter from Tarmac in which it was proposed that, following the opening of Tarmac Recycling Limited at the Hendy Quarry, consideration be given to resurrecting the Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Council agree to participate in a resurrected Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee and that the Council's representatives on the Committee be Councillors Chris Davies and Merfyn Rea.

(h) **Application for financial assistance**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance from the National Eisteddfod of Wales towards staging the 2002 National Eisteddfod in St David's, Pembrokeshire.

RESOLVED: That the Council make a donation of £130.00 towards the cost of staging the Eisteddfod.

(i) **Ramblers' Association**

The Council discussed whether to renew its membership of the Ramblers' Association.

RESOLVED: That the Council renew its membership of the Association in the sum of £20.00.

(j) **Proposed wind farm at Cefn Croes, Ceredigion**



The Council discussed a letter from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales inviting the Council to support the campaign against the creation of a wind farm at Cefn Croes, Ceredigion.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(k) **Concerns about development of the flood plain south of Junction Works, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed a letter from Mr K Nokes, Scammander's Edge, Pontyclun, who drew the Council's attention to the decision of the Borough Council to award planning consent for development of land south of the Junction Works, Pontyclun. Mr Nokes believed that the consent related to land which formed part of the flood plain of the river Ely.

Mr Nokes also believed that his comprehensive representations to the Borough Council, before the application was determined, had been ignored.

The Council was informed that while preliminary indications showed that the land was part of the flood plain, the Environment Agency later changed this view. Confusion had been caused because the land had been flooded by the activities of an adjacent landowner. Investigations were still taking place to determine the true flood plain of the river Ely.

Members had sympathy with the views of Mr Nokes but pointed out that the Community Council had no powers to take action in the matter. The issue of whether the land in question was part of a flood plain would be determined by the Environment Agency. The matter of planning consent was the responsibility of the Planning Authority having taken into account the comments of the various agencies.

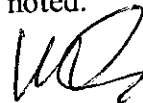
RESOLVED: That Mr Nokes' letter be noted.

(l) **Planning applications**

(Councillor R G Norman declared an interest in this item of business and left the Council chamber)

The Council discussed planning application contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ending 7, 28, 31 December, 2001, and 11 and 18 January, 2002.

RESOLVED: That the applications be noted.



(m) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 17 to the Council's agenda.

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

There were not items for discussion under this heading

8. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Refurbishment of footway**

The Council received a reply to its earlier correspondence in which it had pointed out that the width of the footway in Brynsadler had been reduced following refurbishment.

The Borough Council in its reply stated that, following an inspection it was deemed that the footway width was not reduced during recent works.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(b) **Tree nuisance**

The Council received the reply of the Borough Council in response to the Council's earlier letter complaining of nuisance caused to by tall trees at Rhyd y Nant, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the reply be noted and that a copy be sent to Mr & Mrs Hartson of 20 Rhyd y Nant, Pontyclun.

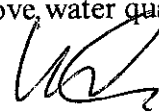
(c) **Wales Association of Community & Town Councils**

The Council received the letter of the Chairman of the Association giving the names of the members who had been elected to commence negotiations on the creation of a single organisation to represent Community and Town Councils in Wales.

RESOLVED: That the information given by the Chairman be noted.

(d) **Water supplies**

The Council discussed a letter from Dwr Cymru outlining the changes introduced by the company to improve water quality in the area.



- RESOLVED:** (i) That the information be noted
- (iii) That the Clerk write to Dwr Cymru to establish the reasons for the recent reduction in water pressure in Groesfaen

(e) **Local Government Pension Scheme**

The Council received the Borough Council's letter of 29 January, stating the increased rate of employer's contribution to the Borough Council's superannuation fund from 1 April, 2002.

RESOLVED: That the increase be noted and that suitable provision be made in the Council's budget for 2002/2003.

(f) **Welsh Language Act, 1993 – Welsh Education Scheme for the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council**

The Council received details of the Borough Council's draft Welsh Education Scheme under Section 5 of the Welsh Language Act, 1993.

It was noted that the Education Authority planned to hold a series of public consultation exercises on the draft scheme and an invitation was extended to the Council to attend the presentations.

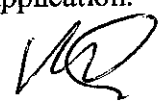
- RESOLVED:** (i) That members be invited to attend any of the public consultation exercises.
- (ii) That any comments Members may have on the draft scheme after attending public consultation meetings be passed to the Clerk for forwarding to the Education Authority.

(g) **Entertainment Licence**

(Councillor Huish declared an interest in this application. He remained in the Council chamber but did not take part in the Council's deliberations)

The Council received a copy of an application for the Renewal & Variation of a Community Premises Entertainment Licence for the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That no comment be offered on the application.



(h) **Valuation Tribunal Membership**

The Council discussed a letter from the South Wales Valuation Tribunal giving details of the amendment to regulations governing the appointment of persons to Valuation Tribunals.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the changes be noted
 - (ii) That posters giving details of the changes be placed in all Community Council noticeboards.

(i) **"Community @ News"**

The Council received the Conference Supplement of "Community @ News" published by the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils.

- RESOLVED:** That the contents of the supplement be noted.

(j) **The Account and Audit (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations, 2001**

The Council received copies of The Account and Audit (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations, 2001.

- RESOLVED:** That the Council implement the provisions of the Regulations.

(k) **Licensing**

The Council received details of an application for the Transfer of a Justices' Licence at The Bombay Brasserie, 79 Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

- RESOLVED:** That the Council offer no comment on the application.

9. The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

