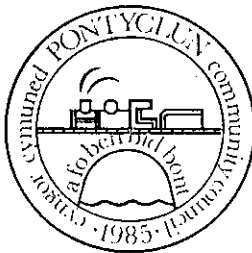


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
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"Mandalay"
 Cowbridge Road,
 Talygarn, Pontyclun,
 Mid Glamorgan CF7 9BZ

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 6 October, 1993

PRESENT: Community Councillors Mr C G Bendle, Professor I D Bowen, Mr T J Burton, Mrs A Burton, Mr J R Dilworth, Mr V P James, Mr G Moir and Mr R G Norman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Steffan Webb of Menter Taf Elai and four members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of the Chairperson of the Community Council, Councillor Mr E V Griffiths, and Councillor Mrs O P Phillips.

2. Chairperson

In the absence of the Chairperson the Council's Vice Chairperson, Councillor C G Bendle, occupied the Chair.

3. Chairperson's business

There were no items of Chairperson's business.

4. Presentation by Mr Steffan Webb of Menter Taf Elai

The Council received a presentation from Mr Steffan Webb, full time officer of Menter Taf Elai. Mr Webb explained that Menter Taf Elai had been formed to encourage the use of Welsh in the area. The main aims of Menter are:

- (a) To increase the opportunities for people to use the Welsh language for leisure activities
- (b) To encourage Welsh education
- (c) To help adults to learn Welsh
- (d) To increase the profile of Welsh among local businesses

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Mr Webb gave examples of how the Welsh language had been promoted through a highly successful summer playscheme in Rhydyfelin. In the summer of 1994 a playscheme was proposed for Llanharry. He also outlined ways in which encouragement was being given to schoolchildren and adults to learning Welsh. Mr Webb also spoke of the success in persuading businesses to display signs advising of the presence of staff who could conduct business in Welsh.

Mr Webb said that he was pleased to hear that the Community Council had a bilingual policy. He invited Members to read a brochure which gave guidelines for operating a bilingual policy in the public sector. The brochure had been prepared by the Welsh Language Board. Mr Webb further invited Members to consider building and developing on its existing bilingual policy and, at its next meeting, to consider if there were any steps which could be taken to improve the policy.

The Chairperson, Councillor Cyril Bendle, thanked Mr Webb for making his presentation.

RESOLVED: That each Member study the notes of guidance distributed by Mr Webb and give thought to what improvements could be made to the Council's bilingual policy at the Council's November meeting.

5. Minutes of the Council's meeting of 1 September, 1993

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 1 September, 1993, be approved as an accurate record.

6. Matters arising

(a) Public footpaths in Talygarn

The Council noted the reply of the Mid Glamorgan Health Authority following the closure of footpaths and the erection of "No trespassing signs" in the vicinity of Talygarn Lake.

RESOLVED: That as all the signs had been removed and the footpaths were open again no further action be taken.

(b) Taff Ely Community Order, 1984 - Cefnyparc Cemetery

The Council discussed the letters from the Boundary Commission and the Chief Executive and Clerk to the Taff

Ely Borough Council. In the light of the responses the Council declined to reconsider its earlier decision not to make a financial contribution to the running costs of the Cefnyparc Cemetery.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk advise the Llantrisant Community Council of the Pontyclun Community Council's decision not to make a contribution to the running costs of Cefnyparc Cemetery.

(c) Proposed new access road - Mwyndy Industrial Estate

The Council received the letter of 7 September, 1993, from the Planning Division of the Welsh Office in which it was stated that it is the Secretary of State's general approach not to interfere with the jurisdiction of local planning authorities unless an application is considered to have planning issues of more than local importance. The Community Council's request had been considered carefully but on the information available the view had been taken that the application did not involve planning issues of more than local importance. It had been decided not to intervene.

Councillor Delme Bowen reported that the County Council's Planning Committee had not yet awarded planning permission to an application he considered to be ill advised. He was aware, too, that there was considerable local opposition to the proposals and that one of the residents had engaged counsel.

RESOLVED: That the Welsh Office letter be noted.

(d) Late applications for financial assistance

The Council considered late applications for financial assistance from Pontyclun Football Club and St Anne's Church Sunday School.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council award a grant of £100.00 to the Pontyclun Football Club

(ii) That the Council award a grant of £50.00 to the St Anne's Sunday School

In awarding these grants the Council took into account the advice given by the District Auditor on the changes made to Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, by Sections 36 to 38 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989. In particular, whether:

- (a) The payment is of direct benefit
- (b) The benefit is in proportion to the payment made
- (c) The organisation's own resources are sufficient and other potential income considered including other local councils' and
- (d) The money is not being used to circumvent any limitations on specific powers
- (e) The impact of grants and of setting a precedent which would result in applications from other groups

(e) Nomination to Consultative Committees

The Clerk reported that before he had had an opportunity to sound out a local resident about the possibility of him representing the Community Council on the South Wales Police (Taff Ely) and British Transport Police Consultative Committees a Council Member had shown an interest in taking up these representative duties. The Clerk had informed the Member that as the Council had already taken a decision on the matter he would need to refer the matter back to the Council to establish whether the Council wished to vary its earlier decision.

RESOLVED: That the Council vary its earlier decision and nominate Councillor Tudor J Burton to the vacancies on the South Wales Police (Taff Ely) and British Transport Police Consultative Committees and that the Clerk take the necessary action.

(f) "Jigso" project

The Council discussed preliminary information from Dr Liz Hughes, Coordinator, Jigso, about the aims and objectives of Jigso. The Council noted that to mark the centenary of the Local Government Act, 1994, Jigso offered the opportunity to assist in undertaking an appraisal of community councils' areas.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange to get further details of the project.

(g) Footbridge across the Afon Clun

Councillor Viv James reported it was pleasing to see that the footbridge across the Afon Clun, providing pedestrian access to and from Ynysddu Farm Estate, was in the course of erection. Councillor James paid tribute to the hard work carried out by Councillor Anita Burton ^{And Delme Bowen} in bringing the problem to light and rallying support in order that a very worthwhile project could go ahead.

RESOLVED: (i) That when all work had been completed at the bridge an official opening ceremony be arranged to which invitations be sent to the Mid Glamorgan County Council and the Llanharan Community Council.

(ii) That the Clerk discuss with the County Council the need to make both ends of the footbridge secure to prevent the possibility of a child falling into the Afon Clun.

(iii) That the Clerk discuss with the County Council the possibility of replacing the wayside seat adjacent to the footway south of the footbridge.

(h) Dipali restaurant, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun

Councillor John Dilworth reported that the Borough Council had served an enforcement order on the proprietor of the Dipali restaurant requiring him to comply with the trading hours specified in the planning consent for the premises. Additionally, because of the problems caused by vehicles parking on the footway outside the premises the police would be monitoring the parking of vehicles outside the restaurant.

The report was noted.

(i) Blasting at Hendy Quarry

Councillor Gordon Moir expressed his concern that no reply had been received from the Borough Council regarding the strong blast from the Hendy Quarry which occurred during week ending 24 July, 1993. It was believed that reasonable time had elapsed for a reply to have been received.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write again to the Borough Technical Officer pointing out that no reply had been received and asking when residents might expect a response.

(j) Blueprint for Parish Constables

Councillor John Dilworth reported that the Home Office plans to create Parish Constables were discussed at the last Executive Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils. A lively debate took place on the proposals to create a "parish beak". It was generally felt that while the experiment was to be welcomed the problems of enforcement of law and order were much wider and that smaller community councils were likely to be overburdened if they chose to become involved. The Executive Committee was not optimistic that the experiment would prove to be successful and likened the proposals to an extension of Neighbourhood Watch schemes under the umbrella of the Home Office.

7. Mineworkings in the vicinity of the Hendy Quarry, Pontyclun

Councillor Delme Bowen reported that at the last meeting of the Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee he, and Councillor Gordon Moir, had been provided with a copy of a map indicating mineworkings in the vicinity of the Hendy Farm, Pontyclun. Both Members were alarmed to note that the land in question had already been designated for residential development and that outline planning consent had been awarded to the Land Authority for Wales.

RESOLVED: That in advance of any development on the site a copy of the map be forwarded to the Borough Council's Chief Planning Officer and the Chief Executive to the Land Authority for Wales.

8. Byelaws for the Control of Dogs -
Community Council Land and Facilities

The Council received the letter of the Borough Council's Chief Environmental Health Officer setting out plans for the introduction of byelaws for the control of dogs. Following research by the Borough Council it appeared that it was possible to extend the scope of byelaws to include community councils' land and facilities. The Chief Environmental Health Officer extended an invite to all community councils to contact him in the event of wishing to extend the byelaws.

RESOLVED: That the initiative of the Borough Council be welcomed but that no further action be taken by the Community Council.

9. Wales Association of Community and Town Councils

(a) Motion to the 1993 Annual Conference

The Council discussed a letter from the Secretary of the Association explaining that because a number of community councils had submitted motions for debate about the proposals to reorganise local government it had been necessary for the Executive Committee of the Association to put forward a motion incorporating the different views on the subject. The composite motion was produced for the Council's information.

RESOLVED: That the actions of the Executive Committee be noted.

(b) Local Government Morning Forum - 13 November, 1993

The Council received an invitation from the East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee to attend a morning forum on the proposals for the reorganisation of local government. The objective of the forum was to focus public attention at a crucial time of the Bill's progress through Parliament.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council be represented at the forum by the Chairperson, Councillor Eric V Griffith, together with Councillors Tudor Burton, John Dilworth and the Clerk.

(ii) That Members' attendance be designated an approved duty.

10. High Street, Brynsadler - Difficulty of access

The Council discussed a letter from Mr R E Giles of 5 High Street, Brynsadler, about the difficulties which vehicles experience in gaining access to High Street, Brynsadler.

RESOLVED: (i) That Mr Giles' letter be passed to the Chief Technical Services Officer of the Borough Council for comment.

(ii) That the Clerk inform Mr Giles that his letter had been passed for comment to the Chief Technical Officer for comment and that the Community Council is hopeful that when back lane improvements are carried out in the vicinity of High Street, it will result in more residents being able to access garages thus relieving pressure on parking spaces.

11. Complaint of airborne pollution in Talygarn

The Council discussed in depth a letter from Mrs O J Bufton of Talygarn Close, Talygarn, in which she gave several examples of airborne pollution having a serious effect on the plants in her garden. Mrs Bufton was emphatic that the pollution was getting worse and gave several possible sources. It was noted that Mrs Bufton had expressed her grave concern to a variety of bodies and Members were aware that a series of tests were being carried out in order to determine the nature of the pollutants.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk bring the matter to the attention of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution with an additional request that a survey be carried out to establish the number of people living in the locality who were suffering from chest complaints.

12. Application for financial assistance

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance to stage the 1994 National Eisteddfod of Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £50.00 be made.

In awarding this grant the Council took into account the advice given by the District Auditor on the changes made to Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, by Sections 36 to 38 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989. In particular, whether:

- (a) The payment is of direct benefit
- (b) The benefit is in proportion to the payment made
- (c) The organisation's own resources are sufficient and other potential income considered including other local councils' and
- (d) The money is not being used to circumvent any limitations on specific powers
- (e) The impact of grants and of setting a precedent which would result in applications from other groups

13. Licensing

(a) Ivor Arms, Brynsadler

The Council discussed the application for a full transfer of the Justices' Licence.

RESOLVED: That while no objection be offered to the application, the Clerk to the Justices be asked if it was in order for an application to be granted to joint applicants living at separate addresses.

(b) Fredericks Leisure Centre, Miskin Manor

The Council discussed the application for a transfer of the Justices Licence at Fredericks Leisure Centre, Miskin Manor.

RESOLVED: That the application be noted.

14. Planning - Weekly Notification for Week Ending 10 September, 1993

RESOLVED: That the applications be noted.

15. Exceptional demand for water charges

The Clerk drew to the Council's attention an exceptional demand for £1210.07 in respect of water charges at the Community Council's public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. The Clerk stated that immediately on receipt of the demand he had queried the charges with Welsh Water. On 29 September a reply had been received from Welsh Water stating that there were no water leaks but it had come to light that a meter change had inadvertently been actioned on the account. Welsh Water's latest calculations showed that the amount due had increased to £1322.97.

RESOLVED: (i) That no action be taken to pay the invoice and Welsh Water be asked why a new meter should have been "inadvertently" installed without any reference to the Community Council.

(ii) That the Clerk obtain legal advice on the matter through the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils.

16. Payment of creditors

RESOLVED: That payment be made to the creditors listed in Appendix No.22 to the Agenda.

17. Reports from Members

(a) Wales Association of Community and Town Councils - East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee

Councillor John Dilworth gave a report on the presentation at the last meeting of the Area Committee by Mr Tharani from the Welsh Office on the objectives and relevance to community councils of the Strategic Development Scheme. The Scheme was a successor to the former Urban Programme, Rural Initiative, Projects of Regional and National Importance and Special Project schemes. The Area Committee understood the importance of the new Scheme in that qualifying projects could receive up to 75% grant aid from the Welsh Office but respectfully pointed out to Mr Tharani that the timescale for the submission of applications was unrealistic. Mr Tharani noted the point and promised to make the Committee's observations known at the Welsh Office. Mr Tharani commented that in its previous forms the Scheme had suffered as a result of political changes.

The report was noted.

(b) Gratuity payments

Councillor John Dilworth reported that the Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils had been involved in establishing the position in regard to the payment of a clerk's gratuity.

The report was noted.

(c) Motion to Annual Conference

Councillor John Dilworth reported that the Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils had submitted a motion for debate to the Annual Conference of the Association. The motion highlighted the unsatisfactory position of sewers in private ownership. In Taff Ely alone it was estimated that there were over 7,000 cases.

The report was noted.

(d) Purolite Standing Conference

Councillor John Dilworth reported on his attendance at the last meeting of the Standing Committee on Purolite.

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It was reported that an abatement notice had not been served on management at the plant since it was known that work was proceeding to channel offensive odours through peat filter beds. Councillor Dilworth reported that discussion had taken place on the attempts to exclude members of the public at the earlier meeting of the Borough Council's Liaison Committee. The discussion had generated strong feelings and resulted in the meeting failing to conduct any further business.

(e) Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee

Councillor Gordon Moir reported on his attendance at the meeting of the Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee on 8 September, 1993. A map was tabled at the meeting which showed that there were no disused mineworkings in the vicinity of the Hendy Quarry. Councillor Moir was concerned that there had been no response from the Borough Council about the very strong blast experienced in July when dust in the roof space of St David's Church was dislodged. Councillor Moir was hopeful that the monitoring equipment installed by the Borough Council might be useful in indicating the strength of the blast but it appeared that the monitoring equipment was in use at another location at the time the blast took place. It appeared that excavations at the Quarry would again take place at the village end in the near future. The Quarry manager had promised to give residents notice of his intention to blast at the village end of the Quarry before blasting takes place.

The report was noted.

(f) Proposed replacement of the Pontyclun Community Centre

Councillor Viv James reported that the Taff Ely Borough Council's Planning Committee were due to consider the application for the replacement of the existing Community Centre with a community centre and day centre at its meeting on 7 October, 1993.

The report was noted.

(g) Revised Local Plan

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that a revised Local Plan, prepared by the Borough Council, would be available for inspection and comment over the next few months.

The report was noted.

(h) Extension of the Windsor Field, Pontyclun

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that plans for the extension of the Windsor Field, Pontyclun, were well advanced. In addition to gaining a further rugby pitch there was a possibility that further land would be made available for allotments.

The report was noted.

(i) Upgrading of backlanes

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that plans to upgrade the backlane adjacent to High Street, Brynsadler, had been delayed since it had been discovered that there was a need to incorporate an easement to allow access to provide for storm water drainage.

The report was noted.

(j) Proposed sites for flower beds

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that he had been approached by the Chief Leisure Services Officer of the Borough Council about the possibility of constricting flower beds in Miskin. Councillor Norman had suggested two possible sites; one near the war memorial, the other in the vicinity of Manor Park.

The report was noted.

(k) Proposed Pontyclun By Pass

Councillor Delme Bowen reported that although the County Council had prepared a draft outline of the route a Pontyclun By Pass, realistically, he saw little prospect of any work starting on the scheme for very many years.

The report was noted.

(l) Parking problems in the vicinity of the railway bridge, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun

Councillor Delme Bowen reported that complaints continued to be received about the practice of certain drivers in leaving their parked vehicles on the railway bridge in Pontyclun. The road was already subject to parking restrictions but drivers continued to park their vehicles in breach of the restrictions. He intended to take the matter up with the County Engineer and Surveyor.

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The report was noted.

(m) Parking restrictions, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun

Councillor Delme Bowen reported that the County Council were satisfied that there was a need to impose further traffic restrictions in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. He had been informed that the County Council would shortly be introducing double yellow lines in a part Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

The report was noted.

18. Any other business of an urgent nature

(a) Replacement of Pontyclun Community Centre

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that progress continued to be made on a replacement community centre. He had recently attended a meeting of the current management committee where it had been agreed that management of the new facility would need to be carried out by a newly constituted management committee. Councillor Norman reported that the revised plans for the new facility envisaged additional car parking space within the complex. The entire project had been costed at around £300,000 and it was important that all monies were spent within the current financial year.

The report was noted.

(b) Dipali restaurant, Pontyclun

Councillor Anita Burton expressed her concern over what she understood to be the failure of the Borough Council's building inspector to approve the building work in the recent extension at the Dipali restaurant, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Gordon Norman take the matter up with the Borough Council.

(c) Interference with manhole - rear of 29 Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun

Councillor Anita Burton reported that quantities of rubbish had been pushed into a manhole by children at the rear of 29 Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. It was important that the rubbish be removed and that be action taken prevent further rubbish being pushed through the cover.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Gordon Norman take the matter up with the Borough Council.

(d) Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

Councillor Anita Burton reported that the Mid and South Glamorgan Support Group for sufferers of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis had been searching for suitable premises in the area to use as a base. Councillor Burton invited Members to give thought to whether there were any suitable premises in the Community and to bring any premises considered to be suitable to her attention.

(e) Remembrance Sunday

Councillor Gordon Norman reminded the Council of the imminence of Remembrance Sunday and that in previous years the Council had purchased a poppy wreath for each of the Community's war memorials.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make arrangements for the purchase of two poppy wreaths for Remembrance Sunday

(f) Audit Commission's nationwide study about probity in Local Government

The Clerk distributed copies of notes of guidance which had been received from the District Audit Service. The notes had been received too late for inclusion with the Agenda papers for the Council's meeting.

RESOLVED: That the matter be deferred to the Council's meeting of 3 November, 1993.

(g) Street lighting in River's Edge, Pontyclun

The Clerk distributed copies of a letter from Mr R C Evans of 3 River's Edge, Pontyclun, together with copies of the Clerk's reply, about street lighting in River's Edge, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk inform Mr Evans that although the Community Council was deeply sympathetic to the problems faced by River's Edge residents, in view of the advice given by the street lighting authority and the District Auditor the Council could see no way in which it could assist.

(h) Application for financial assistance - Community Wheels

(Councillor Gordon Norman declared an interest in the application and took no part in the Council's deliberations).

The Clerk reminded the Council that at its meeting on 14 July, 1993, it had deferred making a decision on the application for grant aid from Community Wheels. The Clerk asked the Council whether it now wished to take a decision on the application.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £100.00 be made.

In awarding this grant the Council took into account the advice given by the District Auditor on the changes made to Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, by Sections 36 to 38 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989. In particular, whether:

- (a) The payment is of direct benefit
- (b) The benefit is in proportion to the payment made
- (c) The organisation's own resources are sufficient and other potential income considered including other local councils' and
- (d) The money is not being used to circumvent any limitations on specific powers
- (e) The impact of grants and of setting a precedent which would result in applications from other groups

(i) Spring flowering bulbs

The Clerk reminded the Council that for a number of years the Council had purchased a quantity of spring flowering bulbs to be planted in roadside verges. The Clerk asked whether the Council intended purchasing spring flowering bulbs this autumn.

RESOLVED: That, initially, the Clerk arrange for the purchase of 8 sacks of daffodils.

(j) Complimentary tickets

The Clerk reported the receipt of two complimentary tickets for a concert at Llandaff Cathedral by Cantorion Pontyclun in conjunction with the Llantrisant Chamber Orchestra.

RESOLVED: That the tickets be offered to the Chairperson of the Council and his wife. In the event that they would not be able to attend the concert the tickets would be offered to the Vice Chairperson and his wife.

(k) Footpath steps, Manor Hill, Miskin

The Clerk reported the a resident of Manor Hill, Miskin, Mr Bill Taylor, had telephoned to compliment the Council on the excellent work it had carried out in refurbishing the steps on the footpath at Manor Hill, Miskin.

RESOLVED: That Mr Taylor's compliments be passed on to the Community Council's Handyman.

19. The meeting ended at 10.40 p.m.

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