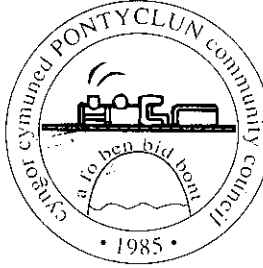


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

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 J.H.G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.
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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 October, 2004.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs V A Cale, C Davies, M P Griffiths,
 D G Henderson, Ms S R Jenkins, A R Lane, R G Norman,

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Steve Kettle for part of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors M Rea and P Thomas

2. **Declarations of interest**

Declarations of interest were invited from Members.

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

3. **Police matters**

(i) **Crime figures**

P C Kettle provided the Community Council with the latest schedule of crime figures for Pontyclun, Llanharry, Llanharan and Brynna for the months of August and September.

Of particular concern was the September burglaries in Groesfaen. P C Kettle emphasised that some of these burglaries could have been avoided by taking simple precautionary measures. A male and a female had subsequently been arrested in Cardiff and charged with burglary.

Samuel Jones
 3/11/04

(ii) **Robbery**

P C Keddle informed the Council that enquiries were continuing into a robbery which took place near Pontyclun railway station when a "BB" gun was used.

(iii) **Rugby Club disco**

P C Keddle advised the Council that following complaints, the disco for youngsters at the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club had been cancelled.

(iv) **Request for traffic mirror, High Street, Brynsadler**

P C Keddle thanked the Community Council for forwarding details to him of the reasons for the Highway Authority declining to erect a traffic mirror at the junction of High Street and Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler. P C Keddle stated that while he found it difficult to understand some of the reasoning, he was glad to hear that the Highway Authority intended to pursue the matter further with the Welsh Assembly.

(v) **CCTV operation**

P C Keddle referred to a recent incident in Pontyclun when a car was damaged on the highway. It appeared that there was no CCTV coverage of the incident. The incident cast some doubt on whether the CCTV system, paid for substantially by the Community Council, had provided value for money. In response to a question from a Member P C Keddle stated that no convictions had resulted from Pontyclun's CCTV system.

(vi) **Parking in Station Terrace**

P C Keddle reported that a parked car in Station Terrace had recently been damaged by a goods vehicle accessing the Ely Valley industrial estate. Additionally, there had been a number of instances of frustration and anger from motorists, resulting from the limited parking spaces, the narrowness of the road, and regular passage of heavy goods vehicles to the industrial estate.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Clerk send a reminder letter to Ms Sheila Davies of the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council requesting a reply to the Community Council's earlier letter about plans to consult residents over

the Borough Council's proposals for highways improvements in Pontyclun.

(ii) That the Community Council formally request that the Borough Council to consult residents of Pontyclun over any proposals for highway improvements.

(iii) That the Community Council ask for a representative of the Borough Council to address the Community Council about plans for highways improvements in Pontyclun.

(vii) **Operation Boxer**

In response to a question from a Member it was confirmed that Operation Boxer was taking place in the Community and that enquiries were being made into a series of possible infringements of regulations governing planning and VAT.

(viii) **Foul language**

A Member drew P C Keddle's attention to the increasing amount of foul language being used by children in the Community.

(ix) **The Bute Arms**

A Member reminded the Council of the anti social problems which had been experienced in the vicinity of the Bute Arms in recent years. The Member enquired of P C Keddle whether there had been a lessening of anti social behaviour in the vicinity of The Bute Arms since it had re-opened under new management.

P C Keddle replied that he had found the area around The Bute Arms to be reasonably quiet since the premises had re-opened.

(x) **Sales of cars from lay bys and grass verges**

A Member raised the legal position of the increasing incidence of sales of cars from lay-bys and grass verges in the Community. The Member asked whether there were any restrictions to regulate this practice

P C Keddle confirmed that these sales were frequently in breach of existing regulations but, given the limited

resources available, were not regarded as major offences by the police.

(xi) **Parking area fronting public conveniences, Pontyclun**

A Member raised the practice of parking a privately owned former fire engine in front of the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. It appeared that the appliance was regularly parked in the spot to advertise the owner's private business. The practice created a hazard for drivers accessing and exiting the public car park between the public conveniences and the Pontyclun Rugby Club.

P C Keddle acknowledged the Member's concerns and agreed that he would speak to the owner of the fire appliance.

(xii) **Inspector Phillips**

P C Keddle advised the Council that the new Inspector at Talbot Green Police Station, Inspector Phillips, was anxious to introduce himself to the community councils in the area.

That evening, Inspector Phillips was attending a meeting of the Llanharry Community Council. P C Keddle was hopeful that Inspector Phillips would be able to attend the November monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council.

4. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 1 September, 2004**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 1 September, 2004, be approved as an accurate record subject to the deletion of the reference to "Councillors Lane and Ms Thomas" in minute 13 (e) and substituted with the words "any interested Member"

5. **Matters arising**

(a) **Clean Rivers Campaign**

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Keep Wales Tidy Campaign again with a view to getting an officer to address the Council on the Clean Rivers Campaign.

The Clerk established that following the death of the postholder who had responsibility for this area of work, steps had been taken to fill the vacancy. In the meantime, the Community Council's request for an officer to address the Council would be passed to another member of staff with a

view to this person making a presentation to the Council at its meeting on 3 November, 2004.

The report was noted.

(b) **Application for financial assistance –
“Light Up St. David’s Church, Miskin”**

The Clerk reported that following the Community Council’s provisional decision to award a grant of £250.00 for the purpose of lighting up St David’s Church, Miskin, at Christmas, 2004, he had received assurances from the organiser of the fund that:

- (i) the fund was established voluntarily and that to date a sum of £120 had been collected
- (ii) the fund had only been established since August, 2004, and there was no income & expenditure account or balance sheet from the previous year
- (iii) the Council’s proposed donation would be used solely to provide illumination for Miskin Church over Christmas, 2004.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council confirm its donation of £250 towards the fund and that the Clerk make the necessary arrangements.
 - (ii) That Councillor Davies advise the organiser of the appeal of the possibility that planning consent may be required for the project.

(c) **Exclusion of Press and Public**

- RESOLVED:** That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972, for the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information namely, applicants for a service provided by the Council.

(d) **Further applications for financial assistance**

(Councillor Lane declared an interest in the application from the Flower Guild Ladies of Pontyclun, St Paul’s Church, and took no part in the Council’s deliberations)



- RESOLVED:**
- (i) that a grant of £100 be made to Pontyclun Gardeners
 - (ii) that a grant of £100 be made to the Flower Guild Ladies of Pontyclun, St Paul's Church
 - (iii) that the Council decline to make a grant to The Vision Foundation
 - (iv) that the Clerk make enquiries about the purchase of 6 bags of spring flowering bulbs and that Councillor Norman raise the possibility of school children assisting in their planting at half term.

(e) **Maesyfelin Playing Fields**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had made arrangements for a meeting between representatives of the Community Council, the Pontyclun AFC, the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. The meeting would take place at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 3 November, 2004, in the lounge of the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club.

Members believed there was confusion over leases, maintenance responsibilities, and public rights of way across the fields. The meeting should be able to clarify these issues and decide on a way forward over the poor state of the boundary fence.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Community Council be represented at the meeting by Councillors Cale, Lane and Norman
 - (ii) That Councillor Norman establish the position of that part of the Fields which were in use by the Pontyclun Primary School.

(f) **The Aberystwyth Report**

Following the discussion at the last meeting of the Community Council, Members gave their suggestions for priority action areas in the Community. The following were identified:

- (a) Maesyfelin Playing Fields

- (b) Clean rivers
- (c) Planting of bulbs in grass verges
- (d) The concept of "Pontyclun Pride" which would embrace rivers, litter and dog fouling.
- (e) Litter bins
- (f) Hanging baskets – learning from the Cowbridge experience
- (g) Strategic Highways Management Scheme
- (h) Publicising quality of local footpaths
- (i) Cycleway from Pontyclun to Beddau
- (j) Communications Review

RESOLVED: That Councillor Griffiths bring to the next meeting of the Community Council an Action Plan, with proposed responsibilities for achieving objectives in the Plan.

(g) **Pontyclun Youth Partnership**

Councillors Griffiths and Jenkins reported on their attendance at the last meeting of the Pontyclun Youth Partnership. Members of the Partnership were appreciative of the interest shown by the Community Council.

Both Members were impressed by the degree of enthusiasm and diverse interest from members of the community in establishing a youth club for the youngsters of the Community.

The main challenge facing the Partnership was the absence of suitable premises where a youth club could be held regularly. Temporary arrangements had been made in the past to use premises at the Pontyclun Fire Station and latterly at the St Paul's Church Hall. Recently part of the Bridge café had been used. The Partnership was disappointed that there was no youth worker for Pontyclun and it was unlikely that additional resources would be forthcoming from the Borough Council.

A Member reported that the Partnership built up a fund which could be utilised at the right time. There were a number of initiatives at embryonic stage which could possibly result in suitable premises becoming available. In the meantime it was important to maintain contact with the Partnership and assist wherever possible.

6. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Cardiff and Bristol airports**

The Council was invited to comment on proposed changes to airspace above and surrounding Cardiff and Bristol Airports.

RESOLVED: That the Council note the proposals.

(b) **Pontyclun Community Centre Car Park**

The Council discussed a letter from the secretary of the Pontyclun Community Centre Management Committee drawing attention to the anomalous position on the illumination of the car park adjacent to the Community Centre.

The view of the Management Committee was that usage of the car park had long ceased to be exclusive to Community Centre users. The car park was now sign posted as a facility for all motorists, was regularly used by residents of the new residential development at Heol yr Orsaf, and in recent months, by arrangement with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, had been extensively used by a film company for the storage of their heavy lorries and caravans. The Community Council wished this permanent change of use to be recognised and the Borough Council to accept responsibility for illuminating the car park at night.

To date the Borough Council had failed to accept there had been a change and refused to accept any responsibility for the cost of illuminating the car park at night. Unless the Borough Council accepted the new status of the car park the Management Committee would be forced into turning off the lights at night due to the prohibitive cost.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council write to the Borough Council supporting the representations made by the Management Committee.

(c) **Menter Iaith**

An invitation was extended to the Council to send a representative to the Annual General Meeting of Menter Iaith in Abercynon on 21 October, 2004.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk ask Councillor Rea whether he wished to represent the Council at the meeting.

(c) **Annual Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had received an invitation to attend the Annual Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks to be held at Stratford on Avon on 16, 17 and 18 October, 2004.

The Clerk stated that if the Council were in favour of his attendance he planned to attend only on 16 October.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to attend the Conference on 16 October, 2004.

(d) **Planning applications received since the Council's last meeting**

The Council discussed the latest planning Weekly Notifications received from the Borough Council.

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

Application No. 04/1508/10

The Community Council has no objection to the proposal subject to access to the development being satisfactorily resolved.

Application No. 04/1549/15

The Community Council has no objection to the proposal subject to the applicant limiting the import of materials to road planings.

Application No. 04/1546/13

The Community Council is opposed to the development on the grounds that:

- (i) The proposal will lead to an over development of the site.
- (ii) The proposal will extend the known boundary of settlement.
- (iii) The proposal will lead to a loss of the green wedge
- (iv) The proposal will set a precedent for further residential development in open country.

(e) **Boundaries and member representation in the Community**

Members expressed their concern about the boundaries of the Community Council. The boundaries had been established in 1985 before considerable residential development had taken place. The result was that boundaries, and the allocation of members per Ward urgently needed to be brought up to date.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk request the Borough Council to undertake a review of the Community of Pontyclun's boundaries, and the allocation of members per ward, as a matter of urgency.

(f) **Payment of creditors**

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

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

(a) **Rhondda and Taff Ely Crossroads**

The Council received an invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting of Crossroads, the organisation specialising in caring for the carers in society. The meeting is due to take place on 21 October, 2004.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk ask Councillor Ms Thomas whether she would be prepared to attend the meeting.

(b) **Community Council's Allotments Competition**

Councillor Norman referred to an earlier report he made to the Council about the Community Council's Allotments Competition. He had drew the Council's attention to the increase in costs in running the Competition and that it was now necessary to pay the two judges £25 for their services.

RESOLVED: That the Council increase the award to the Pontyclun Community Council Allotments Competition from £200 to £225 with effect from the 2004 Competition.

(c) **Request for a skate park in Pontyclun**

The Clerk handed out a letter which had been received from Sarah Ellis, and friends, asking the Community Council to

consider the provision of a skate park for youngsters in the locality.

The Community Council was delighted to receive the letter from a group of young people in the Community and discussed possible ways of assisting in the provision of a skate park. Members believed that after a site had been identified it might be possible to engage the assistance of a local quarry to provide aggregate and tarmac.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk thank Sarah Ellis for her letter and invite Sarah, or one of her friends, to speak to the Council about the idea.

(ii) That an invitation to speak to the Council be also extended to a representative of the Pontyclun Youth Partnership.

8. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **"The Aberystwyth Report"**

The Council received a summary of responses from the Welsh Assembly Government to the consultation document The Role, Functions & Potential of Community & Town Councils in Wales.

The Council also received a copy of the Welsh Assembly's response to the research study.

RESOLVED: That the documents be noted.

(b) **Local Government Partnership Scheme and the Report for 2002/2003**

The Council received a copy of the Scheme and the Report.

RESOLVED: That the documents be noted.

(c) **Council Tax Revaluation and Rebanding, 2005**

The Council received a copy of a letter from the Welsh Assembly Government providing information on the Council Tax Revaluation and Rebanding which was due to become effective from 1 April, 2005. The lists, in draft form, were available for inspection from 1 September, 2004.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(d) **Annual Report of the Adjudication Panel for Wales for 2003/2004**

The Council received a copy of the Annual Report for 2003/2004 from the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

The Panel was established in October, 2002, to hear cases regarding allegations of misconduct against local authority members.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

(e) **South East Wales Regional Committee of the National Assembly for Wales**

The Council received details of the next meeting of the South East Wales Regional Committee of the National Assembly for Wales.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(f) **Casual Vacancy in the Miskin Ward of the Pontyclun Community Council**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had checked with the Returning Officer's staff the current position on the Casual Vacancy in the Community Council's Miskin Ward. The position is as follows:

1. Following the erection of notices by the Clerk advertising the casual vacancy, a request for a poll had been received by the Returning Officer.
2. Notices of Election would be erected by the Returning Officer's staff on 7 October, 2004, stating that nomination papers were available from 8 October, 2004, and should be returned by 15 October, 2004.
3. If the election is contested the poll will take place on 11 November, 2004.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(g) **Road subsidence**

The Clerk reported that following the concern expressed by Members at the Council's meeting of 1 September, 2004, he contacted the Highway Authority.

The section of road was cordoned off and work to remedy the subsidence had commenced about a fortnight later.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(h) **Hendy Quarry, Miskin**

Councillor Norman advised the Council that two trial blasts would take place at the Hendy Quarry, Miskin, on Wednesday, 13 October, 2004. The time of the blasts were unknown at this time but an assurance had been received that they would be monitored.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

9. The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, located in the bottom right corner of the page. The signature is cursive and appears to read "John G. ...".