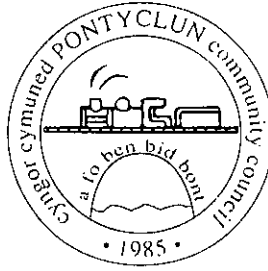


**Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun**

Clerc i'r Cyngor  
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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, 7 April, 1999

**PRESENT:** Community Councillors C G Bendle, Mrs V A Cale, J G Davies, Mrs M Griffiths, R G Norman, M Rea and Mrs D B Shackell

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Two members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors R O Edwards, T Flood and J V Huish. A further apology for absence was received on behalf of P C Steve Keddle.

2. **Chairperson**

In the absence of the Chairperson, Councillor Huish, and the Vice Chairperson, Councillor Flood, Councillor Rea occupied the Chair.

3. **Chairperson's business**

There were no items of Chairperson's business.

4. **Police matters**

**RESOLVED:** That in the absence of a representative from the police discussion under this heading be deferred to the Council's May meeting.

5. **Draft Report on Community Needs and Opportunities Survey**

The Council received the draft report on Community Needs & Opportunities in Pontyclun, a consultation document produced and funded jointly by the Pontypridd & District Housing Association and the Rhondda Housing

*R G Norman*

Association. The draft report was introduced by Antonia Forte supported by her colleagues Gayna Jones and Russell Gibbon.

The focus of the enquiry had been on how Housing Association tenants would integrate successfully within the existing community of Pontyclun. In particular, there was a desire from both Housing Associations for a speedier and more successful integration of its new tenants into the wider community than might otherwise occur "naturally".

The enquiry had been undertaken in Pontyclun by interviewing a cross section of the community, the majority of whom were met in their homes or places of work, as the "door to door" element of the field work. In summary, the survey had produced 11 conclusions and two primary recommendations. The recommendations were for the establishment of a Pontyclun Community Partnership and a shared vision for Pontyclun.

The Community Council congratulated the staff of the Housing Associations for the production of a logical, methodical and comprehensive report. The Council was unanimous in its view that the initiative should be progressed in the interests of community residents.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Griffiths be authorised to initiate a forum to discuss the findings of the survey and to take the initiative forward.

6. **Groundwork - Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff**

The Council received a presentation from Mr Peter Cloke of Groundwork Merthyr Rhondda Cynon Taff following the proposal for the creation of a disabled access to the Ivor Woods from Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler.

Mr Cloke informed the Community Council that he had undertaken a detailed costing exercise on the Community Council's proposals and had also entered into discussions with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, as the highway authority. Mr Cloke gave the Community Council a verbal report on the results of his exercise and an indication of the potential costs. He stated that some of the costs may be offset by grants from the Environment Agency and BT.

Mr Cloke ended his presentation by agreeing to let the Community Council have written confirmation of his findings and the costing exercise.

**RESOLVED:** That the written proposals of Groundwork Merthyr & Rhondda Cynon Taff be discussed at the next Community Council meeting.

7. **Talygarn Pavilion**

The Council received a presentation from Reverend Glyn Austin, Vicar of Pontyclun with Talygarn about the future of Talygarn Pavilion.

Vicar Austin referred to the earlier correspondence with the Community Council about the possibility of the Community Council purchasing the Pavilion. While Vicar Austin accepted that the Community Council had acted properly in obtaining a report from the District Valuer and Valuation Officer in the matter, the report of the Valuer was received by the Parochial Church Council with disappointment, especially the suggestion that the Pavilion, in its present condition, was only worth a nominal sum.

Following receipt of the report the Parochial Church Council had thought again about possible uses for the Pavilion. Current thinking was that the Pavilion could be made available for community activities possibly through a community partnership. Vicar Austin accepted that certain refurbishment work needed to be carried out to the Pavilion but pointed out that there were bodies to which applications for financial assistance could be made. He also wished to progress the possibility of using the Pavilion for community purposes in conjunction with the possibility of the engagement of a detached youth worker.

Vicar Austin thanked the Community Council for its interest in preserving the Pavilion and for allowing him the opportunity to explain the current thinking bringing the Pavilion back into use.

**RESOLVED:** That Vicar Austin's plans to bring Talygarn Pavilion back into use be welcomed and that the Community Council pledge its support for venture.

8. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 3 March, 1999**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 3 March, 1999, be approved as an accurate record.

9. **Matters arising**

(a) **Footpath lighting, rear of Cerdin Avenue, Pontyclun**

The Clerk advised the Council that following the complaint of the resident in Fairview Close, Pontyclun, about the intensity of illumination during the hours of darkness at the rear of his premises, he had contacted the Council's contractors. The contractors had agreed to painting out a section of the lantern to reduce the illumination.

**RESOLVED:** That the matter be noted.

(b) **Pontyclun licensees' meeting with the police**

The Council discussed the letter of 18 March, 1999, from Chief Inspector Kinrade of the South Wales Police who advised the Council that following complaints from the Community Council the police had convened a meeting with local licensees to give clear direction of what was required from the police in the running of their licensed premises.

Chief Inspector indicated that he was disappointed that none of its Members had attended the meeting since ample notice had been given and earlier indications had been that two Members would be in attendance. Inspector Kinrade was especially disappointed because many of the complaints about licensed premises had been conveyed to the police by the Community Council.

A discussion took place on the letter and there was unanimous agreement that the Council owed the police an apology for its failure to attend the meeting. The Community Council remained totally committed to working in the interests of residents and it would do so through the police wherever possible.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk send a letter of apology to Chief Inspector Kinrade for the Community Council's failure to send a representative to the meeting with Pontyclun licensees.

(c) **Proposed siting of planters**

This item had been deferred from the Council's meeting of 3 March, 1999.

**RESOLVED:** That in the absence of Councillor Flood the matter be deferred to the Community Council's May monthly meeting.

(d) **Proposed hard surface play area**

The Clerk advised the Council that at a recent site meeting four further potential sites for the creation of hard surface play areas had been identified. Preliminary enquiries were being made with the occupiers of the plots identified to establish their views on the proposal.

The Clerk also advised of the receipt of a letter from a resident in Rhyd y Nant, Pontyclun, who asked why she had been excluded from the consultation exercise on the potential hard surface play area near Glan yr Afon.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Council note the steps being taken to identify possible sites for a hard surface play area in Pontyclun.
- (ii) That the Clerk advise the Rhyd y Nant resident that the consultation exercise on the Glan yr Afon site had been limited to those residents considered by the Community Council to be directly affected by the proposal, that is, residents of Glan yr Afon and Tir Afon Court.

(e) **Members' Business**

This item of business had been deferred from the Council's meeting of 3 March, 1999.

Councillor Griffiths explained that she had asked for this matter to be placed on the agenda since she was concerned about the large number of relatively routine matters which were regularly raised under Reports from Members towards the end of each Council meeting. Frequently, these matters did not generate any discussion and could be effectively discharged by each Member giving the Clerk a note of the matter requiring attention.

**RESOLVED:** That in future Members having routine requests for the Clerk to take action be asked to provide the Clerk with a note of the matter rather than raising the issue under Reports from Members

(f) **Proposal to install CCTV in the Community**

A discussion took place on the need to instal CCTV in the Community. Reference was made to the initiative during 1995/96 where it appeared that funding might have been available from a proposed joint project between the former Borough Council and the private sector. Reference was also made to the discussions which had been entered into with the police during the last year and the success of villages in the Rhondda in obtaining CCTV.

From the information received to date it appeared that CCTV was readily available in a basic form or, where monitoring was required, in a more sophisticated form where fibre optic cable connections were needed to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council monitoring station in Pontypridd.

The Clerk advised the Council that from the enquiries he had made with BT it appeared that the necessary fibre optic cable was not available in Pontyclun. He had made a request to BT for a feasibility study to establish what was necessary, and the attendant costs, in bringing fibre optic cable technology to Pontyclun.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council await the results of the feasibility study from BT.

(g) **Right to Roam Bill**

The Council received a letter from Dr Kim Howells, MP, in which he stated that he would do his best to be in the House of Commons on 26 March, 1999, to cast his vote in favour of Gordon Prentice's Right to Roam Bill. The only doubt about Dr Howells being present in the Commons to cast his vote were a combination of ministerial duties and the demands of the Wales Labour Party Annual Conference.

Dr Howells assured the Community Council that he felt that the terms of the Bill could be a firm basis from which to make real progress in extending access sensibly in the future.

**RESOLVED:** That the letter from Dr Howells be noted.

(h) **Proposal to instal footpath lighting,  
Maes yr Afon, Pontyclun**

The Clerk reported that a site meeting had taken place on the morning of 21 March, to investigate the possibility of installing footpath lighting on the footpath at the southern end of Maes yr Afon, Pontyclun.

It was unclear whether the footpath had been adopted by the highway authority or whether it remained in private ownership. If the latter situation applied it would be extremely difficult to install footpath lighting. If the former situation applied there was a reasonable chance that footpath lighting could be installed. The Clerk had contacted the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to clear the matter.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council await the reply of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(i) **Millennium Festivities' Steering Committee**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths referred to the formation of the Millennium Festivities' Steering Committee and asked if the Committee had met since the last public meeting and, if it had, what progress had been made.

The Clerk confirmed that a meeting of the Steering Group had taken place and that it had been addressed by Jo Coles Millennium Festival Adviser for Wales. Jo Coles had outlined her role in encouraging organisations to participate in Millennium festivities and gave details of the type of festivities which were likely to qualify for financial support under the Smaller Awards provisions.

Jo Coles had provided literature on Smaller Awards and it was proposed to send these details to every organisation which had attended the public meetings. Each organisation would also be asked to advise the Steering Committee of the events planned to mark the new Millennium with an indication of their timing in order that a calendar of Millennium events could be produced.

**RESOLVED:** That further progress reports be made to the Community Council after meetings of the Steering Committee.

10. **Request for the installation of mains sewerage, Groesfaen**

The Council received a letter from Oscar Faber, independent consultants appointed by Dwr Cymru, to reply to the Community Council's request for the reasons for the refusal to install mains sewerage for the whole of Groesfaen.

It appeared that the refusal to install mains sewerage for the whole of Groesfaen was based on the absence of any pollution and that no prior problem had been reported by either the local Environment Agency or the Environmental Health Officer.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Rea report receipt of the letter to the Groesfaen Residents' Association.

11. **Rhondda Cynon Taff Access Forum**

The Community Council discussed a the letter received by the Clerk on 25 March, 1999, from the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering, advising of a meeting of the Rhondda Cynon Taff Access Forum to be held on 29 March, 1999. It appeared that the Forum met once a year and discussed public rights of way and related issues.

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The Community Council was very disappointed that only two working days' notice of the meeting had been given, especially as the Council was keen to improve public rights of way in the Community and there were several on-going matters affecting footpaths which remained to be resolved by the Highway Authority.

The Council was concerned, too, that the meeting on 29 March, 1999, appeared to be the second meeting held by the Highway Authority. There was no record of the Community Council having been invited to an earlier meeting; neither had any notes or minutes of that meeting been received by the Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk convey the Community Council's disappointment at having only two working days' notice of the meeting, particularly as the convenor of the meeting had had a year in which to arrange the current meeting. Further, that as most community councils in Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council met only once a month, that the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council be requested to provide at least a month's notice of any further meetings of the Forum.

12. **New Welsh Transport Grant Scheme -  
Welsh Rural Transport Grant (WRTG)**

The Community Council received details from the Welsh Office of the new Welsh Rural Transport scheme which was set up following the Chancellor's 1998 Budget Statement allocating £250,000 per annum to Welsh community based transport for voluntary groups, businesses and local authorities working in partnership to provide transport services tailored to fit the needs of particular communities in rural areas of less than 10,000 population.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

13. **Correspondence from Mr Richard Fairlamb, Groesfaen**

The Council received the letter of 11 March, 1999, from Mr Richard Fairlamb of Groesfaen, in which he raised three separate matters affecting the Community Council in Groesfaen.

**RESOLVED:** That the three separate replies from the Clerk be noted.

14. **Dilapidated car**

Councillor Bendle told the Council that he had asked for this item to be placed on the Agenda because he was concerned that over a year had elapsed since he first complained to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about a dilapidated car which had been appeared to have been abandoned on the drive of a house in Heol y Coed, Pontyclun.



The car had become an eyesore and detracted from the neighbourhood at a time when many residents were taking steps to make their properties more attractive.

Councillor Bendle stated that shortly after bring the car to the attention of officers in the Housing Department of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council a year earlier an inspection of the car took place when it was agreed that the car should be removed. To the best of Councillor Bendle's knowledge nothing further had happened.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk pursue the matter with the Housing Department of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

15. **Board of Governors of Pontyclun Primary School**

Councillor Bendle reported that he had been worried for some time about his position as a governor on the governing body of Pontyclun Primary School. He had believed that to be effective governors needed to be local residents and have a genuine interest in the running of the school. Recent experiences had convinced him that the principles he believed in were not those held by the local education authority.

As examples, he quoted two appointments to the governing body of residents from Groesfaen. The appointees lived outside the school's catchment area and had little or no connection with the school. The conclusion Councillor Bendle had arrived at was that the two appointees were political appointments. Councillor Bendle contrasted his own efforts for the governing body, as an interested and enthusiastic resident, who had undergone governor training and forfeited wages, with those of governors who were appointed merely as party representatives. Since the appointment of the two Groesfaen residents a further external appointment to the governing body had been made from a resident of Cross Inn.

Councillor Bendle said he felt he, the school, and the public in Pontyclun, had been let down by the local education authority. In the circumstances, he wanted to disassociate himself from the actions of the local education authority and resign his membership of the governing body of Pontyclun Primary School.

**RESOLVED:** That the reasons for Councillor Bendle's resignation be noted and that a letter giving the reasons for the resignation be sent to the Headteacher of Pontyclun Primary School, the Chief Executive of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and the Acting Director of Education of the Borough Council.

16. **Litter outside the Windsor Hotel, Pontyclun**

Members expressed their concern about regular accumulations of litter outside the Windsor Hotel in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. It appeared that the problem

was aggravated by the regular presence in the evenings of a mobile hot dog vendor which parked outside the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk pursue the matter with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to establish what measures can be taken to alleviate the problem.

17. **Roaming dogs on the Cefn yr Hendy Estate, Pontyclun**

Councillor Bendle drew the attention of the Council to a pack of four to six dogs which regularly roamed the Cefn yr Hendy Estate. The dogs appeared to be out of control and often caused distress to residents on the estate.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contact the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's dog warden to assist with the problem.

18. **Cars illegally parked in the vicinity of Corner Park Garage, Mwyndy**

The Community Council discussed the reply of the Borough Council to further complaints about the illegal parking of cars in the vicinity of Corner Park Garage, Mwyndy.

The Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering pointed out that there were no physical measures that could be taken to prevent drivers parking their vehicles illegally in the vicinity of the garage. Consequently, the obstruction of the footway is a matter for police enforcement. The Director stated that he would contact the local police requesting that appropriate action be taken.

**RESOLVED:** That the reply of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council be noted.

19. **Applications for financial assistance**

The Council discussed two applications for financial assistance:

(a) **Tuesday Afternoon Whist Club**

**RESOLVED:** That the application be deferred to the Council's annual grants allocation meeting.

(b) **Talgarn Riding Stables**

**RESOLVED:** That the application be deferred to the Council's annual grants allocation meeting.

*RSN*

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Ray's letter be forwarded to the Highways Department of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to establish whether any steps could be taken to improve the surface of the lane.

(c) **Audit of accounts for 1997/98**

The Clerk reported that the audit the of the Community Council's accounts for 1997/98 had been completed satisfactorily on 24 March, 1999, subject to some minor amendments to the way in accounts were presented.

However, in discussion with the auditor it appeared that a change was proposed to the way in which the Chairperson's Allowance would be paid in future. Whereas in the past the auditor had sanctioned the payment of the Allowance in one lump sum, it appeared that in future he would wish the Allowance to be treated as an imprest account with amounts being paid out to Chairpersons on the submission of receipts up to the maximum of the total Allowance.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

(d) **Branches overhanging footpath**

Councillor Rea drew the Council's attention to branches from householders' gardens overhanging the public footpath connecting Llantrisant Road, Groesfaen, with Y Parc. The result was that parts of the footpath were continually in semi-darkness.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk pursue the matter with the respective householders.

25. The meeting ended at 10.20 p.m.

*R G Warner*