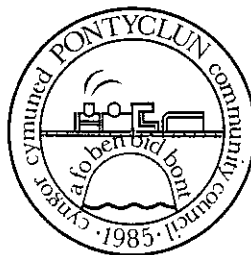


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
 J. H. G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.
 Telephone: Llantrisant (0443) 227094



"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, 7 December, 1994

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

P C Steve Keddle (for part of meeting) and five members of the public (for part of meeting)

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors John Dilworth and Mrs Pam Phillips

2. **Chairperson's business**

(a) **Remembrance Day**

The Chairperson, Councillor Cyril Bendle, wished to place on record his gratitude for the diligence of the Community Council's Handyman in ensuring that Pontyclun was litter free on the morning of Sunday, 13 November, 1994, in readiness for the annual Remembrance Day march.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk convey the Chairman's gratitude to Mr David Tookey.

(b) **Sponsored Walk for Life, 1995**

The Chairperson announced that he had been contacted by the Kidney Research Unit Foundation for Wales about the possibility of the Council participating in the 1995 Walk for Life. The Chairperson was enthusiastic about the Council's participation in the 1995 Walk and asked that the item be placed on the agenda for the Council's January meeting.

(c) **Chamber of Trade - Newsletter No. 2**

The Chairperson commented on the latest newsletter circulated by the Pontyclun Chamber of Trade. It was felt

that the newsletter contained a number of inaccuracies. The role of certain members of the Chamber of Trade was questioned, too, especially the reluctance of a member to become in the campaign by residents against blasting at Hendy Quarry and the way in which another member had badly handled an invitation from the Community Council to the Chamber of Trade to consider the donation of a litter bin to the Pontyclun Primary School.

3. Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 2 November, 1994

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 2 November, 1994, be approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

(a) Severe weather of 29/30 October, 1994

RESOLVED: That the letter of the Chief Executive of the Taff Ely Borough Council be noted.

(b) Pontyclun Primary School - donation of litter bin

The Clerk read out a letter from the Headteacher of Pontyclun Primary School, Mr D Keith Davies, thanking the Community Council for the donation of a "Froggo" litter bin.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(c) Pontyclun Community Centre/Day Centre

(i) Name of Centre

RESOLVED: That the reply of the Chief Leisure Services Officer be noted.

(ii) Financial contribution of the Community Council

The Council received the letter of the Chief Leisure Services Officer dated 22 November, 1994 in which the Community Council's contribution of £20,000 towards the cost of building the new facility was sought. The Clerk advised that he had spoken to the Chief Leisure Services Officer to let him know that the Community Council's contribution had been placed on deposit on three months' notice of withdrawal and that the sum would be paid to the Borough Council during March, 1995. The



Chief Leisure Services Officer had indicated his agreement to this arrangement.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange the payment of £20,000 to the Borough Council during March, 1995, as the Community Council's contribution to the rebuilding costs of the Pontyclun Community Centre.

(d) Management Committee - Pontyclun Community Centre

RESOLVED: That the letter from the Secretary of the Management Committee of the Pontyclun Community Centre, Mr John Dilworth, advising of the purchase of a word processor, be noted.

(e) Blasting at Hendy Quarry

The Council discussed the response of the Borough Council to the Community Council's comparison of the events which had taken place in Miskin in December, 1988, when fly debris from was showered over a wide area, to an apparently similar case in North Wales involving the quarry operator Redland, which resulted in Redland being fined £25,000.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Health and Safety Executive for a detailed account of the case which resulted in Redland being fined.

(f) Pavements in Maesyfelin

The Clerk referred to the various telephone calls and correspondence with the County Councils over the poor state of some of the pavements on the Maesyfelin Estate. The Clerk had recently received a telephone call from an officer of the Highways and Transportation Department of the County Council to say that work on repairing pavements in Maesyfelin was imminent. Councillor Eric Griffith commented that work had begun although it appeared that at that moment it had been suspended. It was hoped that work would re-commence at an early date.

The matter was noted.

(g) Residential development at Gefn-vr Hendy

The Council discussed the letter dated 30 November, 1994,



from the Managing Director of Ideal Homes Wales Ltd., Mr J L Davies. The letter had been written in response to the Community Council's earlier letter asking the company for its comments on the apparent contradiction where the company maintained that there were no subsidence problems which would affect their housing development yet, householders living on the existing Cefn-yr-Hendy development, were being asked by their insurers to pay increased buildings policy premiums on account of the risk of subsidence.

Mr Davies had stated that his company had no further comment to make and did ".....not intend to enter into protracted correspondence over speculation....."

The Community Council was extremely disappointed at the dismissive attitude taken by Mr Davies especially when the Community Council's only interest was in ensuring fair play for future occupants of Ideal Homes' properties.

The Council earnestly hoped that residents of the new Cefn-yr-Hendy development would never experience problems to their homes as a result of subsidence. In the event that problems are experienced the Community Council would have no hesitation in producing correspondence showing that evidence of potential problems with the site had been brought to the attention of Ideal Homes Wales Ltd in advance of houses being occupied.

RESOLVED: That a copy of the Community Council's letter of 22 November to Ideal Homes Wales Ltd together with a copy of Ideal Homes Wales Ltd's reply of 30 November, 1994 be forwarded to the Taff Ely Borough Council.

(h) Planning Application No. 94/0766/12

The Council discussed a letter from Mrs R E Davies of "Ceulan", Hensol Road, Miskin, who wished to draw the Community Council's attention to the problems faced by vehicle drivers in negotiating the narrow bridge over the railway line in Miskin. Mrs Davies pointed out the absence of any warning signs on the approaches to the bridge, particularly, that the road was unsuitable for large lorries and buses.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the highway authority drawing attention to the absence of any warning signs on the approaches to the bridge and

that warning signs be erected as a matter of urgency.

(i) Damage to trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders

(i) New Cefn-yr-Hendy development

The Clerk advised the Council that he had contacted Mr Tony Lovelock, the officer on the Taff Ely Borough Council with responsibility for Tree Preservation Orders in the vicinity of Cefn-yr-Hendy. Mr Lovelock had responded that he was keeping a careful watch on the activities of the builders at the new development. It was true that certain superficial damage had been caused to the roots of some of the trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order but he did not think that the damage was major or the stability of the trees would be affected.

The matter was noted.

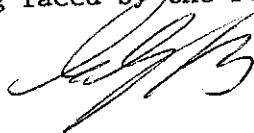
(ii) The Drive, Miskin

The Clerk advised the Council that he had contacted Mr Brian Moss, the officer of the Mid Glamorgan County Council with responsibility for the policing the Tree Preservation Orders covering The Drive, Miskin. Mr Moss had responded that he was aware of the latest fellings along The Drive. He said that consent to fell had been granted for 10 trees and that the latest two to be felled completed the consent. Mr Moss added that the trees in question were old and diseased and that wherever consent for felling was granted the County Council insisted that a replacement tree should be planted.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to advise the Community Council of any applications for consent to fell in the Community of Pontyclun.

5. Ivor Park Football Fields

The Council received an address from Mr Cyril Pontin and Mr Phil Preene about the problems being faced by the Pontyclun Football



Club in maintaining their grounds to a satisfactory standard. Mr Pontin spoke of the Club's success in gaining promotion in the football league and of the obligation to make ground improvements. Several hundred pounds had already been expended on improvements only for the Club to find that that certain irresponsible members of the public had ridden horses over their pitches. The result had been that both grounds had been badly cut up and the efforts of the Club in improving the condition of the turf had been abortive. Members of the Club were extremely distressed by the incidents.

Mr Pontin continued by saying that enquiries of the Mid Glamorgan County Council, the lessors of the pitches, had revealed the the Pontyclun Football Club had a duty to secure the perimeter of their pitches. If the Club was to fulfil its responsibilities under the lease then the main entrance gate, off Cowbridge Road, would need to be closed when pitches were not in use. Such action would deprive members of the public the right of access to the Community Council constructed car park adjacent to the football pitches.

RESOLVED: That a site meeting be held in order to gain a better understanding of the problems and that the Clerk arrange a site meeting in conjunction with members of the Pontyclun Football Club and, if possible, an officer from the Land and Buildings Department of the Mid Glamorgan County Council.

6. Safety and Facilities for Equestrians

The Council was addressed by Mrs Philippa White, local secretary of Safety and Facilities for Equestrians. Mrs White advised the Council that SAFE was a responsible, self help, organisation concerned with the promotion of safe riding of horses, especially for children. Mrs White stated that the horse population of Pontyclun was around 150. Despite the semi-rural nature of the Community of Pontyclun there were very limited facilities for horse riders. Furthermore, there was not a single designated bridleway in the Community. On occasion, riders were forced into using footpaths to avoid the heavy traffic of Brynsadler and Pontyclun.

Mrs White had been very concerned about the reports of damage to the football pitches of the Pontyclun Football Club. Mrs White emphasised that SAFE was a responsible organisation and strongly disassociated SAFE from the damage caused to the football pitches. She was of the view that the horses responsible for the damage had been those turned loose when building work commenced at the new Cefn-yr-Hendy development.

Councillor Tudor Burton referred to experiences in his youth when he regularly rode horses in the Community. He believed that it was



practice at that time to ride over bridleways. Councillor Delme Bowen wondered whether, with the passage of time, former bridleways had been re-designated as footpaths.

Councillor Gordon Norman referred to the damage caused to the Pontyclun Football Club's pitches. While it was true to say that stray horses had been turned on to the Maesyfelin playingfields by the police, complaints about damage to the Football Club's pitches by horses had been received three weeks earlier. Councillor Norman agreed with Mrs White about the Community being semi-rural. He pointed out that the area to the south of Talygarn was almost completely rural and offered ideal conditions for horse riding, subject to the appropriate consents being received from farmers. Councillor Norman found it difficult to understand why horse riders chose to ride through Brynsadler and place themselves, their horses and the public at risk in the face of heavy traffic on a narrow road.

Councillor Norman told Mrs White that he did not wish to seem unsympathetic to the aims of SAFE but it was important for Mrs White to understand that with the exception of the Ivor Woods the Community Council did not own any land. The Ivor Woods was not considered to be suitable for horse riding in view of the large number of residents regularly walking the footpaths. He would, however, support representations from the Community Council to the Borough Council for increased facilities for horse riding.

- RESOLVED: (i) That Mrs White's letter on the shortage of facilities for equestrians be forwarded to the Chief Leisure Services Officer of the Taff Ely Borough Council to establish whether the Borough Council could suggest ways of increasing and improving facilities for horse riders.
- (ii) That Councillor Tudor Burton liaise with Mrs White in an attempt to identify former bridlepaths in the Community.

7. Reorganisation of Local Government in Wales

(a) Working with Local Councils

The Council discussed the document entitled "Working with Local Councils"

RESOLVED: That the Council agree in principle the content of the document.

(b) Community Council Elections, 1995

RESOLVED: That the Council note that the next elections

for Community Councils would be held on 4 May, 1995.

(c) First elections to the new Unitary Authorities

RESOLVED: That the Council note that the first elections to new Unitary Authorities would be held on 4 May, 1995.

8. Community Council's computer

The Council received and discussed the Clerk's written report on the need to update the Community Council's computer.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk be authorised to update the Community Council's computer facilities by the purchase of a new computer system and software.

(ii) That with the enhanced facility available the Clerk be recommended to obtain the Excel spreadsheet package.

(iii) That the existing computer system be retained as a back up facility in the event of a machine malfunction.

9. Proposals for the construction of raised flower beds in Groesfaen

The Council received, and examined, drawings of the proposal to construct raised flower beds in Groesfaen.

RESOLVED: (i) That the scheme be approved and that the Clerk arrange for tenders to be received from local building contractors interested in carrying out the work.

(ii) That a copy of the scheme be forwarded to Mr Trevor Rees, Secretary of the Pontyclun Chamber of Trade, for his information.

10. Request to extend the footpath lighting along the Windsor Field, Pontyclun

The Council discussed a letter from Mr Graham Croad on behalf of the the Management Committee of the Pontyclun Rugby Football Club, asking the Council to consider an extension to the footpath lighting alongside the Windsor Field, Pontyclun, to cover an unlit area between the RFC Headquarters and the public car park. It was estimated that the extension could be effected by the erection of one, or possibly two, additional lighting columns.

RESOLVED: (i) That while the Community Council viewed the request sympathetically, no action be taken on the request in view of the imminent work proposed for the area by the Borough Council to improve parking facilities and access to the Windsor Field.

(ii) That the Clerk contact the Borough Council to establish whether the proposed extension to the footpath lighting along the Windsor Field could be achieved as part of the improvement works proposed by the Borough Council.

11. Request for the erection of "No Fouling" signs

Councillor Mrs Anita Burton referred to a letter she had received from Mrs B Smith of 7 Ffordd Talygarn, Pontyclun. Among other things, Mrs Smith had complained about the overgrown state of the footpath between the houses on the Maesyfelin Estate and the footbridge across the river Ely. Mrs Smith asked could be tidied up and if "No Fouling" signs could be erected to encourage dog owners to be more responsible for their pets.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk arrange for the Community Council's Handyman to cut back the grass along the footpath.

(ii) That the Clerk contact the Borough Council about the possibility of erecting "No Fouling" signs along the footpath.

12. Requests for financial assistance

The Council discussed requests for financial assistance from:

(a) National Eisteddfod of Urdd Gobaith Cymru, 1995 and

(b) National Eisteddfod, Bro Colwyn, 1995

RESOLVED: That no further financial assistance be awarded during the 1994/95 financial year. Consideration would be given to awarding financial assistance to the above two events if applications were received during the 1995/96 financial year.

13. Applications for Licences

The Council received notification of the intention to apply for the following licences at the Misikin Manor Hotel:

(i) Special Hours Certificate

- (ii) Certificate under Section 68 of the Licensing Act, 1964.
- (iii) New Justices On-Licence
- (iv) Transfer of restaurant/residential licence
- (v) Transfer of Justices Licence

RESOLVED: That the applications be noted.

14. Planning

- (a) Applications contained in notifications for Weeks ending 28 October, 4, 11, 18 and 25 November, 1994.

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

Application No. 94/0741/13

That the Council is opposed to the development on the grounds that:

- (i) The proposed development is outside the Local Plan
- (ii) The proposed site is outside the settled area
- (iii) Traffic entering and emerging from the proposed development would constitute a hazard to traffic in Hensol Road.
- (iv) The site is difficult to access.

Application No. 94/0804/16

That while the Community Council is not opposed to the application it would urge the Borough Council to insist upon:

- (i) Less intrusive fencing between the existing and new developments.
- (ii) More sympathetic landscaping throughout the development.

- (b) Planning Inquiry - Proposed development in Groesfaen

RESOLVED: That the correspondence which had taken place between the Clerk and Mr T G Smith of 4 Penygroes, Groesfaen, be noted.

15. Payment of creditors

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix No. 23 to the Council's agenda.

16. Reports from Members

(a) Public right of way, Miskin

Councillor Eric Griffith reported that builders had commenced work on the new Roman Catholic Church in Miskin. In doing so they had not made provision to safeguard the public right of way linking School Road with Heol Miskin. Effectively, the footpath had been lost to the Community.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk pursue the matter in the first instance with the Borough Council's Chief Planning Officer.

(b) New Indian take-away restaurant, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun

Councillor Eric Griffith was disappointed to have to report that customers of the new Indian take-away restaurant in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, regularly used the bus bay outside the premises to park their vehicles. As a consequence, buses were now forced to stop in the highway. Passengers were placed at risk and traffic congestion ensued. This scenario had been predicted by the Community Council in its comments to the Borough Council on the application for a change of use for the premises.

RESOLVED: That the matter be taken up with the Borough Council's Chief Planning Officer.

(c) Erection of handrail

Councillor Gordon Norman was disappointed to have to report that the recently erected handrail on the footpath connecting Heol Miskin with Cilhendy had been vandalised within a short space of time. The handrail had been re-erected by the Borough Council at a location which was believed to be less prone to vandalism.

(d) Homelessness in the Borough of Taff Ely

Councillor Gordon Norman was pleased to be able to report

that the Borough Council, in an effort to reduce the number of homeless people in Taff Ely, had introduced a Bond Bank. The scheme was designed to assist homeless young people to secure accommodation.

The report was noted.

(e) Crime Prevention Panel

Councillor Viv James reported that the Taff Ely Borough Council had recently established a Crime Prevention Panel. He had been appointed to sit on the Panel.

The report was noted.

(f) Pontyclun Chamber of Trade/Pontyclun Action Group

Councillor Viv James said that he was very disappointed with the latest newsletter published by the Pontyclun Chamber of Trade. He was particularly disappointed in view of the recent dialogue with the Chamber of Trade. Councillor James stated that a recent meeting had taken place with the Pontyclun Action Group and there were some items which came out of the meeting which were the subject of further investigation.

The report was noted.

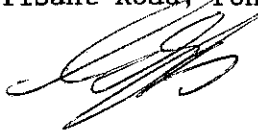
(g) Taff Ely Drug Support

Councillor Tudor Burton gave a report on his attendance at the Annual General Meeting of Taff Ely Drug Support. The work of the group continued to expand and a full time employee had now been engaged. Appeals were being made for the public to notify cases of alcohol abuse as well as drug abuse. In the fight against alcohol abuse the group had secured the support of the Licensed Victuallers. The incidence of hard drug taking had increased by 25% in the last year.

The report was noted.

(h) Subsidence at rear of Dipali restaurant, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

Councillor Mrs Anita Burton reported a case of ground subsidence in the back lane at the rear of the Dipali restaurant, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. The extent of



the subsidence was unclear as was responsibility for carrying out remedial work. After remedial work had been effected Mrs Burton suggested that the Council look sympathetically on a proposal to install off street lighting in the lane.

RESOLVED: That, initially, the matter of the subsidence be reported to the Highways and Transportation Department of the Mid Glamorgan County Council.

(i) Hendy Quarry Liaison Committee

Councillor Gordon Norman reported on his attendance at the "fairly stormy" Liaison Committee meeting which took place on 9 November, 1994. Both Mid Glamorgan County Council and Taff Ely Borough Council representatives were satisfied with the conditions the quarry operator would have to observe as a result of receiving IDO permission. The representatives of Miskin residents were not satisfied and attention was drawn to the requirement in the IDO permission that "every effort shall be made to ensure that the ground vibration for at least 95% of all blasts shall not exceed PPV of 4 mm per second". The view of Miskin residents was that the level should apply to 100% of blasts and not 95%. Anything short of 100% would always allow the quarry operator to claim that any violations fell within the allowable 5%. Dr Gandy, for Mid Glamorgan County Council, claimed that it was standard practice to place such a condition and that this advice came from central government.

The comments of the Community Council on the application for IDO permission appeared to have been ignored.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Welsh Office for confirmation that the condition is one advised by the central government.

(j) Borough Council/Community Councils
Joint Liaison Committee

Councillor Gordon Moir reported on his attendance at the last meeting of the Borough Council/ Community Councils Joint Liaison Committee. Discussion covered improving the system for communicating information on planning matters, Community Council elections, provision of litter bins, arrangements for the provision of public conveniences and blasting problems at Hendy Quarry. On the latter subject Councillor Moir received considerable

support from other members of the Committee and it was agreed that a special report would be prepared for the next meeting of the Committee.

The report was noted.

17. Any other business of an urgent nature

(a) Upgrading of pedestrian crossing,
Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun

Councillor Mrs Anita Burton referred to the recent incident on the pedestrian crossing in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, where a lady had been struck by a passing vehicle. It was fortunate that the lady's injuries appeared to be minor but the case emphasised the need for upgrading the pedestrian crossing to a pelican crossing.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Mid Glamorgan County Council requesting that the pedestrian crossing in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun be upgraded to a pelican crossing.

(b) Burst water main, Mwyndy

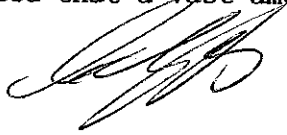
Councillor Gordon Moir reported the case of a recent burst water main in Mwyndy. When workmen attended to carry out repairs it was discovered that the fractured main was constructed of asbestos.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Welsh Water to obtain information on the extent of asbestos water mains in the Community and what, if any, plans exist for the replacement of asbestos water mains.

(c) Local Government Forum

The Clerk gave a report on the highly successful forum organised by the East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils on the morning of 12 November, 1994, in the City Hall, Cardiff.

The forum had, as its topic, "Democracy through a Welsh Parliament to Community and Town Councils". Prominent Westminster politicians in addition to many politicians from local government in Wales were in attendance. The Clerk commented that a vast amount of organisational



effort had been devoted to making the forum a success and that the Community Council could feel justifiably proud of the efforts of the Association's local secretary, Councillor John Dilworth.

The report was noted.

(d) Reorganisation of local government in Wales

The Clerk reported that community councils were making strenuous efforts to gain cooption on to Transition Committees. The Transition Committee for Rhondda/Cynon/Taff had already taken a decision not to coopt on to the Committee in view of the large number of requests received. Nevertheless, the Transition Committee for Rhondda/Cynon/Taff had decided to meet representatives of organisations who had requested cooption, together with others, and arrangements were being made for the meetings to be held in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

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

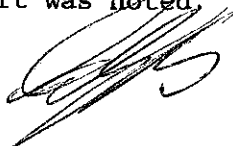
The Clerk gave a report on his attendance the previous evening at a meeting of the East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils. The guest speaker was Mr Bob Evans, Assistant Chief Constable for the South Wales Constabulary, who presented a very entertaining reflection on how the role of the police had altered during the last thirty years. At the end of his address Mr Evans answered a series of questions from members of the Committee.

The report was noted.

(f) National Wage Awards

The Clerk reported the receipt of details of national wage awards affecting the Community Council's three employees. The awards reflected an increase of 1.6% on basic rates and had been implemented.

The report was noted.



(g) Layby "blocks"

P C Steve Keddle enquired of the latest news regarding the "concrete blocks" which had been placed in the western layby adjacent to the pedestrian crossing in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

Councillor Delme Bowen said that as the County Council member for the area he was anxious to disassociate himself from the placement of the concrete blocks. Councillor Bowen stated that he knew nothing of the blocks until complaints about their placement began to be received. He had conveyed residents' complaints to the County Engineer and Surveyor. Councillor Bowen had subsequently established that the concrete blocks had been placed in position following a request by Dr Kim Howells, MP for Pontypridd.

The Clerk informed the Council that he had written to the County Engineer and Surveyor asking why the blocks had been placed in the layby. The reply received indicated that the blocks had been placed as an experiment to prevent motorists from executing U-turns in Cowbridge Road. It was considered by the County Engineer and Surveyor that the blocks had been a success and plans were in hand to place similar blocks in the layby on the opposite side of Cowbridge Road. The reply of the County Engineer and Surveyor had been displayed in the Community Council noticeboards.

The matter was noted.

(h) Forged £20 notes

P C Keddle advised the Community Council that there were a large number of forged £20 notes in circulation. P C Keddle advised that the public should be extra vigilant about accepting £20 notes at this time.

The report was noted.

18. Notice of Motion

Councillor Viv James gave notice that at the next meeting of the Community Council he wished to discuss the Council's procedure for responding to addresses given by members of the public at Community Council meetings.

19. The meeting ended at 10.25 p.m.

