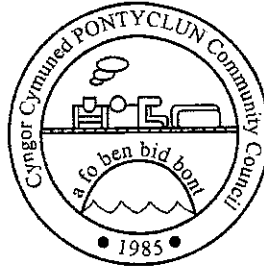


**Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun**

**Pontyclun Community Council**

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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 February, 2007

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ms V. A. Cale, C. Davies, P. Griffiths, Ms S. Jenkins, A. R. Lane, R.G. Norman and Ms P. Thomas

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** PCSO Jitka Tomkova for part of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors D. Clayton-Jones, Ms D Hayes and M Rea.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were received.

3. **Police matters**

(a) **Crime statistics**

PCSO Tomkova reported that crime figures for the Community were unavailable for this meeting would be reported to a subsequent meeting of the Council.

The report was noted.

(b) **Notices of Police And Communities Together meetings**

PCSO Tomkova advised that she would let the Clerk have notices for future PACT meetings for display in Community Council noticeboards. After the meetings the notices should be

returned to her for the entry of the date of the next PACT meeting.

The report was noted.

(c) **Parking in side streets, Pontyclun**

PCSO Tomkova advised that motorists continued to infringe parking restrictions in a number of streets off Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. Notices had recently been distributed informing that action would be taken against offending drivers.

The report was noted.

(d) **Parking bays in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun**

Councillor Norman raised his concerns about the newly created parking bays in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun, immediately opposite the junction with Clun Avenue. He had received numerous complaints from residents that the parking bays had been created in a dangerous place and hindered the flow of traffic.

PCSO Tomkova said that she would contact the Highways Authority to establish the reasons for the creation of the parking bays at the location.

(e) **Lay-by in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

PCSO Tomkova advised that she had received reports of confusion about the parking restrictions which apply in the lay-by outside Williams the Chemist in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

PCSO Tomkova would clarify the position with the Highways Authority.

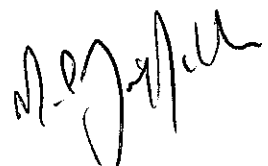
4. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 19 January, 2007**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 19 January, 2007, be approved as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising**

**Application for planning consent on the site of the former Park Hall cinema in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.**

The Clerk reported that the Community Council's comments on the application to develop the former cinema site as a retail food outlet had been delivered to the Development Control section of the Borough Council on 25 January, 2007.



The Community Council's letter opposing the application had been based on the discussions which had taken place at the Community Council's meeting of 19 January, 2007.

The Clerk advised the Council that a similar planning application for a retail food outlet in Treforest had recently been the subject of an appeal to the Welsh Assembly Government. The inspector had decided in favour of the appellant since it appeared that the Planning Authority did not have any sound planning grounds for refusing the application at the outset. It was likely that an award of the appellant's costs in bringing the appeal would be made against the Planning Authority.

Councillor Lane reported that he had carried out a traffic survey in Cowbridge Road, in January, near to the site for the proposed development. The survey revealed that there were already very high numbers of movements of all types of vehicles adjacent to the site for development including heavy goods vehicles and minibuses. The development of a retail outlet on the former cinema site would add enormously to existing traffic congestion.

Underlining the problems currently experienced with traffic congestion, Members referred to a recent accident in Pontyclun which resulted in very long tail-backs of traffic and where an ambulance took 45 minutes to cover less than half a mile to attend to an injured resident.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Clerk provide all Members with a copy of the letter sent to the Planning Authority.
  - (ii) That the Chairperson organise a press release on the Community Council's views on the application.
  - (iii) That the Chairperson organise a photograph of Members to accompany the press release.
  - (iv) That Councillor Lane provide the Clerk with a copy of his survey results to enable a supplementary letter to be sent to the Planning Authority.

6. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Local Development Plan (2006-2021) – Preferred Strategy**

The Council received a presentation from Mr Keith Warren, a member of staff of the Local Development Plan team in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, on the steps

being taken by the Borough Council to meet its statutory obligations to produce a Local Development Plan.

Mr Warren stated that the Borough Council's plans to prepare its LDP had been widely advertised in the local press and a number of exhibitions had been held throughout the Borough. Considerable work was required to meet the target date for implementation of the LDP of late 2009.

The new LDP would replace the three existing plans for the pre-reorganisation boroughs in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. The new LDP would provide a land use strategy to cover 15 years and would identify areas which had been allocated for residential, industrial, commercial and recreational development and highway infrastructure. The Borough Council also had a statutory duty to provide a 5 year land supply for residential development.

To assist in providing land for residential development, proposals had been invited from local landowners for land development. In total, 654 sites had been put forward by landowners. Each site needed to be individually assessed and it was likely that many sites would be rejected on the grounds that they formed part of a flood plain, constituted development in the countryside or did not meet sustainability criteria.

From the time that the Borough Council had formulated its initial proposals for the LDP, a consultation period of 6 weeks was available for members of the public to express their views. The 6 week period would expire on 21 February, 2007.

Mr Warren answered a series of questions from Members. In particular, the Council was concerned at the very short time available for comments on the Borough Council's proposals. Members advised Mr Warren that if longer notice had been given of the period for the receipt of comments, it would have been possible to convene a public meeting.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk contact Ms Sheila Director for Regeneration at Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council requesting her officers' attendance at a public meeting to be convened by the Community Council to discuss the LDP.

(ii) That the Clerk obtain Ordnance Survey references from the LDP team to enable proposed sites for development to be identified.

(b) **Community Council's External Auditor**

The Council discussed a letter from the Wales Audit Office advising of a proposed change to the auditor appointment for the Community Council and advising of future arrangements for community council audits in Wales.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Council raise no objections to the proposed changes.

(c) **Intercity rail service between Cardiff and Swansea**

The Council discussed letters from First Great Western and the Welsh Assembly Government about the discontinuation of the 5.18 p.m. train service from Cardiff to Swansea.

It appeared that the discontinuation had been taken on commercial grounds by First Great Western, and approved by the Department of Transport, despite the opposition of the Welsh Assembly Government. The Welsh Assembly had decided to monitor the effect of passengers having to transfer at Cardiff from the London train on to existing train services going west.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council express its disappointment at the reply from First Great Western and that a copy of the reply be forwarded to the Welsh Assembly Government for information.

(d) **Cycle stands**

The Council was pleased to receive further correspondence from Mr Ray Anderson of Talygarn about the possibility of cycle stands being erected in Pontyclun.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the Council support the installation of two cycle stands close to the footway "build-outs" in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, and that the observations of the Highway Authority be sought.

(ii) That Mr Anderson be thanked for his correspondence and advised that the Community Council is supporting two suggested sites for cycle stands.

(e) **McMillan Cancer Support**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance from McMillan Cancer Support.



**RESOLVED:** That the organisation be advised to re-submit its application in June in order that the application can be considered at the Council's annual grants allocation meeting.

(f) **Alzheimer's Society**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance from the Alzheimer's Society.

**RESOLVED:** That the Society be advised to re-submit its application in June in order that the application can be considered at the Council's annual grants allocation meeting.

(g) **Planning**

The Council discussed planning applications contained in the latest Weekly Notifications.

**RESOLVED:** That the following comments be made to the Planning Authority:

**Application No. 06/2317/13**

That the Community Council is opposed to the application since the proposed development is outside the Local Plan.

**Application No. 06/2465/10**

That the Community Council is opposed to the application since it constitutes an over-development of the plot and there is a risk of intrusive views into neighbouring properties.

**Application No. 06/2478/10**

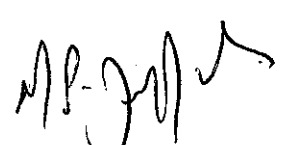
The Community Council is opposed to the application since it will be incongruous in a development which was intended to be sympathetic to a Victorian setting.

(g) **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 9 to the Council's agenda.

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

**Proposed Community Spirit Award**



The Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins, reported on the meeting which she, and Councillor Davies, had with the local branch of Rotary. The meeting had been convened to discuss the promotion of a joint award to recognise, on an annual basis, the achievements a young person in the Community.

The proposed award would be in memory of the late Trevor Rees of Miskin who had played a prominent part in community activities over many years. It had been suggested that both parties allocate a sum of £100 each year to fund the award.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council approve the idea of a joint award in principle and that the matter be referred for further discussion to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council scheduled for 14 February, 2007.

8. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Green Pontyclun – summer 2007**

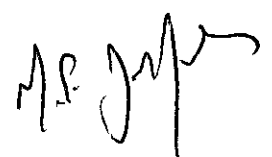
The Clerk gave a verbal report of the preparations which had been made for floral displays in the summer of 2007.

A plan was provided to Members of the sites throughout the Community where flower displays were planned. The Clerk confirmed that orders for flowering plants had been placed with Boverton Nurseries, the company which had supplied plants and flowers in 2006 and was widely used by councils throughout South Wales.

The Clerk reminded the Council that a trial would be carried out with hanging baskets with half being of traditional wire construction and the other half of the self watering type. It was expected that the self watering type would be found to be more economical.

The Clerk advised the Council that he had been able to recruit Mr Robert Hughes, from Pencoed, to carry out early morning watering of the hanging baskets. Early morning watering would avoid causing traffic congestion later in the day.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the report be noted.  
(ii) That arrangements be made for Mr Hughes to commence work as soon as hanging baskets had been delivered.  
(iii) That any surplus wire baskets be donated to the local primary schools or, if not required, to local voluntary bodies  
(iv) That the Council's thanks be conveyed to its Handyman, Mr Derek Oram, for producing



the map of floral displays planned for the summer of 2007.

(b) **Making the Connections – Delivering Beyond Boundaries**

The Clerk reported distributed copies of a report received Welsh Assembly Government entitled "Making the Connections – Delivering Beyond Boundaries".

**RESOLVED:** That discussion of the report be referred to a meeting of the sub group formed to discuss the initial documents in the compilation of the Borough Council's Local Development Plan.

(c) **Gifts and Hospitality Policy**

The Clerk reported that he had been invited to attend a meeting of community council clerks in Rhondda Cynon Taf as a result of the Borough Council's decision to revise its policy on the receipt of Gifts and Hospitality by members and employees.

The Clerk stated that after the meeting he would report back to the Community Council for the Council to decide whether to vary its own policy on the receipt of gifts and hospitality by members and employees.

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

(d) **Freedom of Information Act**

The Clerk referred to the request for the disclosure of information by a resident of the Community in the Spring, 2006, for the disclosure of all information relating to the Community Council's purchase of land in Brynsadler.

Considerable time was spent on the request followed by a large amount of photocopying. It had been estimated that the Council had incurred a cost of around £130.00 in meeting the request for disclosure. The applicant had agreed that he would meet the Community Council's reasonable costs in providing the information. The Council had sought a contribution from the applicant of £50.00.

The Clerk reported that the applicant had now paid £50.00 to the Council.

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

(e) **Pontyclun Primary School**






Councillor Norman, Chairman of the Board of Governors at Pontyclun Primary School, reported that the school head teacher, Mr D Keith Davies, would be retiring at the end of the school's summer term. The vacancy created by Mr Davies' retirement had now been advertised.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

9. The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M.P. Jones', located in the bottom right corner of the page.