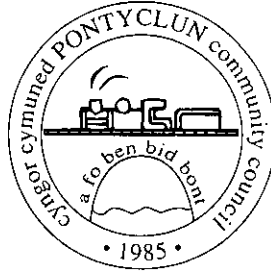


**Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun**

Clerc I'r Cyngor  
J.H.G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.  
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**APPENDIX No. 1**  
**Pontyclun Community Council**

Clerk to the Council  
J.H.G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.  
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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 January, 1998

**PRESENT:** Community Councillors Mrs V A Cale, J G Davies, T Flood,  
Mrs M Griffiths, J V Huish, R G Norman and M Rea (Chairperson)

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

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors C G Bendle, T J Burton, and R O Edwards

2. **Chairperson's business**

(a) **Groesfaen Residents' Association**

The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, advised the Council that he had received a letter from the Groesfaen Residents' Association enquiring whether the Community Council would be prepared to make a donation to a fund for the construction of a village hall in Groesfaen. The Association were looking for an early indication from the Community Council in order to prepare their plans.

**RESOLVED:** That the matter be considered later in the meeting.

(b) **Absence of 30 m.p.h. signs**

The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, informed the Council that he was concerned by the absence of 30 m.p.h. speed restriction

signs in the Community. He had raised the matter with the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering at the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and had been provided with a map of the Community showing the roads where restrictions were in force.

While the map showed that there were extensive 30 m.p.h. restrictions in the Community, to the best of the Chairperson's knowledge, there appeared to be only one 30 m.p.h. speed restriction sign located near the Corner Park Garage in Mwyndy.

**RESOLVED:** That the matter be noted at this stage pending further enquiries.

(c) **Alterations to refuse collection arrangements at Bank Holidays**

The Chairperson stated that he felt that alterations to Bank Holiday refuse collection arrangements were not well advertised by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. A discussion took place on the arrangements adopted by the Borough Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contact the Borough Council to request that notices advertising alterations to refuse collection arrangements at Bank Holidays be provided to the Community Council for display in noticeboards at least a fortnight before the Bank Holiday.

3. **Police Matters**

(a) **Traffic Blocks/Concrete "eggs"**

P C Keddle wished to inform the Council that the controversial traffic blocks/concrete "eggs" in the layby on the western side of Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, had been moved into position on the eastern side of Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

The matter was noted.

(b) **Unofficial bus stop**

P C Keddle reported that the dangerous practice of the Rhondda Bus Company in stopping their vehicles near the entrance to the Ynysddu Farm Estate had ceased following a conversation he had had with a representative of the company.

The matter was noted.

(c) **Street name**

P C Keddle reported that the road through the new housing development to the rear of the Pontyclun Community Centre had been named "Heol y Gorsedd"

The matter was noted.

(d) **The "Pagoda" restaurant, Pontyclun**

P C Keddle reported that he had spoken to the proprietor of the "Pagoda" restaurant in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun, about the closing time of the restaurant. The proprietor appeared to be unaware that his premises should close at 10.00 p.m.

The matter was noted.

(e) **Taxis parking on pavements**

Councillor Flood reminded the Council of the address given to the last meeting of the Council by Mr and Mrs Eliot of the local taxi operators' association. In response to complaints by Members of the Council about taxi drivers parking on pavements, Mrs Eliot, supported by her husband, had stated that if there were any concerns about taxi drivers breaking the law by parking on the pavement, details of the incident should be reported to the taxi operators' association which she and her husband represented.

Councillor Flood stated that shortly after the presentation he observed two taxis parking on a pavement outside licensed premises. On closer examination he was surprised to discover that one of the offending drivers was Mr Eliot. The incident cast some doubt on the good faith expressed at the earlier meeting.

The matter was noted.

(f) **Break-in at house in School Street, Pontyclun**

Councillor Huish advised of residents' concerns over a break-in at a house in School Street, Pontyclun. There was a strong suspicion that those responsible for the incident had telephoned the house where the break-in took place to establish whether there was anyone at home before effecting entry.

P C Keddle responded that the incident had been reported to the police and was being investigated.

(g) **Traffic warden**

Councillor Cale drew to P C Keddle's attention the absence of the traffic warden from Pontyclun. It appeared that the traffic warden had been seen in Talbot Green, Llantrisant and Tonyrefail but was rarely seen in Pontyclun.

Councillor Cale was supported by Councillor Flood who stated that on an occasion over the Christmas holiday, when returning in his vehicle to Pontyclun, he had been caught in a traffic jam which extended from Leekes store in Cowbridge Road to the roundabout outside the L'Oreal factory. The congestion was so bad that at one point there was no movement of traffic. The traffic jam had been caused entirely by drivers parking their vehicles illegally outside Leekes' store.

P C Keddle replied that traffic warden responsible for the Pontyclun area also covered a large surrounding area. The traffic warden had been active in the Pontyclun area over the Christmas period but was also obliged to pay attention to other surrounding villages. P C Keddle advised that if members of the public experienced particular problems at any time they should contact the Talbot Green Police Station by telephone.

The matter was noted.

4. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 3 December, 1997**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 3 December, 1997, be approved as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising

6. **Community Council's reserves**

A discussion took place on whether this item should be considered at the meeting or whether it should be deferred to a later meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the item be deferred to a Special Meeting of the Community Council to be held in the Community Centre in a week's time and that the meeting of the Council's Finance Committee, which had been provisionally due to take place in a week's time, be delayed for a further week.

7. **Additional facilities for the youth of the Community**

The Clerk reported that, following reports that the proposed sale of the disused garages in Brynsadler had fallen through, he had contacted the Property Services Department of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to establish the current position.

He had been told that the sale appeared to be proceeding normally. There had been no indication of any difficulties preventing the sale. In the event that difficulties did arise and the sale fell through the property would again be publicly advertised for sale.

A discussion took place on the commitment given by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to ensure that a roller blading area was included in the recreational facilities as part of the new residential development on Cefn yr Hendy. There was no indication when the roller blading facility would be provided and the Council wondered whether, in the interim, another plot of land might be identified as being suitable for roller blading.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk contact the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to identify another site in the Community which might be suitable for the creation of a roller blading facility.
- (ii) That, as an aid to making progress, the Community Council offer match funding.
- (iii) That further discussion on additional facilities for the youth of the Community, including the matter of the disused Van's Bingo Hall, be deferred to the Council's Special Meeting in a week's time.

8. **Environmental projects for further discussion  
with Groundwork Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff**

**RESOLVED:** That this item be deferred to the Special Council Meeting in a week's time.

9. **Publicity for the Council's achievements during 1997/98**

**RESOLVED:** That this item be deferred to the Special Council Meeting in a week's time.

10. **Police resources in the Community**

The Council discussed the letter which Divisional Commander D. Jones of the South Wales Police had sent to the M P for Pontypridd, Dr Kim Howells, about levels of policing in the Community of Pontyclun. Dr Howells had forwarded a copy of the letter to the Community Council for its information.

Divisional Commander Jones viewed with concern the suggestion that members of the public were reluctant to report matters to the police in view of a suggested slowness in responding to calls for assistance. The matter would be discussed the Inspector responsible for the policing of the Pontyclun area.

It was also stated by Divisional Commander Jones that he was carrying out an in-depth review of the numbers of officers stationed at Talbot Green and the level of policing within the area. As soon as the information was to hand it was Commander Jones' intention to meet with the Community Council to discuss Members' concerns and to offer reassurance that the level of policing in the Pontyclun area is of a satisfactory level.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council welcome the assurances offered by Divisional Commander Jones and authorise the Clerk to liaise with him on a suitable date for convening a special meeting of the Community Council.

11. **Proposed Borough Council/Community  
Councils' Joint Liaison Committee**

The Clerk referred to the decision of the Council at its Annual Meeting to be represented at any Joint Liaison Committee which the Borough Council might establish by Councillors Cale, Griffiths and the Clerk. The Borough Council had subsequently indicated its intentions of setting up a Joint Liaison Committee but had stated that only one representative from each community council would be allowed to attend.

In normal circumstances the Clerk stated that he would have reported back to the Council to clarify its intentions on representation. Bearing in mind the possibility that a meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee could have been called before the Community Council's next meeting the Clerk contacted Councillors Cale and Griffiths and amicably agreed that if a meeting was called the Council would have been represented by Councillor Griffiths. The Borough Council had been notified to this effect.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the actions taken be confirmed.
- (ii) That as an agenda item for the proposed Joint Liaison Committee's first meeting the Borough Council be asked when it proposed consulting community councils on the full range of subjects it had said it would consult upon in the Service Delivery Plan submitted to the Welsh Office.

12. **Railway embankment in Pontyclun**

The Council discussed the reply from Railtrack on the Community Council's request for the removal of undergrowth and the advertising hoarding on the railway embankment adjacent to the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

Railtrack stated that undergrowth on the embankment is managed on a "minimum basis". It appeared that this meant that provided the undergrowth did not constitute a legal nuisance no action would be taken to cut back any vegetation.

Railtrack also stated that it was not prepared to carry out any work to remove the advertising hoarding near the railway bridge since it was of the view that vision would not be substantially improved for drivers emerging from the lane due to the presence of the bridge parapet. It was further stated that Railtrack was unable to carry out any work to the bridge parapet for "safety reasons".

The Community Council was very disappointed with the negative responses from Railtrack. Members believed that while Railtrack may not have a statutory duty to trim back vegetation and undergrowth, from a community viewpoint it was highly desirable. Similarly, the Council considered the advertising hoarding to be an eyesore in the centre of the village. The Council felt that Railtrack was disinterested in improving the environment of Community residents.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk ask for a site meeting with Railtrack to discuss both matters.

- (ii) That the Clerk make enquiries of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to establish if there were any circumstances where planning consent for the hoarding could be withdrawn.

13. **Traffic blocks/concrete “eggs” in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

The Council received the reply of the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in which he thanked the Community Council for the information about youths vandalising the traffic blocks/concrete “eggs” in the layby in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. It was stated that arrangements had been made to periodically inspect and re-arrange the installation as necessary. It was further stated that discussions on the situation were also taking place with the local police.

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

14. **Forest Wood Quarry Liaison Committee**

The Council discussed the proposed constitution of the Forest Wood Quarry Liaison Committee.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the Council agree with the draft constitution produced by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council subject to clarification that in the section dealing with membership the reference to “two residents to be nominated by the Community Councils” referred to two residents being nominated by both community councils.

- (ii) That Councillor Huish be reaffirmed as the Community Council’s representative on the Committee with Councillor Flood attending in the event of Councillor Huish’s unavailability.

15. **Proposal to produce a poster for display in shop windows**

**RESOLVED:** That as the time for the display of the proposed poster had passed no further discussion take place on this item.

16. **Recommendations of the National Association of Local Councils and Society of Local Council Clerks on the “Accounts and Audit Regulations, 1996 - Impact on Salaries”**

The Council received the report of the Society of Local Council Clerks on the



Accounts and Audit Regulations, 1996, - Impact on Salaries, which had been considered at the 63rd meeting of the Liaison Committee between members of the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks at its meeting on 4 September, 1997. The Council also received the minutes of the meeting of 4 September, 1997, where the recommendations on adjustments to salaries were approved.

The Clerk advised that the Community Council had, historically, followed the recommendations of the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks on fixing clerks' salaries. Details of the additional cost to the Community Council were provided in the event that the Council was minded to implement the recommendations.

At this point the Clerk declared an interest in the proceedings and vacated the Council Chamber. The Council invited members of the public to vacate the Council Chamber while it discussed the matter.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council implement the recommendations contained in Section 4 of the report of the Society of Local Council Clerks and endorsed at the Liaison Committee between members of the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks at the meeting on 4 September, 1997.

17. **Planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ended 5, 12, and 19 December, 1997, and Week Ending 2 January, 1998**

The Council discussed planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ending 5, 12 and 19 December, 1997, and 2 January, 1998.

**RESOLVED:** That the following comments be made to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council:

**Application No. T/97/2948/26**

- (i) That the Council strongly oppose the removal of the hedgerow since it is believed that if it were removed it would lead to local landowners submitting planning applications for residential planning consent in open countryside.
- (ii) That, in view of the threat to the countryside posed by applications to remove hedgerows, the Clerk contact the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council with a view to getting a representative from the Planning Department to make a presentation on the subject of the removal of hedgerows.

**Application No. T/97/2963/01**

That the Council oppose the application since the proposed advertising board would be erected in open countryside, at a road junction, and would create a hazardous distraction to motorists on the nearby very busy A4119.

**Application No. T/97/2970/10**

That the Council oppose the application on the grounds that:

- (i) it is outside the Local Plan
- (ii) it would lead to an overdevelopment of the existing site
- (iii) it would create an undesirable precedent for further planning applications
- (iv) it would lead further applications for residential planning consent in the vicinity.

18. **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 15 to the Council's Agenda.

19. **Reports from Members**

(a) **Indisposition**

Councillor Norman reported that he had suffered a bout of ill health during December and as a consequence had been inactive in the Community. He was now regaining his health.

The report was noted.

(b) **Stormy weather**

Councillor Norman referred to the stormy weather over the weekend of 3/4 January, 1998, and offered his congratulations to all those in the Community who had responded to the numerous emergencies caused by the freak weather.

The report was noted.

(c) **Doctors' Surgery, Pontyclun**

Councillor Norman reported that he was again disturbed to hear

reports that the local fund holding practice in Pontyclun appeared, again, to be running out of money after only three quarters of the year had elapsed. The situation appeared to be a re-run of the problems the surgery encountered during the last financial year.

The matter was noted.

(d) **Talgarn Forum**

Councillor Mrs Griffiths reported that a meeting of the Talgarn Forum had been held on 2 January, 1998. At the meeting it was reported that the long promised workshop on rehabilitation services to be organised by the Bro Taf Health Authority was to be held at the end of January.

The Secretary of the Forum had also reported that a letter had been received from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council expressing its support for the campaign to save the Talgarn Rehabilitation Centre. The Borough Council had written to the Bro Taf Health Authority requesting that authority to reconsider its decision. The Borough Council had also written to the Secretary of State for Wales asking that he decides that the Health Authority should retain the premises.

The Forum was also encouraged to learn that the Minister at the Welsh Office with responsibility for health matters in Wales, Win Griffiths, M P, had agreed to meet a delegation from the Forum to hear the representatives' views. It was expected that the M P for Pontypridd, Dr Kim Howells, would be present at the meeting.

The report was noted.

(e) **European Common Market surplus meat**

Councillor Flood informed the Council that he had received a query from a community councillor in Talbot Green about the possibility of receiving a consignment of surplus European Common Market meat for distribution in the area.

Councillor Norman advised that he had been involved in the distribution of surplus food in past years and contact needed to be made with the central organisation responsible for the distribution of surplus food within the U K.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Norman would provide the name and address of the central distribution organisation to the Clerk who would pass the information to the community councillor in Talbot Green.

(f) **Overhanging trees and bushes**

Councillor Flood drew attention to branches and trees overhanging the pavement near the horse chestnut trees in Heol Miskin between Pontyclun and Miskin. It was important that the excess vegetative growth were cut back to prevent obstruction and possible injury to members of the public.

**RESOLVED:** That the matter be taken up with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(g) **Overhanging branches, Heol y Coed, Pontyclun**

Councillor Flood also reported that he had received complaints about hanging branches posing a risk to pedestrians using the pavement in Heol y Coed, Pontyclun. Councillor Flood's information was that the offending branches were hanging from the first few trees in Heol y Coed when approached from Heol Miskin, Pontyclun.

(h) **Confusion over street names**

Councillor Huish reported that confusion had arisen about the description of street names on the Cefn yr Hendy Estate. It appeared that with residential development on the adjacent Miskin Heights site, some streets on the Cefn yr Hendy Estate were now being described as "Miskin Heights"

A discussion ensued when the Council expressed its view that the whole of the new residential site should have been described as "Cefn yr Hendy" since the new development was merely an extension of residential development on to neighbouring land.

**RESOLVED:** That the matter be kept under review.

(i) **Derelict garages**

Councillor Flood referred to 5 derelict garages in the back lane between Maelog Close and the rear of Llantrisant Road,

Pontyclun. He stated that as a result of the recent storms, doors from the garages had been blown into the lane causing a hazard to lane users. Additionally, as the garages were open there was a real risk to children who might wander into the garages and be injured by the dilapidated state of the roofs.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk report the matter to the Environmental Services Department of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(j) **Advertising hoardings, Mwyndy**

The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, advised the Council that following the complaints made to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about the erection of unauthorised advertising hoardings in the vicinity of the Corner Park Garage, Mwyndy, inspections had been carried out and the erectors of the hoardings had been given 28 days to remove them.

The Chairperson advised that although the 28 day period had elapsed the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council was reluctant to instruct the removal of the hoardings since the agency responsible for the erections was now applying for planning consent to regularise matters.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk write to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council pointing out that the agency had acted in an irresponsible way in erecting the unauthorised hoardings and that retrospective consent to regularise the agency's activities should not be allowed.

The Community Council also wished to point out that the hoardings were massively out of scale had posed a distraction to motorists using the very busy A4119.

(k) **Litter bins**

The Chairperson drew the Council's attention to two litter bins in Groesfaen which had rotted and were in need of replacement.

**RESOLVED:** That the matter be discussed at the Council's special meeting on 14 January, 1998.

(1) **Traffic calming, Groesfaen**

The Chairperson advised that the consultants engaged by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to look into traffic calming measures in Groesfaen had produced their report. It was likely that a sum in the region of £40,000 would be spent on traffic calming measures on the A4119 in Groesfaen.

The report was noted.

20. **Any other business of an urgent nature**

(a) **Bus passes**

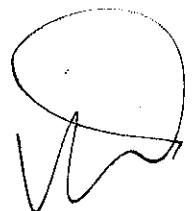
The Chairperson produced a copy of an application form for a bus pass which had been issued by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. The instructions on the form advised that before 27 December, 1997, bus passes could be obtained at any post office in Rhondda Cynon Taff. After 27 December, 1997, passes were only obtainable at certain named post offices.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk establish from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council the reasons why bus passes could only be obtained from a limited number of post offices after 27 December, 1997.

(b) **Broken glass**

Councillor Flood again drew the Council's attention to the dangerous situation outside The Bute public house, Pontyclun, where large quantities of broken glass were regularly to be seen on the pavement. Broken glass on the pavement was such a regular feature that some of the glass had been impressed into the tarmac by passing pedestrians.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the matter be again brought to the attention of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council with a request that the landlord of The Bute be invoiced for the cost borne by the general public in removing broken glass outside the premises.



- (ii) That in the event of the Community Council's Handyman needing to remove broken glass from the pavement outside The Bute the Clerk be authorised to invoice the landlord for the costs incurred by the Community Council.

(c) **Councillor C G Bendle**

Councillor Norman informed the Council that Councillor Bendle's mother had recently been discharged from hospital but was known to be very seriously ill.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk be given authority to incur expenditure as appropriate.

(d) **Excessively bright lights**

The Chairperson advised the Council about the excessively bright lights at the Bosch plant in Miskin at night. The lights caused a certain amount of disruption to the residents of Groesfaen. It was also believed that wildlife in the vicinity also suffered.

The Clerk advised that he had taken the matter up with the Environmental Services Department of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council who had pointed out that although the plant lay outside their boundaries, there were no statutory provisions for the control of illumination "pollution"

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk take the matter up with the Environmental Services department of the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council.

(e) **Abandoned car**

The Clerk advised that Councillor Bendle had brought to his attention an abandoned car in the layby outside "Costcutters" in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. Councillor Bendle had sought the Community Council's support for getting the police or Borough Council, to recognise formally that the vehicle had been abandoned for it to be towed away.

Information from Members clarified that the vehicle had already been removed.

The matter was noted.

(f) **Footpath No. 314**

The Clerk advised that notification had been received from the Highway Authority about an application to divert the route of Footpath No. 314 on the new housing development at Cefn yr Hendy.

**RESOLVED:** That a site meeting take place to view the route of the Footpath at 10.00a.m. on the morning of Saturday 10 January, 1998.

(g) **Possibility of the employment of a roadsweeper**

The Clerk reminded the Council that several months earlier he had written to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council pointing out the poor standards of street cleansing in the Community and asking whether it would be in order for the Community Council to employ its own roadsweeper.

The reply of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, which had been received on 2 January, 1998, had been received too late for inclusion on the Community Council's agenda. The Clerk read out the reply.

The Borough Council was of the view that there should be no need to supplement the service of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. The Borough Council stated that it had no objection to land being cleansed which was outside the remit of its cleansing contract but pointed out that if the Community Council decided to employ its own roadsweeper the Community Council would need to fund the operation totally including the disposal of the waste collected.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk request the Borough Council to provide a copy of the contractor specification for the cleansing of the highways in the Community of Pontyclun.

21. The meeting ended at 9.35 p.m.