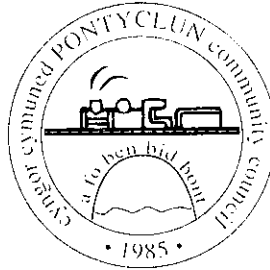


## Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

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## Pontyclun Community Council

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Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held at the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 7 January, 2004.

**PRESENT:** Community Councillors Mrs V A Cale, C Davies, J G Davies, J V Huish, R G Norman, M Rea (Chairperson) and Mrs P Thomas

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

P C Kettle of the South Wales Constabulary for part of the meeting and three members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors C G Bendle, J R Dilworth and S Rogers

2. **Declarations of interest**

Declarations of interest were invited from Members.

There were no disclosures.

3. **Chairperson's /Leader's business**

(a) **Proposed new school, Cefn yr Hendy, Pontyclun**

The Leader, Councillor Huish, advised the Council that plans to build the new school were well advanced and a formal start was due that day.

The report was noted.

(b) **Elections**

The Leader, Councillor Huish, informed the Council that the Welsh Assembly Government had formally announced that the elections

for community councils and unitary authorities would be held on 10 June, 2004. Ordinary postal voting facilities would be available.

The report was noted.

(c) **Traffic calming exhibition**

Councillor Huish reported that traffic calming exhibitions, displaying the Borough Council's proposals for Pontyclun, has recently been held in the Pontyclun Library and the Pontyclun Community Centre. The exhibitions had been very well attended by members of the public.

Two main issues had come out of the consultation exercise. The first was the location of a pedestrian crossing with light control and the second was the potential loss of some parking spaces in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. Officers had taken on board the comments from members of the public and intended to see what amendments could be made to re-draft the original scheme.

The report was noted.

(d) **Best Illuminated House Competition**

The Chairman, Councillor Rea, announced that there had been some extremely good displays to be judged in the Community Council's Best Illuminated House Competition prior to Christmas. The Chairman stated that he would provide full details of the competition winners later in the meeting under item 9 (h) of the Agenda.

4. **Police matters**

(a) **Crime statistics**

P C Keddle advised the Council that during the month of December 25 crimes had been reported in Pontyclun and district. There had been cases of burglaries in a garage at Danybryn, Brynsadler, a garage at Ynysddu Farm Estate, the premises of Arthur Llewellyn Jenkins at Mwyndy and changing rooms of the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club. The police has also attended a number of domestic incidents.

The report was noted.

(b) **Criminal damage**

Councillor Cale reported that property belonging to her, and Councillor Graham Davies, had been the subject of attack since the Council last met. In particular, the tyres on Councillor Davies's car had been spiked five times while parked outside his home in



Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun, within a month. It was felt that the actions were retaliatory, although the reasons for the attacks were not clear. No other cars parked in Palalwyf Avenue had been attacked in the same way as Councillor Davies's car.

The Council and P C Keddle noted the incidents.

5. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 12 November, 2003**

The Clerk advised the Council that on the evening after the Council's meeting of 12 November, 2003, he had been requested to provide a copy of the minutes of the previous night's meeting to certain residents in the Community. The Clerk replied that, in due course, he would produce draft minutes and that the draft minutes would be submitted to the Council at its next meeting on 7 January, 2004, for confirmation that they accurately reflected what had taken place at the meeting of 12 November, 2003. The Clerk was requested to supply the residents with copies of the draft minutes as soon as they were available. The Clerk complied with the request and extracts of draft minutes relating to item 4 of the Council's meeting of 12 November, 2003 were provided to four interested residents on 26 December, 2003.

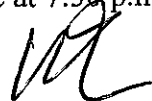
Subsequently, two letters had been received from residents stating that they believed that the extracts of the draft minutes were inaccurate. The residents asked that the draft minutes be altered.

The Clerk advised that both letters were received after the agendas for the Council's meeting of 7 January, 2004 had been distributed to Council members. The Clerk suggested that he read out both letters before the Council took a decision on the accuracy of the draft minutes. The Council agreed to this suggestion.

The Clerk read out the letter dated 4 January, 2004, from Mrs A Walby of "Jadewood" 16 Millfield, Pontyclun, and a further letter also dated 4 January, 2004, from Dr Brendan O'Reilly of 6 Clos Brenin, Brynsadler, Pontyclun.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 12 November, 2003, be approved as an accurate record subject to the following two amendments:

- (i) a sentence being included at the end of the third paragraph of minute 4 stating "Mr Williams indicated his willingness to talk to all parties concerned about his proposal"
- (ii) a sentence being included after the first sentence of the seventh paragraph of minute 4 stating "A number of residents were informed that the meeting would commence at 7:30 p.m."



6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Proposed access road to the Ely Valley Industrial Estate**

- (i) The Community Council discussed the letters from Mrs A Walby, Dr Brendan O'Reilly and Mr Keith Nokes. Mr Nokes' letter had been circulated with the Council's agenda

The Community Council rejected the suggestion that it had been undemocratic in handling the representations by the supporters and opponents of the application for planning consent. Both supporters and opponents of the application had been allowed the same opportunity to state their case. Every faction which had expressed an interest in stating its viewpoint had been given the opportunity to do so. The Council firmly believed that it had been even handed in its treatment of those wishing to speak.

The Council believed that it was important to make the distinction between meetings held in public as opposed to public meetings. All Community Council meetings are meetings held in public where members of the public do not have an automatic right to speak. The Community Council has always offered, and encouraged, members of the public to address the Council to promote their viewpoints. All addresses to the Council are limited in time to 4 minutes.

The Pontyclun Community Council is aware that the Community Centre is very well used by members of the public and is often in use by different organisations at the same time. Numerous parents regularly collect their children from the Centre and parents can regularly be seen waiting outside the Council's meeting room. The Council would be wrong to assume that anyone waiting outside the meeting room intends addressing the Council.

The Community Council did not dispute that a number of residents were informed that the meeting would commence at 7.30 p.m. Several members of the public entered the Council's meeting room shortly after 7.30 p.m. but only one asked if he could address the Council. The Council agreed to the request. Before the address, and for the benefit of those who arrived at 7.30 p.m., the Clerk summarised the presentations given by each of the earlier speakers. The speaker was given 4 minutes to address the Council, exactly the same as the earlier speakers.

The Council refuted any suggestion that it had treated any faction unfairly. It also expressed concern at the implied suggestion that a declaration of interest may not have been made.



Councillor Huish updated the Council and stated that the application for planning consent had been deferred for the time being. In the meantime, meetings had taken place with residents of Station Terrace and local shopkeepers to identify possible ways forward. Further meetings were also planned. Councillor Huish urged all interested parties to become involved to achieve a settlement which was acceptable to all.

**RESOLVED:** That these views be conveyed to the residents who had contacted the Council.

(ii) **Views of the Environment Agency**

The Council discussed the views of the Environment Agency on the application in a letter which had been written to Mrs A Walby a copy of which had been forwarded to the Pontyclun Community Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the views of the Environment Agency be noted.

(b) **Exhibition on proposed highway safety measures in Pontyclun**

**RESOLVED:** That as this item had been the subject of a report earlier in the meeting no further discussion take place.

(c) **Proposed new primary school at Cefn yr Hendy**

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Mr Garry Kiss of the Education and Children's Services Group at the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

Mr Kiss had agreed to arrange for a presentation on the plans to be build a new school at Cefn yr Hendy. It was likely that the presentation would be made to the Council's February or March meeting.

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

(d) **Application for consent to provide parking places in Miskin**

The Clerk reported that the application to provide parking spaces in Miskin had been refused. He reminded Members that implicit in the plan was the requirement to carry out a significant amount of landfill. The Community Council has earlier written to the Planning Authority strongly opposing the application.



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

(e) **Public conveniences, Pontyclun**

The Clerk reminded Members that it had earlier decided to review the position of caretaker at the public conveniences with a view to incorporating the duties into the post of a newly created post of assistant to the Council's Handyman. The review was due to be undertaken by the Finance Committee at its meeting on 20 January, 2004. In the interim, the Clerk had continued the interim arrangements for cleaning and opening the public conveniences.

**RESOLVED:** That the interim arrangements be continued until the Finance Committee's recommendations had been approved by the Council.

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Research study into the Role, Functions and Future Potential of Community and Town Councils**

(i) **Comments and recommendations of the Council**

**RESOLVED:** That this item of business be deferred to the Community Council's meeting of 4 February, 2004.

(ii) **Attendance at Regional Seminar**

**RESOLVED:** That the Chairman and Clerk be nominated to attend the Seminar.

(b) **Matters arising as a result of the proposal to dissolve the Glamorgan & Gwent Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils**

The Clerk read out the matters which had arisen as a result of the proposal and the Council provided its comments.

**RESOLVED:** That the comments be forwarded to the secretary of the Area Committee..

(c) **Application to develop land east and west of the A4119 at Mwyndy**

The Council received details of an application for planning consent for a major development at Mwyndy, Pontyclun, straddling the A4119.



A Non Technical Summary accompanying a plan of the proposed development stated that the application is for around 216 residential properties on the western side of the development site adjacent to the existing Cefn yr Hendy residential development and for approximately 6 blocks of office space, generally four storeys in height, amounting to around 30,000 square metres of high quality office accommodation on the eastern development site.

The proposal includes roads and other infrastructure items required for these types of development, such as drainage ponds and new improved sewer connections. The roads infrastructure would include a new junctions and a new bridge across the A4119.

Members reported that there was strong opposition to the proposals. Residents of Groesfaen had already opposed the plans in addition to the Cefn yr Hendy Residents' Association. Further opposition to the proposals had been received from residents in Mwyndy.

The applicant for consent, the Welsh Development Agency was seen to be opportunist. Under the existing Taff Ely Local Plan an under-usage of housing across the area had been identified. It is only by bringing an application under the Taff Ely Local Plan that the application stood a chance of succeeding since, under the Emerging Local Plan, the demand for housing is uncertain.

The proposals provided for some contribution towards improving the infrastructure but Members felt that the contribution was extremely limited. While there was a proposal to provide access from the proposed development on to the A4119, there was no provision to cater for the additional traffic which would seek access to the M4. Access to the M4 at peak times had already resulted in Junction 34 being the busiest motorway junction in Wales.

Members also expressed concern about the additional pressures which the development would place on local schools, the doctors' surgery and other social amenities. Concern was also expressed about the closeness of the ICI explosives store to the area of proposed development.

Members believed that if planning consent is granted it would be the fore-runner of many other applications in the vicinity since the Welsh Development Agency owns considerable tracts of land in the area. It was stated that local farmers had been approached to establish whether they would be prepared to sell additional land to the Agency.



**RESOLVED:** That the Community Council oppose the proposed development for the reasons given above.

(d) **Proposal to divert Footpath No. 312**

The Council received notification of the application to divert Footpath No. 312 in Mwyndy.

It was unclear why the application was being made and the name of the person, or organisation seeking the diversion.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk establish the name of the applicant and the reason for the application.

(e) **Planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ended 21 & 28 November and 5 & 12 November, 2003**

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

**Application No. 03/1975/13**

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

- (i) access to the site is inadequate
- (ii) an application to build a bungalow on the site has already been refused
- (iii) the proposed development is out of keeping with surrounding properties
- (iv) the proposal represents an over-development of the plot
- (v) there is a long standing unadopted sewer problem in the area.

**Application No. 03/2008/10**

The Council is supportive of the proposal since it will help to reduce the number of parked cars on a narrow part of the highway.

**Application 03/1907/10**

The Community Council is opposed to the proposal since it was clear when the premises were being constructed that they were always intended for as a habitable residence with windows overlooking properties in Bryn Terrace, Brynsadler.



The Council strongly believed that if the applicant had made it clear from the outset that he wished to construct a house it was unlikely that the application would have been approved given the unsatisfactory entrance and the invasion of privacy suffered by residents of Bryn Terrace.

**Application No. 03/1907/10**

The Council is supportive of the proposal provided adequate car parking facilities are made available. If no parking facilities are provided the Community Council would object to the application since the highway is narrow and development would lead to serious congestion.

**Application No. 03/2096/10**

The Council is supportive of the proposal provided that opaque glass is used on that part of the extension which overlooks nearby properties.

**Application No. 03/2074/10**

The Council is supportive of the proposal provided that adequate parking facilities are made available.

(f) **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 10 to the Council's agenda

8. **Suspension of Standing Orders**

**RESOLVED:** That the Council's Standing Orders be suspended to allow Council business to be transacted after 9.00 p.m.

9. **Matters reported for decision after the despatch of agendas**

There were no items of business under this heading.

10. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Council Tax precept 2004/2005**

The Council received information from the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council on Council Tax precepts for 2004/2005.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be referred to the meeting of the Council's Finance Committee scheduled for 20 January, 2004.

(b) **Former bus shelter, Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler**

The Clerk reported on the steps he had taken to progress the issue of a replacement bus shelter with Redrow Homes. The Council also received a copy of the Clerk's last letter to Redrow Homes.

As all attempts to get Redrow Homes to fulfil their responsibilities the Clerk reported that he would ask the Borough Council to bring pressure on Redrow Homes.

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

(c) **Footpath No. 298, Mwyndy**

The Clerk reported on the repair work which the Council's Handyman had carried out to the footbridge across Footpath No. 298 in Mwyndy.

The Handyman had been fortunate to secure a number of disused wooden pallets and had used the timber to carry out significant repair work to the footbridge. The cost of the work to the Community Council had been minimal.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council's thanks for such an enterprising approach be passed to the Council's Handyman.

(d) **Erection of a "puffin crossing"**

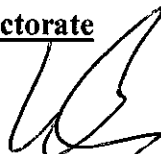
The Council received details of the Borough Council's intention to erect a "puffin crossing" on the A4119 between the entrance to Ynysddu Farm Estate and Y Pant Comprehensive School.

Councillor Norman stated that he had asked the Borough Council if work on the crossing could be delayed by three weeks in order that work would be completed during the half term break.

The Council welcomed the erection of the crossing.

**RESOLVED:** The details be noted.

(e) **Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate**



The Council received details of an appeal against the refusal of the Planning Authority to award planning consent for the conversion and rehabilitation of a single dwelling house to form 3 dwellings at "Croffta" Cardiff Road, Groesfaen.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council repeat its original objections to the proposal.

(f) **Wales One Day Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks**

The Clerk gave a report on his attendance at the Wales One Day Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

The report was noted.

(g) **Application for financial assistance**

The Council received an invitation from Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari become a main sponsor to assist the school in sending rugby and netball teams to South Africa in the summer term of 2005.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council decline the invitation and suggest that the school contact Mrs Sheila Davies of the Borough Council at the Innovation House, Abercynon, for information on whether sponsorship would be available from the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

(h) **Best illuminated house competition**

The Chairman referred to his earlier report and confirmed that judging of illuminated houses in the Community had proved difficult owing to the very high quality of displays.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Council make 7 awards of £25 for the 2003 best illuminated house competition.
- (ii) That awards be made to the householders of the following premises:
  - 5 Bryn Creigiau, Groesfaen
  - 52 The Hollies, Brynsadler
  - 6 Heol Glan Elai, Pontyclun
  - 21 Miskin Crescent, Miskin
  - 18 Heol y Coed, Pontyclun
  - 7 Clun Avenue, Pontyclun
- (iii) That an award for the best illuminated street be made to The Hollies, Brynsadler, and the Clerk make enquiries about whether any



street fund exists into which the award could be paid.

11. The meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. Chen', written in a cursive style.