

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 7 July, 1999

PRESENT: Community Councillors Mrs V A Cale, C Davies, J G Davies, J R Dilworth, J V Huish, (Chairperson), M Rea and S Rogers

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Three members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Bendle, Norman and Mrs P Thomas.

2. **Chairperson's business**

Visit to Callac, Brittany

The Chairperson, Councillor Huish was pleased to announce that, following an invitation from residents of Callac, in Brittany, a return visit was planned to Callac by Pontyclun residents from 20th to 23rd August, 1999. An invitation was extended to anyone who wished to join the group planning to visit Callac. The cost of the visit had been calculated to be £75.00 per person.

3. **Police matters**

In the absence of a representative from the police discussion under this heading was deferred to the Council's next meeting.

4. **Minutes of the Community Council's Annual Meeting of 16 June, 1999**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's Annual Meeting of 16 June, 1999 be approved as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising**

(a) **Possibility of the installation of CCTV**

Councillor Rea reported that he had been unable to attend the BT seminar at High Wycombe earlier in the day but would be making arrangements to receive copies of the documentation which had been handed out. He would ensure that copies of the documentation were made available to the Council.

Councillor Rea also referred to changes in technology. He pointed out that CCTV operations were likely to become based digital technology in future instead of fibre optic cable.

RESOLVED: That the Council await the information on the BT seminar from Councillor Rea.

(b) **Station Terrace highway improvements**

The Clerk produced a copy of the scheme for the improvement of the west bound platform of Pontyclun Station. The scheme showed the planned improvements to Station Terrace, the new parking arrangements for residents, the new parking arrangements for railway passengers adjacent to the west bound platform and the ancillary works.

The Clerk reminded the Council that at its request he had circulated a copy of the plan to each resident in Station Terrace many months before work on site began.

Members were concerned that only part of the proposed work has been completed and while improvements to Station Terrace were much welcomed the failure to maintain the status quo by providing on-street parking for residents had caused considerable annoyance to residents. Furthermore, improvements to the west bound platform had not been carried out and no work had been undertaken to provide additional parking spaces for railway passengers.

It was understood that the work which had been carried out to date was now being referred to as "Phase 1". The contractors had left site without any indication on when work would begin on the remaining phases of the scheme. The Council was disappointed at the lack of communication between the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and residents and the Community Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk convey the Community Council's disappointment to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council at the lack of communication over the completion of the scheme. Further, that the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council be asked to clarify how many phases of the planned work remained outstanding and the proposed timetable for the completion of the outstanding work.

(c) **Landfill site in Groesfaen**

The Council received the report of the Borough Council's Director of Planning in which he had recommended approval of the application for planning consent, subject to conditions.

In his report the Director of Planning had specifically referred to the correspondence from the Community Council in which the Council had requested that determination of the application be deferred pending a site visit with representatives of the Borough Council and the Environment Agency.

The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, pointed out that when the application had come before a sub committee of the Borough Council he had proposed that a site meeting take place before the application was determined. The proposal was accepted and a site meeting would be arranged.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

6. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Audit of Accounts, 1997/98**

The Council considered the report of the District Auditor on the audit of the Community Council's accounts for the financial year 1997/98.

The Clerk gave a presentation of the report and explained the significance of each of the points in the District Auditor's letter.

RESOLVED: That the District Auditor's letter be noted.

CWA

(b) **Partnership Council**

The Council discussed a letter from the Welsh Office entitled Partnership Council: Consultation Paper and Membership.

The introduction to the letter clarified that under the Local Government of Wales Act, 1998, a requirement was placed on the National Assembly for Wales to set up and maintain an advisory Partnership Council made up of representatives of local government and the Assembly. The Partnership Council's functions would be:

1. to give advice to the Assembly about matters affecting the exercise of any of the Assembly's functions
2. to make representations to the Assembly about any matters affecting or of concern to those involved in local government in Wales
3. to give advice to those involved in local government in Wales

It was intended that the Partnership Council would be the main forum for central/local government relations under the Assembly and it would be an important vehicle for considering and developing policies and priorities over the range of issues.

The Act required the Assembly to consult on the role of the Partnership Council, its standing orders and membership. Extensive discussion had already taken place about defining the role, structure and membership of the Partnership Council. The result of the discussion was the publication of the document "The Partnership Council: Preparing the Ground." A copy of the document was provided for Members of the Council. Comments on the document were invited.

The document proposed that the Partnership Council would comprise 25 members - 10 Assembly members, 10 from the principal councils, 2 from community councils and one each from the police authorities, fire authorities and the National Parks Authority. It was understood that the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils and the National Association

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of Local Councils had been asked to co-ordinate the selection of community councils' representation and nominations were required to be made by 12 July, 1999.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Council express its concern that no provision had been made for meeting the expenses of Partnership Council members and that sponsoring bodies were required to be responsible for their sponsored members.
- (ii) That the Council express its concern about the considerable amount of work expected from each member of the Partnership Council.
- (iii) That the Council draw attention to an apparent contradiction in the consultative document where, on the one hand, reference is made to one meeting of the Partnership Council in a year whereas in another part it is envisaged that four meetings per year would take place
- (iv) That the Pontyclun Community Council's nominee for the Partnership Council be Councillor John Dilworth.

(c) **Pontyclun Millennium Street Plan**

The Clerk tabled a selection of photographs, taken by the Vale Photographic Society, and invited the Council to make its selection for inclusion in the Pontyclun Millennium Street Plan.

RESOLVED: That the selection of photographs be deferred to the Council's meeting of 19 July, 1999.

(d) **Planning**

The Council discussed planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ended 11, 18 and 25 June and 2 July, 1999.

(The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, declared an interest in this



item of business, vacated the Chair, and took no part in the Council's deliberations. The Vice Chairperson, Councillor Rea occupied the Chair during the Chairperson's absence)

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council on the following two applications:

Application No. T/99/2485/10

That the Community Council is opposed to the application on the grounds that:

- (a) The development proposed appears to involve substantial reconstruction. In effect, the application should be treated as an application for a new building in line with Welsh Office guidelines.
- (b) The property is serviced by a very narrow road from the A4119. While the road may be suitable for agricultural vehicles it is not suited to motor cars.
- (c) If planning consent is granted it would set a precedent for further applications for residential development in the countryside.

Application No. T99/2448/10

That the Community Council is opposed to the application on the grounds that:

- (a) The development proposed appears to involve substantial reconstruction. In effect, the application should be treated as an application for a new building in line with Welsh Office guidelines.

- (b) The property is serviced by a very narrow road from the A4119. While the road may be suitable for agricultural vehicles it is not suited to motor cars.
- (c) If planning consent is granted it would set a precedent for further applications for residential development in the countryside.

In relation to **Application No. T/99/2444/10** a lengthy discussion took place.

Some Members were of the view that the application should be welcomed since it would result in the transfiguration of an area which was currently an eye sore and posed a danger to children and residents alike.

Other Members, while agreeing that the area was an eye sore, felt that the application should be refused as the premises and land were already in the ownership of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council it was felt that more constructive use could be made of the site for the children or youth of the Community.

RESOLVED: That no comment be made on the application to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(Note: Councillor Graham Davies asked that it be placed on record that he was opposed to the decision of the Community Council since he believed that there should be no further residential development in the Community without improvements in the Community's infrastructure.)

(e) **Brunel Arms, Pontyclun**

(Councillor Dilworth declared an interest in this item and took no part in the Council's deliberations)

The Council received details of an application for a Transfer of the Public Entertainment Licence at the Brunel Arms, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the application be noted.

(f) **Clerk's Report**

(i) **National Wage Award**

The Clerk reported receipt the 1999 wage agreement of the National Joint Council for Local Government Staff. The agreement provided for a 3% increase in wages for the Community Council's employees.

RESOLVED: That the agreement be implemented.

(ii) **Community Council's computer**

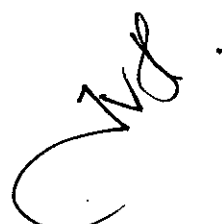
The Clerk reported that he was experiencing intermittent problems in the operation of the Community Council's computer. The problems being experienced had been present for some time and had become more troublesome in recent months. The Clerk advised that the computer needed to be checked by an computer specialist.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to obtain a report from a computer specialist.

(iii) **Employment of summer student**

The Clerk reported that, in accordance with the Council's wishes he had engaged a student to assist the Community Council's Handyman during the summer months. The student's name is Rhidian Thomas of 11 Tegfan, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Clerk be approved.



(f) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 6 to the Council's agenda.

7. **Matters reported for information**

There were no matters reported for information.

8. **Next meeting**

The Clerk advised the Council that the next meeting of the Community Council would be held on Monday, 19 July, 1999, where the main item for decision would be the annual allocation of grants to local bodies.

RESOLVED: (i) That the information be noted.

(ii) That following the concerns expressed by Councillors Cale, Davies and Dilworth the subject of speeding vehicles in the Community be placed on the agenda for the Council's next meeting.

9. The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.

Joseph V. J.