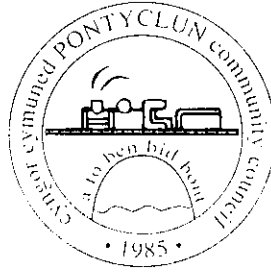


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

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Pontyclun Community Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held at the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 7 March, 2001

PRESENT: Community Councillors C B Bendle, Mrs A Cale, C Davies, J G Davies, J R Dilworth (for part of meeting), J V Huish, M Rea, and S Rogers

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Keddle, 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 R G Norman and Mrs P Thomas

2. **Chairperson**

In the absence of the Chairperson at the beginning of the meeting and the Vice Chairperson, Councillor Rea was elected Chairperson

3. **Chairperson's Business**

Borough Council's Budget for 2001/2002

With the approval of the Chairperson, Councillor Huish gave the Council an update on the budget setting process in the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

Councillor Huish advised that for the first time the Borough Council had been able to set an unified Council Tax across the Borough. Councillor Huish stated that he was pleased to have been involved in a process which expanded service provision to the residents of the Borough rather than reduce services. In total there would be an additional £8.8 million of additional investment. £5.8 million would be channelled into front line services and a further £3.0 million for schools.

Councillor Huish was also pleased to be able to report that the Pontyclun Community Council would have the fifth lowest precept in the Borough based on a Band D equivalent property. Effectively, a Band D property in the Community would pay the equivalent of £0.50 per week for its Community Council services.

The turnaround in Borough Council finances was very welcome and because of the improved position it had been possible to limit the increase in the Council Tax to 4.7%.

RESOLVED: That letters be sent to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Borough Council complimenting them on their handling of the 2001/2002 budgetary process.

There were no further items of Chairperson's Business.

4. **Police Matters**

(a) **Delivery of Council's agenda**

P C Keddle advised that as a result of spending more time in the police office at the Pontyclun Community Centre it was becoming increasingly difficult to collect the police copy of the Community Council's agenda from the police station in Talbot Green. P C Keddle asked that future agendas either be delivered to the Community Centre or to his home at No 6 High Street, Brynsadler.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the appropriate action.

(b) **Pedestrian crossing, Pontyclun**

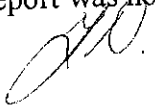
P C Keddle referred to the black and yellow "eggs" in the lay-by near the pedestrian crossing in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. He was of the opinion that they hampered motorists' view of the pedestrian crossing and thereby created a potentially dangerous situation. P C Keddle believed that the matter should be brought to the attention of the Highway Authority.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Huish raise the matter with the Highway Authority.

(c) **Damage to property**

P C Keddle advised that there had been reports of damage to a property in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. P C Keddle asked that Members be vigilant and report any further instances of damage directly to the police.

The report was noted.



(d) **Rowdyism at Bethel Baptist Church**

Councillor Huish drew to P C Keddle's attention instances of rowdyism in the car park at the front of Bethel Baptist Church, Pontyclun.

Councillor Huish gave examples of youths being dropped off in the car park in the mornings by their parents and causing nuisance to residents by playing football, throwing stones and generally being noisy.

P C Keddle noted the matter.

(e) **Invitation to attend a Community Council meeting**

The Chairperson reminded P C Keddle that an invitation for the Superintendent of the local division of the police to attend a meeting of the Community Council still stood.

P C Keddle noted the matter.

5. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 7 February, 2001**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 7 February, 2001, be approved as an accurate record subject to minute 16(a) being amended to reflect that Councillor Huish declared an interest in the item and took no part in the Council's deliberations.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Retiring Handyperson**

The Clerk reported that the retiring Handyperson, Mr Dave Tookey, had left the Council's service on 23 February, 2001. Mr Derek Oram, his successor appeared to be settling in well.

Since Mr Tookey's retirement two invoices had been received by the Community Council for directional signs to the Pontyclun Library. The Clerk had reservations about whether the Community Council had direct authority to pay the invoices since it appeared to him that the ordering and erection of directional signs was not the function of community councils. However, the Clerk had chosen not to question Mr Tookey following his retirement.

The Clerk believed that the signs were for the benefit of the public and that they had been ordered in good faith. He sought the Council's guidance on the payment of the invoices.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make payment to the creditor under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

(b) **Planning application No. 2906**

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

The Clerk advised the Council that following its decision to oppose the application he had received a petition containing the signatures of 524 residents who were opposed to the application. He had also been given letters from three residents also opposed to the application for development. The petition and three letters had been delivered on behalf of residents to the Divisional Director for Planning at the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

The report was noted.

(c) **Proposed erection of bus shelter in Groesfaen**

Councillor Huish reported in the previous week he had attended a site meeting in Groesfaen about the proposed erection of a bus shelter.

It had originally been proposed by the Highway Authority to construct an abutment into the highway to enable the erection of the bus shelter. The abutment would also have the effect of slowing down the through traffic in the village.

The meeting was addressed by opponents of the proposals. A compromise was achieved whereby the Highway Authority agreed that the erection of a suitably bus shelter could go ahead without the need to construct an abutment into the highway.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that the Community Council re-affirm its commitment to the erection of a bus shelter at the site.

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **National Assembly Consultation Paper "Standards Committees: Appointments and Procedures"**

The Council discussed the contents of a circular from The National Assembly of Wales which outlined the proposals for the creation of Standards Committees, appointment and

procedures and draft regulations under Section 53(11) of the Local Government Act, 2000.

It was noted that the Act requires each County/County Borough Council in Wales to set up a Standards Committee to promote high standards of conduct by elected members and co-opted members. Although there is no similar requirement on community councils to establish standards committees, the Act requires that standards in community councils would fall within the remit of county/county borough councils' standards committees or their sub committees.

Councillor Huish advised that the Rhondda Cynon-Taff County Borough Council was discussing the creation of a Standards Committee. It was likely that the Committee would be formally created later in the year. Councillor Huish believed that the size of the proposed Committee was appropriate.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council decline to make comments on the creation of the proposed Standards Committees.

(b) **Retendering of local bus contracts**

The Council discussed the letter of 9 February, 2001, from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about the re-tendering of bus contracts.

There was mixed feeling in the Council about whether any comments made by the Community Council would be acted upon. The Council's earlier comments on re-tendering appeared to have been unheeded.

The Council expressed its concern that the de-regulation of local bus services was not working. Instances were quoted of a lack of coordination of bus services where members of the public would wait lengthy periods for a bus only to find that two buses arrived within seconds of each other. Other Members quoted examples of a lack of interchangeability of bus tickets. Yet more complaints highlighted the lack of cover for services in the event of a mechanical breakdown.

RESOLVED:(i) That the Clerk quote the above examples to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to highlight that de-regulation of bus services is not working and urging the Borough Council to exert pressure for the re-introduction of a regulated service.

- (ii) That the Clerk raise with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council the apparent lack of equal treatment for men and women in the issue of bus passes in that the former qualify for passes at 65 and the latter qualify at 60 years of age.

(c) **Ogmore Centre Trust**

The Council discussed a request for financial assistance from the Ogmore Centre Trust.

The Council believed that the Ogmore Centre provided a very worthwhile facility for the young people of South Wales and was in favour of providing financial assistance in a way which was more directed to residents of the Community of Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk explore the possibility of awarding 4 bursaries to young people in the Community to the value of £50 each.

(d) **Menter Iaith**

The Council received details of a simultaneous translation course to be held at the Glamorgan University.

RESOLVED: That any Member or officer wishing to attend the course to contact the Clerk.

(e) **Transfer of a Justices' Licence**

The Council received details of an application for the transfer of a Justices' Licence at Crofta Vineyard, Groesfaen.

RESOLVED: That the Council offer no comment on the application.

(f) **Renewal and Variation of Public Entertainment Licence**

The Council received details of an application for the Renewal and Variation of a Public Entertainment Licence at Y Pant Comprehensive School, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Council offer no comment on the application.

(g) **Payment of creditors**

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

(h) **Planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ended 2, 9, 16, 23 and 1 March, 2001**

(Councillor Huish declared an interest in the following item of business and took no part in the Council's deliberations)

RESOLVED: That no comments be offered on the applications.

8. **Matters reported for decision since the despatch of Agendas**

No matters were reported.

9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **New stiles on public rights of way**

The Clerk reported that several old stiles had been replaced with new stiles on public rights of way throughout the Community. They had been replaced as part of the work being carried out by Groundwork Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff.

The report was noted.

(b) **"Welcome to Miskin" signs**

The Clerk reported that the "Welcome to Miskin" signs which had been ordered earlier in the year with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council had been erected earlier that day.

The report was noted.

(c) **Declarations of interest in planning matters**

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

The Council discussed the reply of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils to the Community Council's earlier request for clarification on the need for a member sitting on both a community council and principal council to declare an interest, when considering planning applications, at one of the two councils.

The reply from the Association appeared to have no relevance to the question asked and the Clerk reported that he had again written to the Association asking for a reply to the question.

Councillor Huish advised the Council that he had raised the issue with solicitors employed by Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. Their advice was clear and unambiguous. The advice was that a member should consider a planning application with an open mind. Open mindedness at principal council level was very difficult to demonstrate if that member had already been a party to discussing an application at community level. This advice had been given to every member of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. The Rhondda Cynon Taff legal view was supported by a Code of Conduct produced by the Salisbury District Council.

The reports were noted.

(d) **Closure of Public Rights of Way**

The Clerk reported that as a result of the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease all public rights of way in the Borough had been closed by the Highway Authority. Posters advising of the closures had been erected at strategic locations.

The Clerk advised that he had been provided with a supply of spare posters by the Borough Council and would arrange for the re-erection of posters where they had been removed or vandalised.

The Clerk agreed to provide Councillor Rea with a spare poster since a public right of way in Groesfaen did not appear to have a sign advising of its closure.

(e) **Audit of Accounts, 1999/2000**

The Council received the District Auditor's letters of 29 January and 16 February, 2001 together with the Clerk's letter of 11 February, 2001.

The Clerk stated that he was disappointed with the District Auditor's letter of 16 February. The Clerk reminded Members that that Council had met the deadlines received from the District Auditor. Despite this, the earliest date the Certificate of Audit could have been issued was 6 December 2000, that is, eight months after the end of the financial year. The time span was entirely within the control of the District Auditor.

The matter was noted.

(f) **Appeal against the decision not to award planning consent**

The Council received details of an appeal against the decision of the planning authority not to award planning consent for development of land at the Pontyclun Joinery.

The matter was noted.

(g) **"A Walker's Guide to Freedom to Roam"**

The Council received a leaflet from the Ramblers' Association entitled "A Walker's Guide to Freedom to Roam".

The contents of the leaflet were noted.

18. The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.

