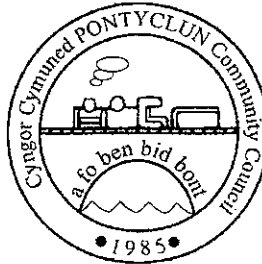


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun**Pontyclun Community Council**

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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 March, 2007

PRESENT: Councillors Ms V. A. Cale, C. Davies, P.Griffiths, Ms D Hayes, Ms S.Jenkins (for part of meeting), A. R. Lane, and R.G. Norman

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

1. **Apologies for absence**

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

2. **Chairperson**

The Clerk told the Council that prior leaving his home to attend the Council meeting he had received a telephone call from the Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins, to say that she had been delayed by traffic congestion but would be at the meeting as soon as possible. In the absence of the Chairperson, and Vice Chairperson, Councillor Griffiths was elected to the Chair.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were received.

4. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 7 February, 2007**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 7 February, 2007, be approved as an accurate record.

4. **Matters arising**

(a) **Local Development Plan**

The Clerk advised that the Community Council's comments on the Local Development Plan (2006-2021) had been received by the Borough Council by the deadline.

No response had been received from the Borough Council for a special presentation to the public of Pontyclun on the LDP. The Clerk reminded the Council that when a presentation had been given to the Community Council, Mr Keith Warren, the presenter, was dubious about whether sufficient time remained to organise a special meeting.

A copy of the Community Council's comments on the LDP would shortly be sent to the Welsh Assembly Government.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That a copy of the Council's comments to the Borough Council be sent to all members of the Council.
 - (ii) That a copy of the Council's comments on the LDP be brought to the next Have Your Say Day.
 - (iii) That the next Have Your Say Day be held within three months.

(b) **Gifts and Hospitality Policy**

The Clerk reminded the Council that it had a policy which precluded the receipt of any form of gifts and hospitality for any of its members or employees carrying out their official duties. The policy had been modelled on the policy operating in the Borough Council.

The Borough Council had recently revised its policy. From May, 2007, a threshold had been introduced into the Borough Council's policy. Effectively, it would be possible for members and to receive gifts and hospitality up to a value of £20.00 on each occasion. The Clerk asked whether the Council wished to amend its own policy in the light of the changes taking place at Borough Council level.

- RESOLVED:** That the Community Council's policy on the receipt of gifts and hospitality by members and employees remain unchanged.



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

The Council discussed the Welsh Assembly Government's response entitled "Making the Connections – Delivering Beyond Boundaries" to the Beecham Report.

RESOLVED: That while the Community Council recognised the value of large public bodies collaborating in the delivery of public services in Wales, it did not want to make any specific comments on the document.

5. **Minutes of the Community Council's Extraordinary Meeting of 14 February, 2007**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's Extraordinary Meeting of 14 February, 2007, be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had raised a query with the Borough Council on the calculation of the Council Tax Base for the Community of Pontyclun for 2007/08. While the query had been acknowledged, a reply had yet to be received.

The matter was noted.

7. **Police matters**

(a) **Crime statistics**

PCSO Tomkova reported the crime figures for the Community were unavailable for the Community Council's February monthly meeting. She answered a number of questions raised by members.

The statistics were noted.

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

PCSO Tomkova advised that future notices would be laminated to facilitate re-use in Community Council noticeboards. She was hopeful that the laminated notices would be available for the PACT meeting scheduled for 4 April, 2007.

The Clerk commented that the notices were currently printed on A3 paper. As a result, they took up half the available space in the Council's noticeboards. He suggested to PC Tomkova that the notices could be reduced in size to fit A4 paper. The Clerk

drew attention to PACT posters in the Porthcawl area being displayed in noticeboards on A4 paper.

PC Tomkova agreed to investigate the possibility of PACT notices being printed on A4 paper.

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

PCSO Tomkova reported that she had contacted the Highway Authority over the creation of parking bays in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. The bays had been the cause of significant traffic congestion at times of peak traffic flow.

It appeared that the Highway Authority was unable to establish the reasons for the introduction of the parking bays at that time. However, investigations into their introduction would continue and, if it was found that the parking bays hindered the flow of traffic they would be lifted.

The report was noted.

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

PCSO Tomkova advised that motorists continued to infringe parking restrictions in Palalwyf Avenue, Castan Road, Cerdin Avenue and in the entrance road from Palalwyf Avenue to the Infants' Department of the Pontyclun Primary School. Despite a number of fixed penalty notices having been issued motorists continued to park illegally in the area. The problem was particularly severe at school opening and closing times despite motorists having been advised of the availability of free parking at the Pontyclun Institute and Athletic Club.

The report was noted.

(e) **Layby in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

PCSO Tomkova advised that she had contacted the Highways Authority over confusion about the parking restrictions applying in the layby outside Williams the Chemist in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

It had been agreed that the Highways Authority would clarify the parking position in the next few weeks.

(f) **Armed robbery**

PCSO referred to the recent armed robbery at commercial premises in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

Considerable police resources had been devoted to the investigation and two arrests had been made. Investigations were continuing. In order to provide the resources for the investigation some other police investigations had been allocated a lower priority but would still be pursued.

(g) **David's Court, Pontyclun**

PCSO Tomkova reported that a large amount of cash had been stolen from David's Court, Pontyclun. Police investigations into the theft were continuing.

(h) **Damage to car**

Councillor Cale reported that a car belonging to her family, which was parked in Heol Miskin, had been damaged by vandals. Despite the presence of a CCTV camera a few yards away the camera had not recorded the culprits.

Councillor Cale stated that this incident was not an isolated instance since damage to her family's cars had occurred in the past.

(i) **PACT meeting**

Councillor Lane referred to the PACT meeting which had been held earlier that evening. Deep concern had been expressed about the habit of some motorists of parking and manoeuvring their vehicles at the entrance to the Infants' Department off Palalwyf Avenue. He asked if it would be possible to hatch the area to indicate that no parking or access was allowed and that accompanying warning signs be erected.

RESOLVED: That the matter be taken up with the Borough Council.

(j) **Parking in Pontyclun**

PCSO Jitka Tomkova drew the Council's attention to the small directional signs Cowbridge Road indicating the public car park adjacent to the Pontyclun Community Centre. She felt that the problem of illegal parking in the vicinity of the Primary School might be eased by the display of more prominent car park signs.

RESOLVED: That the matter be taken up with the Borough Council.

(k) **Parking bay for disabled people**

Councillor Norman advised the meeting that a dedicated parking bay for disabled people had recently been created in the car park adjacent to the Pontyclun Community Centre.

The report was noted.

8. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Former Brofiscin Quarry, Groesfaen**

(Councillor Norman declared an interest in this item of business and remained in the Council Chamber)

The Council discussed correspondence which had taken place with Mrs Ann Dunston of Groesfaen about chemical contamination of the former Brofiscin Quarry in Groesfaen.

The Council was sympathetic to the worries and concerns facing residents of Groesfaen over the extent of contamination at the former quarry. The community was facing the legacy of an era in when the damage which could be caused by the toxic chemicals dumped at the quarry were not fully understood.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Borough Council be contacted and asked what action they were taking to resolve the situation.

(ii) That the response of the Borough Council be passed to Groesfaen residents through a newsletter.

(b) **One Voice Wales**

(i) **Membership**

The Clerk reported that the Council had been invited to renew its membership of One Voice Wales.

The Council discussed at length the services it received from One Voice Wales. Members were of the view that there had been no significant improvement in services offered by One Voice Wales in the last two years. The Community Council had reviewed the services of One Voice Wales each year and, despite no apparent improvement, the Council had retained its membership in the hope that things would improve. In the absence of an improvement the Council felt that it had no choice but not to renew membership.

RESOLVED: That the Council does not renew its membership of One Voice Wales in 2007/08.

(ii) **Buckingham Palace Garden Party**

That as a consequence of the Community Council's resignation from membership from One Voice Wales, no nomination be made to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

(c) **Disability Discrimination Act Access Audit – Public Conveniences**

The Council received and discussed a report following an audit of the Community Council owned public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. The report had been commissioned to establish the extent of work required at the conveniences to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Members accepted that the conveniences did not meet current disability standards and that a decision needed to be taken on whether an investment of approximately £8,000 should be taken to bring the conveniences to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk make arrangements to carry out a survey of the usage of the conveniences.
- (ii) That the Clerk makes enquiries of neighbouring community councils to establish whether they provide public conveniences.
- (iii) That the Clerk make enquiries to find out whether grant assistance is available for carrying out work to meet the requirement of the Disability Discrimination Act.
- (iv) That the Clerk make enquiries of the Borough Council to establish whether that council would take back responsibility for the running of the conveniences.

(d) **Borough Council's Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

The Council received and discussed the Borough Council's Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Community Council welcomes the long overdue steps being taken by the Borough Council to give higher priority to matters affecting Public Rights of Way in the Borough.

(ii) That the Borough Council be sent a copy of the leaflet produced by the Community Council on footpaths in the Community.

(e) **Parking problems in Station Terrace, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed the letter from Councillor Eudine Hanagan, Lead Cabinet Member for Better Public Services and Transport, about parking problems in Station Terrace, Pontyclun. The letter was in response to an earlier letter from the Community Council asking what progress there had been towards resolving the parking problems in Station Terrace.

Councillor Hanagan stated that the introduction of waiting restrictions would require a traffic regulation order to be introduced. There were currently many locations in the Borough where the need for a traffic order had been identified but where it had not been possible to include a scheme in the existing programme. It had only been possible to introduce a few each year.

Councillor Hanagan further stated that she would shortly be finalising the programme for 2007/08 with officers and would consider whether the Station Terrace scheme could be included. When the scheme had been programmed, and proposals developed, the Borough Council would write to the Community Council with the details and inviting comment.

RESOLVED: That the Council provide the Borough Councillors for the Community, Councillors Huish and Rea, with a copy of the letter from Councillor Hanagan and ask for their assurances that they will progress with urgency the problems faced by residents of Station Terrace.

(f) **Community Council's accounts for 2005/06**

The Council received the certificate of the Wales Audit Office stating that, "On the basis of our review, in our opinion the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with the Auditor General for Wales' requirements and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met".

In issuing the certificate the Community Council's attention was drawn to the need to:

1. ensure the approval of the accounts by the Council as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event by 30 September following the end of a year
- (ii) the need to implement the recommendations of the Internal Auditor with immediate effect
- (iii) as a matter of good practice, to minute both the appointment of the internal auditor, and the presentation of the auditors' reports (both internal and external) to the Council (even if no issues are raised).

RESOLVED: That the Council acknowledge receipt of the External Auditor's certificate and implement the recommendations contained in the certificate.

(g) **Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council's
Local Development Plan, 2011 to 2026**

The Council received a letter from the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council which stated that the Pontyclun Community Council had been identified as a specific consultation body. As such, the Planning Authority of the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council had a statutory duty to consult the Pontyclun Community Council at various stages of the plan making process.

The Community Council was asked whether it wished to comment on the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council's Draft Scoping Report.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council decline to comment on the Draft Scoping Report.

(h) **Weekly Planning Notifications**

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

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

Application No. 07/0133/10

That the Council is opposed to the application since the conversion of the garage will result in an increase in on-street parking.

Application No. 07/0262/08

That the Community Council welcomes the planning application for this long awaited development providing recreational facilities for residents on Cefn yr Hendy, Pontyclun.

(i) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 11 to the Council's agenda.

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

Citizens' Advice Bureau

The Council received an invitation to nominate a representative to attend the Annual General Meeting of the local Citizens' Advice Bureau in Pontypridd on 20 March, 2007.

RESOLVED: That due to Members' existing commitments no nomination be made.

10. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Proposed retail development in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

The Clerk read out a copy letter from the Aberdare and District Chamber of Trade which had been sent to members of the Taff Ely Planning Area Planning Committee of the Borough Council. The letter strongly opposed the opening of a Tesco Express store in Pontyclun and urged members of the Planning Committee to refuse the application for development.

Councillor Lane advised the Council that on 29 January, 2007, he had written a number of letters to the Borough Council in connection with the planning application. He had sought assurances on the determination of the application, provided information on traffic movements, provided details of population and travelling distances, underlined provisions governing retail developments in the existing and proposed Local Development Plans, and also highlighted his concerns on health and safety concerns surrounding the application. Councillor Lane also gave notice of his wish to speak at the meeting of the planning committee which would determine the application.

Councillor Lane provided copies of his letters for the Community Council's information.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the contents of the letters from the Aberdare and District Chamber of Trade and Councillor Lane be noted.
 - (ii) That as the Community Council's comments on the application had already been forwarded to the Planning Authority, Members be urged to pass on any further comments received direct to Borough Council councillors.
 - (iii) That the Borough Council be asked to notify the Community Council of any amendments to the original plan submitted by the applicant for planning consent.

(b) **Parking in the vicinity of Pontyclun railway station**

The Council received a response from the Welsh Assembly Government to an earlier letter addressed to Andrew Davies, AM, Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks. The Community Council's earlier letter had urged the Minister to support the Community Council's representations to the South East Wales Transport Alliance to improve parking facilities in the vicinity of Pontyclun railway station by using disused land adjacent to the station.

The reply on behalf of the Minister stated that the Community Council should contact SEWTA who would prioritise the proposal accordingly.

- RESOLVED:** That a further letter be sent to SEWTA, drawing attention to the rapid increase in the population of the Community, and underlining the importance of providing additional parking places in the vicinity of Pontyclun railway station as a matter of urgency.

(c) **Footpaths in the Community**

Under the Borough Council's Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan the local branch of the Ramblers' Association had been asked to walk footpaths in the Community and report their findings to the Borough Council.

The comments of the Ramblers' Association had been sent direct to the Borough Council and a copy for information had been forwarded to the Community Council.

RESOLVED: That Ramblers' Association be thanked for their work in providing comments to the Borough Council and further thanked for the monitoring role played in keeping footpaths accessible to the public.

(d) **Drainage problems**

The Clerk reported that some weeks earlier he had been approached by residents in Talygarn about the pooling of water at the entrance to the former Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre. The pooling of water forced users of the footway to walk on the busy A4222.

While this issue was not strictly a Community Council matter, the Clerk had followed up the concerns with the Highway Authority. It appeared that the blockage could not be removed by mechanical means and would necessitate a "dig out". This was likely to be carried out in the summer of 2007. Residents had been informed of the reply from the Borough Council

RESOLVED: That the action taken by the Clerk be noted.

(e) **Monitoring Officer's meeting**

The Clerk reminded the Council that Mr Paul Lucas, the Borough Council's Chief Legal Officer had been appointed Monitoring Officer with responsibility for community councils within the Borough.

At the last Monitoring Officer's meeting with clerks of community councils discussions had taken place on:

- (i) revisions to the Borough Council's Gifts and Hospitality Policy
- (ii) possible revisions to the Members' Code of Conduct
- (iii) possible changes consequent upon the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill impacting on parish councils in England
- (iv) the review of community boundaries in the Borough. It appeared that where changes were approved they would not become effective until after the 2008 local elections.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(f) **The Voice**

The Council received the latest edition of "The Voice", the information bulletin of One Voice Wales.

RESOLVED: That the information in the bulletin be noted.

(g) **Borrowing**

The Council received details from the Welsh Assembly Government on changes to the arrangements applying to borrow money.

RESOLVED: That the changes be noted.

(h) **Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972**

The Council received details from the Welsh Assembly Government of the revised appropriate sum under the Local Government Act, 1972, permitting community and town councils to incur expenditure for certain purposes not otherwise authorised provided that such expenditure is of, and direct benefit to, their area up to a maximum sum. The maximum sum for the 2007/08 financial year is £5.64 per elector.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(i) **Appointment of External Auditor**

The Clerk reported that changes were likely to take place in the External Audit arrangements for the audit of the Community Council's accounts for 2006/07. Whereas previously the External Audit had been carried out by the Wales Audit Office, the new proposals would probably result in the private sector company Mazars LLP carrying out the audit. The Community Council had been given the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council is happy with the new proposals for external audit of accounts.

11. The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.

