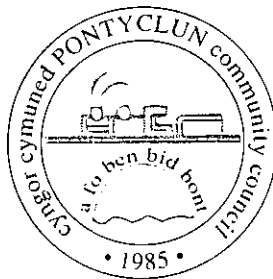


Clerc i'r Cyngor
J.H.G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.
"Mandalay"
Heol Bontfaen
Talygarn
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Clerk to the Council
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Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 7 October, 1998

PRESENT: Community Councillors Mrs V A Cale, R O Edwards, T Flood, J V Huish (Chairperson), Mrs M M Griffiths, R G Norman, M Rea and Mrs D B Shackell

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Steve Keddle and four members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors C G Bendle and J G Davies

2. **Chairperson's business**

Councillor Mrs D B Shackell

The Chairperson extended a warm welcome to the new Member for the Miskin Ward, Councillor Mrs D B Shackell.

3. **Police matters**

(a) **Burglaries and thefts**

P C Keddle advised the Council that there had been a number of burglaries and thefts in the Community of late. P C Keddle was pleased to be able to report that the crimes had been

detected and that the culprits, from Barry, had been arrested. P C Keddle emphasised the need for constant vigilance and the prompt reporting of suspicious behaviour to the police.

The report was noted.

(b) **Unruly behaviour**

Councillor Norman drew to P C Keddle's attention to the unruly behaviour of a number of youths in Pontyclun during the previous week. Councillor Norman's view was that the behaviour seemed to be getting worse and while, formerly, the problem had been confined to weekends it now appeared to be occurring on weekday evenings.

P C Keddle advised that police resources were currently deployed to their maximum but that to the best of his knowledge only one telephone call had been received by the police complaining of unruly behaviour during the period quoted by Councillor Norman.

The report was noted.

(c) **Police Office, Pontyclun Community Centre**

Councillor Norman asked P C Keddle when the police office at the Community Centre was likely to be used regularly by the police.

P C Keddle replied that the complement of police officers working out of the Talbot Green police station had been depleted due to circumstances beyond local control. As a result, use of the facility at the Pontyclun Community Centre had not been as frequent as the police would wish. P C Keddle was hopeful that when a full complement of officers was working out of the Talbot Green police station use of the facility at the Pontyclun Community Centre would recommence.

The matter was noted.

(d) **Traffic warden**

Councillor Norman asked P C Keddle why the local traffic warden was not to be seen regularly in Pontyclun.

P C Keddle responded that the local traffic warden covered an area from Gilfach Goch in the north to Pontyclun in the south. The warden did not have use of a vehicle and approximately 85% of his time was spent in the Llantrisant and Talbot Green area. In addition, the nature of the recent roadworks in Talbot Green had demanded that the traffic warden spend a large part of his time in Talbot Green.

The matter was noted.

(e) **Abandoned car, Pontyclun**

The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, asked whether the police could take action against the owner of an abandoned vehicle which had been left on private ground at the rear of Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

P C Keddle replied that no action by the police was possible since the car was on private land.

The matter was noted.

(f) **Dangerous driving, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

Councillor Edwards drew P C Keddle's attention to incidents of heavy lorries passing through Pontyclun when their drivers were using mobile telephones.

P C Keddle responded that to enable the police to take any action it would be necessary to be provided with the registration of the vehicle being driven by the offending driver.

The matter was noted.

(g) **Pedestrian crossing, Pontyclun**

Councillor Edwards advised P C Keddle that some motorists were failing to give precedence to pedestrians using the pedestrian crossing in Pontyclun. Councillor Edwards emphasised that the practice was dangerous and very frightening to pedestrians.

P C Keddle replied that the police would investigate instances of motorists failing to give precedence but to enable any investigations to take place the registration of the offending

motorist's vehicle would be needed.

The matter was noted.

(h) **Superintendent D Jones**

Councillor Rea drew P C Keddle's attention to the fact that the new Superintendent for the area, Superintendent D Jones, had yet to introduce himself to the Community Council. Councillor Rea asked if P C Keddle could arrange for Superintendent Jones to attend a future meeting of the Council.

P C Keddle agreed to contact Superintendent Jones with a view to him attending a future meeting of the Council.

4. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 2 September, 1998**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 2 September, 1998, be approved as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising**

(a) **Miskin Ward bye election result**

RESOLVED: That the Declaration of Result of Poll provided by the Returning Officer be noted.

(b) **Proposed leaflet on Community Council activities in 1997/98**

The Clerk reported that he had prepared a summary of Community Council activities during 1997/98 for inclusion in the proposed leaflet. In accordance with the Community Council's earlier decision he would liaise with Councillor Griffiths on the production of the proposed leaflet.

RESOLVED: (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That in recognition of the growth in the population of the Community the Clerk also produce a Pontyclun Directory of local organisations for display in Community Council noticeboards.

(c) **Footpath lighting to the rear of Cerdin Avenue, Pontyclun**

The Council received a letter from Celtic Infrastructure in which the company agreed to give a 3% discount off the price previously quoted for the installation of footpath lighting to the rear of Cerdin Avenue, Pontyclun. The Clerk reminded the Council that none of the four other companies who had been invited to tender had submitted a price for the work.

RESOLVED: (i) That an order for the installation of footpath lighting to the rear of Cerdin Avenue, Pontyclun, be placed with Celtic Infrastructure.

(ii) That the order placed be conditional upon all outstanding work with Celtic Infrastructure being completed quickly.

(iii) That the order be conditional upon all work being completed within the current financial year.

(d) **Application for land filling on site adjacent to the Windsor Field, Pontyclun**

The Chairman, Councillor Huish, advised the Council that while officers of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council had recommended refusal of the application to the Planning Committee, shortly before the Committee meeting the application was withdrawn. It was unclear why the application was withdrawn.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

(e) **Applications for planning consent by the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club**

(The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, and the Vice Chairperson, Councillor Flood, declared an interest in this item of business and left the meeting. In their absence Councillor Norman occupied the Chair)

The Clerk reported that the three planning applications for which the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club had sought consent had been granted.

A lengthy discussion took place on the implications of the award of the consents.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Director of Planning of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council seeking clarification on:

- (i) the ownership of the forecourt of the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.
- (ii) whether the public would be denied access to the public car park to the rear of the public conveniences on those occasions when the Pontyclun Rugby and Sports Club choose to close the proposed gates at the entrance to the car park.
- (iii) the arrangements for the diversion of the public right of way in the event of the proposed gates being closed.
- (iv) the need to re-site the bottle bank in the public car park if the public right of way is diverted to a route alongside the public conveniences.
- (v) the payment of costs associated with any diversion of the public right of way.

6. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 16 September, 1998**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 16 September, 1998, be approved as an accurate record.

7. **Matters arising**

(a) **Mrs Janis Jones**

The Clerk gave a verbal report on the arrangements he had made for a bouquet of flowers for Mrs Janis Jones.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's actions be noted.

(b) **NHS Trust Reconfiguration**

The Council considered the proposals for a new NHS Trust to be created by the integration of the current Rhondda and East Glamorgan Trusts.

RESOLVED: That the proposals be noted.

(c) **Declarations of interest**

The Council discussed a newspaper article which had appeared in a recent edition of the Western Mail and a report on the matter which had been prepared by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's Director of Legal and Administrative Services.

The report concerned members of community councils who were also members of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council Planning Committee. The report suggested that when some planning matters were being decided by the Planning Committee there was a possibility of a conflict of interest since those members of the Planning Committee who were also members of community councils may already have voted on the matter at community level.

In these circumstances the Director of Legal and Administrative Services had advised that members affected should declare a non pecuniary interest at the Planning Committee and leave the Council Chamber.

Members of the Community Council were perturbed by the interpretation being offered by the Director of Legal and Administrative Services since, if his view was correct, it had the effect of depriving the member of the right to reflect the views of his constituents at the Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk obtain legal advice on the matter from the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils.

(d) **Millenium Festivities Meeting**

The Clerk advised the Council that the proposed meeting of local organisations to discuss Millenium festivities had been

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arranged for 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 14 October, 1998, in the Pontyclun Community Centre. Invitations to attend the meeting had been sent to 45 local organisations.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That invitations to attend the meeting be sent to a further eight organisations identified by the Council.

8. **Pontypridd and District Housing Association**

(a) **Possible appointment of a community worker**

Councillor Griffiths reported that the Pontypridd and District Housing Association had joined with the Rhondda Housing Association in making representations to Tai Cymru for the appointment of a community worker. A feasibility study was proposed and the input of two members of the Community Council was sought as part of the study.

Some Members expressed their reservations on the proposal to appoint a community worker but believed on balance that a positive stance was required for community residents to gain benefit.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That Councillors Griffiths and Norman be nominated to provide input for the feasibility study on behalf of the Community Council.
- (ii) That the Clerk advise the Pontypridd and District Housing Association to this effect.

(b) **Concerns about highway improvements in Station Road, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed a copy of a letter from the Pontypridd and District Housing Association to the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering at the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about three matters in relation to the Association's development in Heol Orsaf, Pontyclun.

The Community Council was sympathetic to the three points and wished the Community Council's support to be given to the Housing Association's representations.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the necessary action.

9. **Restoration of the right to make a nomination to the governing body of a primary school**

The Community Council was pleased to learn from a copy letter received from the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils that the government had reversed its earlier decision to take away the right of community councils to make a nomination to the governing body of a primary school.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

10. **Environmental matters in Pontyclun - letter from Mr G Croad**

The Council received a letter from Mr G Croad of 52 Rhyd y Nant, Pontyclun, about a number of environmental matters in Pontyclun. The Council also discussed the reply of the Clerk to the points raised by Mr Croad.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

11. **Rhondda Cynon Taff Divisional Police Community Consultative Group**

The Council received notification that the next meeting of the Group would be held in the Llantrisant Church Hall, Swan Street, Llantrisant, at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday, 12 November, 1998.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

12. **"Involving the Public"**

The Council received copies of the document "Involving the Public" which sought the views from a wide sector of the public on a range of issues bearing on better public involvement and patient representation within the NHS in Wales.

RESOLVED: That the document be noted.

13. **Age Concern**

The Council received notification of the Annual General Meeting of Age

Concern Morgannwg on Friday, 6 November, 1998, at 2.00 p.m. in the Muni Arts Centre, Pontypridd.

RESOLVED: That the Council be represented at the meeting by Councillors Davies and Edwards.

14. **Planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ending 28 August, 4, 11, 18 and 25 September and 2 October, 1998**

(The Chairperson, Councillor Huish, declared an interest in the applications before the Council and left the Chamber. In the Chairperson's absence the Chair was occupied by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor Flood)

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

Application No. T98/2656/01

The Council believes that the proposed illuminated fascia should have a timeswitch allowing the illumination to be discontinued in the early hours of the morning. The Council believes this safeguard to be appropriate to safeguard the amenity of residents living in the vicinity of the sign.

Application No. T98/2657/10

The Council is opposed to the application if it would result in the generation of further heavy goods vehicle movements in the area.

Application No. T98/2680/10

That the Council remains opposed to this application on the grounds previously indicated to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

15. **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 16 to the Council's agenda.

16. **Reports from Members**

(a) **Lighting column near Maelog Close, Pontyclun**

Councillor Flood reported that the lighting column near Maelog

Concern Morgannwg on Friday, 6 November, 1998, at 2.00 p.m. in the Muni Arts Centre, Pontypridd.

RESOLVED: That the Council be represented at the meeting by Councillors Davies and Edwards.

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15. **Payment of creditors**

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16. **Reports from Members**

(a) **Lighting column near Maelog Close, Pontyclun**

Councillor Flood reported that the lighting column near Maelog

Close, Pontyclun was still not working.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk pursue the matter again with the Council's contractors.

(b) **Garages in dangerous condition**

Councillor Flood referred to the notices served by the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council on the owners of garages to the rear of Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun to repair or demolish the premises. No action had been taken by one of the owners and the garages concerned continued to pose a risk of injury to members of the public.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council asking when enforcement action would be taken against the garage owner whose premises still posed a risk of injury to members of the public.

(c) **Former Health Department Offices,
School Street, Pontyclun**

Councillor Flood referred to the Community Council's earlier complaint to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council about the vandalism of the entry points into the building. The Community Council had suggested that the timber boards be removed and replaced with brick.

Councillor Flood advised that vandalism at the site continued and that more robust methods were required to prevent youths gaining access to the premises.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk again pursue the matter with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(d) **Erection of lighting column**

Councillor Flood drew the Council's attention to the recent erection of a lighting column in the lane connecting the western ends of Lewis Street and School Street, Pontyclun.

The column has been erected some distance into the lane with the result that traffic could no longer use the lane.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to establish the reason for the erection of the column at the site.

(e) **Excavations, Lewis Street, Pontyclun**

Councillor Norman reported that excavations/building work had been carried out by residents of the middle bungalow of three bungalows in Lewis Street, Pontyclun. In the course of the work quantities of sand and aggregate had been left in the road.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk ask the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to investigate the matter.

(f) **Street lighting**

Councillor Norman reported a number of lighting columns in the Community which had not been working for the last three months.

RESOLVED: That the Chairperson, Councillor Huish, take the matter up with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(g) **Footpath lighting**

Councillor Norman reported that some of the lighting columns along the footpath near the Windsor Field, Pontyclun, had still to be repaired. The columns in question had not worked properly for some considerable time. The clerk advised that the installation along the Windsor Field had been serviced approximately 18 months earlier but the lighting columns had suffered from an attack of vandalism shortly after the service. An order had been placed for the installation to be repaired and serviced again.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk pursue the matter with the Council's contractors.

(h) **Pavement in Lon yr Awel, Pontyclun**

Councillor Norman again raised the matter of the unsatisfactory condition of the pavement in Lon yr Awel, Pontyclun.

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Commitments to repair the pavement had been made several years earlier but no work had taken place.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk again pursue the matter with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(i) **Borough Council's logo**

Councillor Griffiths drew attention to the action of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to introduce a new logo. Councillor Griffiths urged the Community Council to congratulate the Borough Council in introducing a logo which was modern and more appropriate.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk send the Community Council's congratulations on the introduction of the new logo to the Borough Council's Leader, Councillor Russell Roberts.

(j) **Talygarn Cricket Field**

Councillor Griffiths referred to the discussion which took place at the last meeting of the Community Council about the costs of maintaining the Talygarn Cricket Field.

The Leisure Services Department of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council had calculated that the additional cost to the Borough Council, in the event of that Council taking over the responsibility for the maintenance of the Cricket Field, would be in the region of £23,800 per annum. The Borough Council had indicated that the expenditure could not be met out of existing Borough Council funds.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk convene a meeting of representatives of the Talygarn Forum, the Talygarn Cricket Club, the Leisure Services Department of the Borough Council and the Community Council to establish what alternatives might be pursued to ensure that the Talygarn Cricket Field remains as a recreational facility for local residents.

(k) **Poor condition of pavements**

Councillor Edwards reported on the poor condition of

pavements alongside the mature horse chestnut trees in Heol Miskin, Pontyclun and also outside the Wesleyan Church Hall in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the poor condition of the pavements be reported to the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(l) **Pooling of water**

Councillor Edwards reported that, despite assurances from the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council that the matter would be investigated, serious pooling of water continued to be a problem at the junction of Heol Orsaf and Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up again with the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(m) **Flat in Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun**

Councillor Edwards reported a leaking overflow from a flat in Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun. The leak had been present for many months and, in addition to causing a black mark on the render, caused offensive odours.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the owner of the premises and ask that the leak be repaired.

(n) **Felled tree, Miskin**

Councillor Cale reported that a mature tree in Miskin had been felled. It was understood that the tree was covered by a tree preservation order and had been felled by a local resident.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk pursue the matter with the Director of Planning at the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

(o) **Overgrown hedgerow, Miskin**

Councillor Shackell reported an overgrown hedgerow alongside

the pavement at Ty Clyd, Miskin. The growth of the hedgerow was such that it forced pedestrians using the pavement to walk into the road.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk request the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to trim the hedgerow as a matter of urgency to avoid the need for pedestrians to step into the road.

(p) **Landfill site, Groesfaen**

Councillor Rea reported that a hedgerow on the approach road to the landfill site in Groesfaen had recently been removed. Councillor Rea asked whether the person responsible had been given planning consent to carry out the removal.

Councillor Rea also drew the Council's attention to large quantities of mud which were again being deposited on the A4119 by lorries accessing the landfill site despite the Council's understanding that wheel washing facilities would be installed by the tip operator.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write:

- (a) to the Director of Planning at the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council asking whether consent had been given for the removal of the hedgerow.
- (b) to the Director of Highways, Transportation and Engineering at the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council drawing attention again to the deposition of mud on the A4119 and asking him to exert pressure on the tip operator for the installation of wheel cleaning facilities at the site.

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

(a) **Spring flowering bulbs**

The Clerk referred to the Council's bulb planting programme of recent years and asked whether it was the Council's wish that he should purchase bulbs for planting in grass verges during 1998.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements to purchase bulbs for planting in grass verges.

(b) **Enforcement Action in planning matters**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had recently received from the Borough Council a schedule showing where Enforcement Action was being taken in relation to planning irregularities. A copy of the schedule was distributed to each Member of the Council for information.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the schedule be noted.

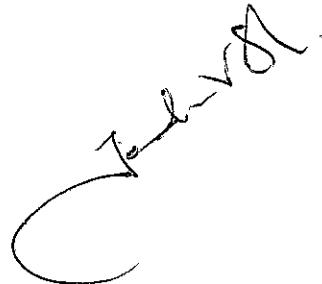
(c) **Radon Gas**

The Clerk advised the Council that the Director of Environmental Services of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council had recently reported to his Committee on the possible presence of radon gas in three areas of the County Borough.

The report outlined the background to the current concerns, measures which could be taken to detect the presence of radon gas, measures which could be taken to eliminate or reduce any radon gas and the possibility of financial assistance being made available to certain householders who were not in a position to afford remedial work to their premises.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's report be noted.

18. The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. J. ...', written diagonally across the page.