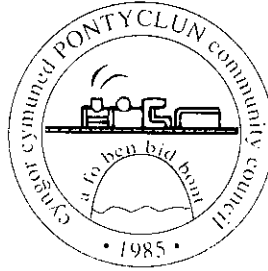


## Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

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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 September, 2005.

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Clayton-Jones, C Davies, M P Griffiths, D G Henderson, Ms S R Jenkins, A R Lane, M Rea and Mrs P Thomas

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** One member of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies absence were received on behalf of Councillors Ms V A Cale and R G Norman

2. **Declarations of interest**

Declarations of interest were invited from Members.

**RESOLVED:** That any disclosures be included in the Register of Disclosures.

3. **Minutes of the Council's Annual Meeting of 6 July, 2005**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 6 July, 2005, be approved as an accurate record.

4. **Matters arising**

(a) **Hanging baskets**

The Clerk reported that he had been unsuccessful in arranging watering arrangements for hanging baskets through the Borough Council for the summer of 2005. He was optimistic that arrangements could be in place for hanging baskets during the summer of 2006.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk make formal arrangements with the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for watering hanging baskets during the summer of 2006.

(b) **Station Terrace, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed the letter of 2 August, 2005, from Councillor Eudine Hanagan, Lead Cabinet Member for Better Public Services and Transport at Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

There was a mixed reaction to the letter although the Council was pleased that the Borough Council intended developing proposals for regulating on street parking along Station Terrace to address the obstructive parking patterns which occur.

The Council was pleased to learn that the need for additional park and ride facilities at Pontyclun Station had been recognised and had already been fed into the emerging regional rail strategy being developed by the South East Wales Transport Alliance for the period 2009 to 2018. However, the Council was of the view that while additional parking near the west-bound platform was desirable, a much quicker, and probably less expensive solution could be achieved by developing vacant land adjacent to the existing park and ride facility on the east-bound platform.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Clerk contact the Borough Council to communicate the Community Council's and residents' preferences.
- (ii) That the Clerk write to SEWTRA to say that the Community Council would prefer the east-bound platform parking solution in preference to the west-bound parking solution. Further, that this could probably be achieved earlier and at significantly less cost than the west-bound platform solution.
- (iii) That copies of Councillor Hanagan's letter be delivered to residents of Station Terrace.

(c) **Summary feedback from the Council's Vision Day**

The Chairperson, Councillor Sarah Jenkins reported on feedback received from residents in the Community following the Council's Vision Day in June. The Day had been an overwhelming success and an analysis of residents' several hundred views had taken many hours to complete. The Council was encouraged by the positive reaction of residents to the Vision Day.

Residents' views appeared to fall broadly into three categories; issues which the Community Council could address, issues which could be addressed in partnership with other bodies and those which could only be addressed by the Borough Council or some other agency.

Two of the recurring themes in much of the feedback were the need to provide facilities for youngsters in the evenings and the need to take action over the dilapidated state of the former Park Hall cinema.

A major challenge to come out of the exercise was to capture the views of residents in younger age groups since 78% of those expressing views were aged 45 or over. To address this area the Council planned to carry out a follow up exercises in local schools. There was also a need to publish a newsletter to inform residents of the results of Vision Day and the actions the Community Council proposed taking.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That at its next monthly meeting the Council take decisions on those issues which it could action, those which could be actioned in partnership and those where pressure needed to be exerted on other bodies.
- (ii) That the Council give consideration to the publication of a newsletter to residents.
- (iii) That the Council approach neighbouring community councils to establish whether they would be interested in participating in a joint exercise to ascertain the views of youngsters in local schools.
- (iv) That the Council contact Sustrans to establish whether that body had any plans for cycle ways in Pontyclun or its vicinity.

- (v) That Councillor Rea pass to the Clerk a copy of the summons which had been served by the Borough Council in connection with the dilapidated state of the former Park Hall cinema.

(d) **Clean Rivers Campaign**

The Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins, reported the receipt of a letter from Mr Ben Williams of the Clean Rivers Campaign. The Council had earlier agreed to work in partnership with the Clean Rivers Campaign towards improving the appearance of river banks and adjacent areas in the Community of the Clun and Ely.

Mr Williams had proposed sending a letter to residents living close to the rivers asking for their co-operation in not dumping rubbish on the river banks. Mr Williams was happy to send the letter but asked if the Community Council would meet the cost of postage.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Community Council meet the cost of postage for letters to be sent to residents living near river banks in the Community.
- (ii) That Mr Williams be asked to include a paragraph in his letter seeking volunteers to assist in clearing river banks.
- (iii) That Mr Williams' attention be drawn to a recently felled tree on the east bank of the river Ely between Merthyr Street and Lewis Street, Pontyclun.

(e) **Planters**

The Clerk confirmed that due to the need to give priority to the closing of accounts, the annual award of grants and preparations for the annual audit, the proposed planters had not been ordered for the agreed site in on the western side of the footway in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Council re-affirm its intention to place planters at the agreed site in Cowbridge Road.

- (ii) That the Borough Council be asked if it would be prepared to buy and place the planters at the site.
- (iii) That a further review be undertaken in the vicinity of road side signs in the Community to establish whether there are further suitable sites for the display of bedding plants in 2006.
- (iv) That the Clerk arrange the purchase of 6 bags of daffodils, and other suitable spring flowering bulbs for planting during the autumn.

5. **Minutes of the 2005 Annual Grants Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council's Annual Grants Meeting held on 20 July, 2005, be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

7. **Police matters**

The Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins, raised a matter in connection with activity at a house in the Community.

In the absence of a representative of the police Councillor Jenkins agreed that she would raised the matter direct with the community police officer, P C Keddle.

8. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Report of the Council's Internal Auditor**

The Council received the report of the Internal Auditor, Mr Peter Morgan, BSc, CIPFA., on the Council's financial activities and accounts for the financial year 1 April, 2004 to 31 March, 2005.

In his report Mr Morgan outlined the objectives and scope of the audit. He reported in detail on his tests and findings on Bookkeeping, Regulatory Controls, Payment Controls, Risk Management, Budgetary Controls, Income Controls, Petty Cash Procedures, Payroll Controls, Asset Controls, Bank Accounts and Year End Procedures.

Mr Morgan reported that following his review of the Council's financial systems he concluded that the accounts were properly kept and that internal controls were operating effectively. He thanked the Clerk of the Council for his co-operation and help in making available all the documents and records required to complete his internal audit.

(b) **Year End accounts for 2004/2005**

A discussion took place on the Community Council's Income and Expenditure Account for 2004/2005.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That following the report by the Council's Internal Auditor, the Chairperson be authorised to sign the Community Council's year end accounts for 2004/2005.
  - (ii) That the Clerk be requested to produce out-turn figures for 2004/2005 based on the format used by the Council for monitoring expenditure during the year.
  - (iii) That the Clerk bring to the Borough Council's attention that the reimbursement to the Community Council for carrying out agency services on footpaths had not increased for many years.

(c) **Budget monitoring**

The Council received a report on expenditure for the first quarter of the 2005/2006 financial year.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the information be noted.
  - (ii) That as the Finance Committee of the Council had been disbanded future budget monitoring reports be made to the Council on a quarterly basis.

(d) **Training days**

The Council discussed the need to take action following the attendance of Councillors Henderson and Jenkins at training days.

**RESOLVED:** That the matter be placed on the agenda of the Council's meeting of November, 2005, and that the Clerk circulate copies of the Members' earlier reports.

(e) **Welsh Assembly Government's Consultation Document "Our Environment: Our Future: Your Views"**

Members discussed the Document which had been delivered on 24 August, 2005.

There was general agreement that extensive research had been undertaken to produce a consultation document which was strategic, wide ranging and covered many scenarios for dealing with the changing environment.

On a local level, Members believed that the recent experience in New Orleans of low land becoming flooded could have parallels in Pontyclun where low lying land in the vicinity of the river Ely was likely to flood in the event of extreme weather conditions.

Again on a local level, Members felt that an extension of the car park at the east-bound platform of Pontyclun railway station would have the benefit of encouraging more commuters to use a train to commute to and from Cardiff thus reducing exhaust emissions from numerous car journeys.

On a strategic level the Council felt saddened that there was no reference in the Consultation Document to the invaluable role played by trees in converting carbon dioxide into oxygen.

**RESOLVED:** That the omission of the important role of trees in reducing greenhouse gasses be brought to the attention of the Welsh Assembly Government.

(f) **Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations, 2001**

The Community Council received details of the Welsh Assembly Government's proposals to amend the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations, 2001. Comments were invited on the proposals.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council decline to comment on the proposals.

(g) **Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan (2006-2021)**

The Community Council received a draft timetable from the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the definitive and indicative stages in the plan production process and the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment process.

The Community Council was offered the opportunity to review the draft timetable and complete a questionnaire.

**RESOLVED:** That as it was unclear where community councils fitted in with the draft timetable, the Community Council declined to comment on the timetable and questionnaire.

(h) **Draft National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People in Wales**

The Council received an invitation from the Welsh Assembly Government to comment on the voluminous draft National Service Framework for Older People in Wales. The draft had been developed within the framework of the overarching Strategy for Older People in Wales.

**RESOLVED:** That as only one copy of the draft National Service Framework had been provided, the Community Council felt unable to make give the consultation document the attention it deserved by the deadline imposed by the Welsh Assembly Government.

(i) **Annual Conference of One Voice Wales**

The Council received an invitation to send up to two delegates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of One Voice Wales.

**RESOLVED:** That the Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins, be nominated to represent the Community Council at the Conference.

(j) **Council's logo and stationery**

The Council discussed reviewing its logo and stationery.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Henderson be authorised to approach a local college with a view to getting students, as part of a project, to produce a suite of documents on behalf of the Council within a given brief.

(k) **Planning applications**



(Councillor Rea declared an interest in this item of business and left the Council meeting before any discussion took place)

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Council offer no comments on the applications.

(l) **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 12 to the Council's agenda.

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

No matters were reported for decision.

10. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Adjudication Panel for Wales – Annual Report 2004-2005**

The Council received the report of the Adjudication Panel.

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

(b) **Establishment of a Revised Standards Committee**

The Council received the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's proposals for the establishment of a revised Standards Committee with revised membership.

**RESOLVED:** That the establishment of the new committee and its revised membership be noted.

(c) **Rhondda Cynon Taff Crossroads**

The Council received the first copy of the Rhondda Cynon Taff Crossroads organisation's newsletter.

**RESOLVED:** That the information in the newsletter be noted.

(d) **Footpaths No. 295 and 296**

The Council received a letter from the local branch of The Ramblers drawing the Council's attention to problems of access to the two public rights of way.

The Clerk advised that the Council's Handyman had visited site and carried out some minor works so that both public rights of way were now useable by the public.

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

(e) **Xmas Celebrations**

**RESOLVED:** That this item be included on the agenda for the next monthly Council meeting.

(f) **Proposal to erect a bund on the Maesyfelin playing fields**

Members sought clarification on the plans to erect a bund on the Maesyfelin playing fields.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk follow the matter up with the Environment Agency.

(g) **Boundary fence at the Maesyfelin playing fields**

Councillor Lane produced legal documents which indicated that the Borough Council had responsibility for maintaining the boundary fence around the Maesyfelin playing fields.

The Clerk advised that his understanding was that the Borough Council had sought, through a lease, to make each organisation using the playing fields responsible for the maintenance of their own section of boundary fence.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Dan Clayton Jones make enquiries about an appropriate barrister to advise on responsibility for the maintenance of the boundary fence.

10. The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.