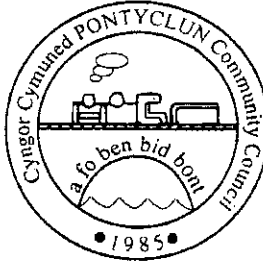


**Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun****Pontyclun Community Council**

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Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held on 8 March, 2006, at 7.00 p.m. in the Pontyclun Community Centre.

**PRESENT:** Community Councillors Ms V A Cale, C Davies, D Clayton-Jones, P Griffiths, Ms S Jenkins, and A R Lane

**Also in attendance:** Police Community Support Officers Martin and Tame together with three members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors D Henderson, R G Norman, M Rea and Ms P Thomas

2. **Declarations of interest**

**RESOLVED:** No disclosures were made.

3. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 1 February, 2006**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 1 February, 2006, be approved as an accurate record subject to the inclusion of the words "along with other areas" after the words "Borough Council" in the resolution under minute 6 (g).

4. **Matters arising**

(a) **Proposed traffic management scheme**

The Council discussed the latest position on the proposed plans of the Borough Council to introduce a traffic safety scheme on the western approach to Pontyclun.

It appeared that implementation of the proposals had been delayed due to construction problems associated with British Telecomm. apparatus. The Borough Council was also assessing the pedestrian crossing at the junction of Palalwyf Avenue and it was intended to introduce the scheme as a complete package.

**RESOLVED:** That if there were no developments in the next few months, the Council would need to raise the matter again with the Borough Council.

(b) **Green Pontyclun**

The Clerk gave an update to the Council on progress under the Council's Green Pontyclun initiative. He reported:

(i) **Planters**

Consent had been received from shop proprietors and the Highway Authority for a second site for planters in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. Orders had been placed for two sets of planters and delivery had been arranged for Wednesday, 29 March, 2006.

(ii) **Brackets for hanging baskets**

The Members for the Miskin and Groesfaen Wards had identified lampposts for six hanging baskets in each of these Wards. Consents from the Highway Authority were being obtained. The Clerk was waiting to hear from Members in the Cefn yr Hendy Ward to identify the remaining nine lampposts.

(iii) **Pilot self-watering basket scheme**

The Clerk reported that as it was necessary to place the order for the brackets for hanging baskets early with the manufacturers, it would not be possible to pilot a trial of self-watering baskets in Groesfaen during 2006. The baskets were not compatible with the brackets.

(iv) **Plants for baskets and flowerbeds**

The Clerk reported that plants for the hanging baskets and flowerbeds had been ordered with Boverton Nurseries, Llantwit Major. The Nursery had developed a very good reputation for supplying quality plants for local authorities in South Wales.

(v) **Water bowser**

The Clerk reported that the cost of a small water bowser for watering the summer plants was likely to cost around £1, 500 to £1,800. Provisional arrangements for filling the bowser had been made with the local fire station on weekdays although it would be necessary to make other arrangements for weekends.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That progress be noted.
- (ii) That the Clerk remind the Members of the Cefn yr Hendy Ward of the need to identify lampposts in their Ward.
- (iii) That the Council authorise the purchase of a water bowser.
- (iv) That the Clerk proceed with the recruitment of assistance to help in watering.
- (v) That the Clerk remind the landscape architect that the Council was waiting sketches/ideas for the area of land to the rear of the Pontyclun War Memorial.

(c) **Photography Competition**

The Clerk advised the Council that all photographs submitted in the competition had been passed over to a local printer for printing and mounting on to board for display. The photographs would also be scanned to disk in order that all the photographs can be displayed on the Council's website.

Provisional arrangements had been made with the Librarian to display the photographs. These arrangements would need to be revised to take account of the slippage in the original timetable to accommodate other issues. Revised arrangements would also need to be made to judge the competition.

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

(d) **Review of Community Council Boundaries**

The Clerk reported that he had attended a meeting of community council clerks in Rhondda Cynon Taf with Mr Paul Lucas, the Borough Council's Monitoring Officer, on 27 February, 2006.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the Boundary Commission for Wales had been tasked by the Welsh Assembly Government to carry out a review of electoral divisions of all councils in Wales by 2008.

Following discussions with WAG, the Boundary Commission will also be commissioned to undertake the Community Review of Rhondda Cynon Taf on behalf of the County Borough Council.

The Monitoring Officer highlighted some of the issues that could arise as a result of the findings of the Review. It was noted that community councils would not incur any financial costs in respect of the review but they would be expected to provide information and assistance in the process.

The Monitoring Officer outlined the indicative timetable for the Community Review. He also stated that there would be wide consultation on the Review and community councils would be fully involved.

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

(e) **Litter in the vicinity of Pontyclun railway station**

Councillor Griffiths referred to earlier concerns expressed at Community Council meetings and was pleased to be able to report that work had started on removing some of the litter which blighted the area around the railway station.

Councillor Griffiths believed that if a litter bin was to be positioned on each platform it would have the effect of keeping the area substantially free from litter and would make a significant contribution to making the area more pleasant.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contact Network Rail to ask for litterbins to be positioned on both platforms.

5. **Minutes of the Council's  
Extraordinary Meeting of 23 February, 2006**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council's Extraordinary Meeting of 23 February, 2006, be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Land at Brynsadler Mill**

The Clerk reported that, in accordance with the Council's wishes, he had circulated a copy of the draft contract for the purchase of the land to all Members on the evening of the day he had received the documents, that is, Friday 17 February, 2006.

As the Welsh Development Agency had insisted on an exchange of contracts by 11.00 a.m. on 20 February, it had been necessary to ask Members to forward any comments they had on the draft contract to the Clerk by no later than 10.00 p.m. on Sunday, 19 February, 2006. A number of Members had offered comments.

Some of the comments had necessitated contacting the WDA's solicitor on the morning of 20 February, 2006, for clarification and amendment of the draft contract. In view of these late issues the WDA agreed to the time for an exchange of contracts being put back to 4.30 p.m. that day.

On the morning of the 20 February, the Clerk had been telephoned by Morgan Cole, solicitors, acting on behalf of Mr David Summers of Station Terrace, Pontyclun, asking that an exchange of contracts be delayed. The solicitors claimed that the Council had acted improperly, on several grounds, in its decision to purchase the land. Morgan Cole stated that if an exchange of contracts took place it was likely that they would seek judicial review. Morgan Cole followed up their telephone call to the Clerk with a faxed letter. The letter was shared with the Chairperson, Councillor Lane and the solicitor acting for the Council.

In mid afternoon on 20 February, the Chairperson, Councillor Lane and the Clerk met the Council's solicitor. Further contact was made with the WDA on a number of points. Careful and detailed consideration was also given to each of the grounds raised by Morgan Cole. The consensus of opinion was that the Council had acted properly and transparently at each stage in the process and there was no reason to delay an exchange of contracts. An exchange took place. The date for completion was agreed for 20 March, 2006.

A discussion followed during which a member of the public, Mr David Summers of Station Terrace, addressed the Council. Mr Summers expressed his disappointment at the Council's actions and presented the Council with two letters. The Clerk read out both letters.

The first letter confirmed Mr Summers' objections to the Council's actions and that he had instructed solicitors to pursue the case. The second letter was a request under the Freedom of



Information Act for the full disclosure of all documents, minutes, notes, e-mails relating to the purchase of the land.

The Clerk reminded Members of their obligations under the Members' Code of Conduct. In particular, the need to observe confidentiality after receiving supporting papers for discussion at Community Council meetings. Failure to observe confidentiality could result in a complaint being made to the Ombudsman and a subsequent investigation.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the report be noted.
  - (ii) That the Council make arrangements for a full disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act as requested by Mr David Summers.
  - (iii) That the Council issue a newsletter to inform the public of the purchase of land at Brynsadler
  - (iv) That the Council note the importance of observing the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct.

(b) **Public conveniences, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun**

A discussion took place on a report in a recent edition of the Pontypridd Observer which made reference to a website alleging that improper behaviour took place at a number of locations in the Pontypridd/Llantrisant/Talbot Green/Tonyrefail and Pontyclun areas. PCSO Martin stated that the police had never received any complaints about improper activity at the Pontyclun public conveniences

- RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contact the Editor of the Pontypridd Observer to say that irrespective of the claims, the Community Council, its toilet caretaker and the police had never received any complaints about improper behaviour at the Pontyclun public conveniences.

6. **Police matters**

Police Community Support Officers Martin and Tame informed the Council of a number of developments, and potential developments in the locality.

(a) **Youth shelter**

The Council were advised that details of youth shelters and costings were available from the experience of the Llantrisant Community Council. The challenge in Pontyclun was to find a suitable site for a youth shelter. The possibility of using the playing field, or nearby land, adjacent to the Pontyclun War Memorial was suggested.

**RESOLVED:** That an approach be made to the owner of the land and, if necessary, the Board of Governors of the Pontyclun Primary School.

(b) **On-street parking**

- (i) The Council was told that a meeting had taken place between the police and representatives of the Borough Council about the possibility of constructing a traffic calming facility at the junction of Merthyr Street and Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.
- (ii) The Council was also advised that the police had spoken to management at the respite home in Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler, in attempt to find a solution to the difficult problem of needing to park a minibus outside the home and very close to the traffic lights. It was accepted that there was a need to park outside the home due to the lack of mobility of some of the home's residents.

(c) **Youth annoyance**

- (i) It was reported that the police had spoken to Mr Mike Saunders of Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun, about Mr Saunders' concerns over youth annoyance in Pontyclun. It was reported that a better understanding of the respective positions existed after the meeting.
- (ii) The Council was told about the concerns of a resident of Castan Road, Pontyclun, who had complained about youth annoyance. PCSO Martin said that regular patrols of the area would take place. Regular patrols would also take place in the Maesyfelin area and surveillance would be kept on the Ivor Woods.

(d) **Public conveniences, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun**

The police confirmed that no complaints had been received about improper behaviour in the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. Nevertheless, a watch would be kept on the premises and in the event of further enquiries being

necessary there was a possibility that the Terence Higgins Trust would need to be contacted.

(e) **Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun**

It was reported that complaints continued to be received by the police about the practice of some parents of causing traffic congestion in Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun, while dropping off and picking up their children from the nearby Pontyclun Primary School.

It was accepted that the congestion may have been aggravated of late by the roadworks in Palalwyf Avenue.

(f) **Telephone kiosk, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun**

The Council was told that enquiries were being made into the damage which had been caused to the telephone kiosk outside St Paul's Church in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. It was unclear whether the incident may have been recorded on CCTV footage. The police agreed to inform Councillor Cale of the outcome of their enquiries.

(g) **Neighbourhood Watch**

The police were pleased to be able to inform the Council that a Neighbourhood Watch scheme covering the Millfield area of Pontyclun had been established.

8. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Traffic congestion in Station Terrace, Pontyclun**

It was reported that following enquiries with the Borough Council, it was hoped that the parking control measures proposed following the site meeting in 2005 would become effective in the financial year commencing on 1 April, 2006. In practice, this would mean the introduction of Residents Only parking and restrictions to prevent all day on-street parking by rail users and staff of commercial premises. Alternative free parking facilities were available a short distance away.

Concern was again expressed about commercial development on the Ely Valley Industrial Estate and the planning application which had been submitted for residential development on the site of the former Vale Castings site. While it was unclear whether the latest commercial premises had been brought into use, there was overwhelming agreement that any traffic generated by this development should not add to the existing problems being experienced in Station Terrace, Pontyclun.



Similarly, any consent awarded for residential development of the former Vale Castings site should ensure that access and egress should not be through Station Terrace.

The Council was told that the Borough Council had recently appointed an Area Regeneration Coordinator for Pontyclun. The Community Council felt that it would be useful to ask the Coordinator along to a meeting of the Community Council to gain first hand knowledge of the problems facing residents of Station Terrace.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Area Regeneration Coordinator be invited along to a meeting of the Community Council.
  - (ii) That confirmation be obtained from the Borough Council that the parking measures proposed for Station Terrace would be introduced in the coming financial year.

(b) **Request for Residents' Only Parking**

The Council discussed a request from residents of Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun, for support in their request for Residents' Only parking in Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun.

- RESOLVED:** That the request be acknowledged, supported and forwarded to the Borough Council.

(c) **Provision of youth shelters**

The Council discussed the possibility of erecting a youth shelter. It was considered that the experience of neighbouring community councils, and others involved in youth work, would be of assistance in taking the proposal forward.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Chairperson contact Ms Caroline Wool with a view to her addressing the Community Council.
  - (ii) That an approach be made to the Councillor Norman, as Chair of the Board of Governors of Pontyclun Primary School, about the possibility of erecting a shelter on land alongside adjacent to, and alongside, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

- (iii) That the Chairperson discuss the possibility of other sites with PCSO Chris Martin.

(d) **Former Park Hall cinema, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed the letter from the Borough Council in which it was stated that the time limit for carrying out remedial works to the premises had expired. As a result the Borough Council was contacting the owner to establish his intentions. A commitment had been received from the Borough Council that once contact had been made with the owner, and a timetable for action produced, the Community Council would be kept informed. The letter concluded by saying that the Borough Council understood that the premises had been placed for sale with a local estate agent.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Community Council point out to the Borough Council that the premises had been in a dilapidated condition for so long that repair that the Community Council considered that repair of the premises was not a viable alternative. The premises should be sold or demolished.
- (ii) That enquiries be made to establish the name of the estate agent marketing the property.

(e) **International Book Day**

The Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins, advised the Council that International Book Day in 2005 had been held in May. She believed that it was to have been held in May, 2006, but had discovered that it had taken place in early March.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Clerk contact the head teacher of the new Cefn yr Hendy school to discuss the possibility of establishing links between the school at the Community Council.

(f) **One Voice Wales**

The Community Council considered the invitation of One Voice Wales to re-new its annual subscription.

The Council discussed its support for the principle of one organisation supporting the interests of community and town councils in Wales. While the Council accepted that any new

organisation would experience teething problems, it felt that One Voice Wales had not been very effective since its creation and that there were some significant shortfalls in the standard of service offered to member councils.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council re-new its subscription with One Voice Wales for 2006/07 and that the subject of further re-renewal be discussed again at the end of the financial year.

(g) **Buckingham Palace Garden Party**

The Community Council received an invitation from One Voice Wales to make nominations to the garden party being hosted by the H M Queen on 11 July, 2006. Guidance notes were provided for councils intending to make nominations.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the invitation be noted.
- (ii) That in the event of invitations being received for nominations to future garden parties, the Council consider the possibility of rewarding residents of the Community.

(h) **The Standards Committees (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006**

The Council received a draft copy of the regulations for comment.

**RESOLVED:** That the draft regulations be noted.

(i) **Appeal for financial assistance**

The Council discussed an appeal for financial assistance towards the cost of staging the 2006 Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council decline making a contribution.

(j) **Welsh Calor Village of the Year**

The Council received details of the Calor Village of the Year for Wales 2006, competition.

**RESOLVED:** That while the Community Council would not wish to enter the competition for 2006, an information pack be requested in order that the Council can consider whether it

wishes to enter the competition in future years.

(k) **Planning**

The Council discussed details of planning applications contained in the latest weekly notifications.

**RESOLVED:** That the following comments be offered to the Planning Authority:

**Application No. 05/1896/10**

The Council is opposed to the proposal on the grounds that:

- (i) it represents development in the countryside.
- (ii) there would be difficulty in accessing the development.
- (iii) if granted, the proposal would be likely to result in further applications for residential development.
- (iv) there are no proposals to protect the nearby public right of way.

**Application No. 06/0229/10**

The Council is opposed to the development on the grounds that the proposal will lead to an unacceptable density of development.

(l) **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 10 to the Council's agenda.

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

No matters were reported.

10. **Matters reported for information**

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



The Council received notification that the "appropriate sum" for 2006/07 had been increased from £5.30 per elector to £5.44 per elector.

(b) **Community Council Elections, 2004**

The Council received notification from the Borough Council that its contribution to the European, County Borough and Community Elections in 2004 is £5,460.35. A detailed breakdown of the costs was provided.

**RESOLVED:** That payment be made to the Borough Council.

(c) **Maladministration complaints to the Ombudsman**

The Clerk reported that at the recent meeting of the Monitoring Officer and the clerks of community councils, the Monitoring Officer stated that with effect from 1 April, 2006, community councils would be subject to maladministration complaints to the Ombudsman.

The Monitoring Officer had outlined the process to be followed should complaints be received and asked clerks to keep him informed and seek advice from his office, if required.

The report was noted.

(d) **Proposed changes to the Members' Code of Conduct**

The Clerk reported that at the recent meeting of the Monitoring Officer and the clerks of community councils, the Monitoring Officer outlined the up to date position on the proposed changes to the Members' Code of Conduct in the light of recent events in England surrounding the English version of the Code.

Based on the current situation, it was unlikely that the new Code for Wales would be produced this year. In the circumstances, the Monitoring Officer stated that he intended to undertake a series of "roadshows" as had been held in the past, in order to provide community councillors with a refresher on the existing Code and to provide an update on possible changes to any new Code.

The roadshows would be convened by the Monitoring Officer's office, take place over the next few months and be held in Church Village, Pontypridd and Hirwaun to accommodate all areas. The date for Church Village was given as 2 May, 2006 at 6.00 p.m. and the date for the Pontypridd Museum was given as 9 May, 2006, also at 6.00 p.m.

The report was noted.

(e) **Registers of Declarations of Interest**

At the meeting of the Monitoring Officer with clerks the subject of Declarations of Interest was raised. At some time in the future it was planned to display the Declarations of Interest declared by both Borough Councillors and community councillors on the Borough Council's website. This would be in addition to the community councils keeping their own registers of declarations of interests.

In the interim, each community council clerk would be expected to provide the Monitoring Officer with a "hard copy" of the council's register.

The report was noted.

11. The meeting ended at 9.55 p.m.