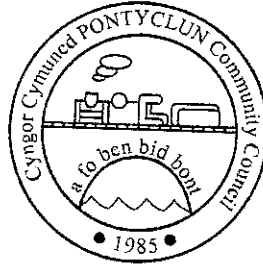


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

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Minutes of the November monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Gymuned, Llantrisant, Ffordd Cefn yr Hendy, Miskin, Pontyclun at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 8 November, 2011.

PRESENT: Community Councillors J G Davies, P Griffiths, J V Huish, R G Norman, M Rea and C Willis

Also in attendance: P C Darren Pike of the South Wales Constabulary and one members of the public. Both were present for part of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Ms V A Cale, S Jenkins and S Rogers

2. **Declarations of interest**

The following declarations of interest were made:

Councillor J V Huish for agenda item 7(f) – " I am a member of the Borough Council's Planning Committee"

Councillor M Rea for agenda item 7(f) - " I am a member of the Borough Council's Planning Committee"

3. **Residents' concerns**

No concerns were brought to the attention of the Community Council.

4. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

P C Darren Pike reported that during the last month there had been 14 reported crimes. PC Pike gave a summary of the reported crimes.

P C Pike also reported that there had been a number of anti social behaviour calls received by the police from a number of locations in the Community during the last month. A further call was connected with Halloween and another as a result of Bonfire Night.

In response to rising concerns about the theft of metal P C Pike advised that a police operation to target scrap dealers was planned for December.

RESOLVED: That the reports from PC Pike be noted.

(b) **Reports from Members**

(i) **Thefts from allotments**

Councillor Norman reported on thefts of wheel barrows at allotment sites in Pontyclun. While the metal content of wheel barrows was relatively low, the thefts had been upsetting to plot holders and residents in the immediate vicinity. It appeared that all the break-ins had occurred during the hours of darkness.

(ii) **Thefts from streets**

Councillor Norman also reported on the theft of disused white goods items in streets awaiting collection for recycling by the Borough Council.

Councillor Norman reported that while the cash value of the thefts was small he was concerned at the wasted resources of Borough Council staff who subsequently arrived to remove the items for recycling.

(iii) **"Pontyclun News"**

Councillor Norman spoke of his deep concern at the number of grave inaccuracies in relation to the Community Council in a leaflet entitled "Pontyclun News" and circulated to residents in Pontyclun.

Councillor Norman highlighted a section of the leaflet headed "Creating a New Village Centre for Pontyclun" The leaflet stated that Labour councillors had pleaded for the £10,000 running costs of the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road to be made available to a local shop,

pub or sports club so that it could develop and open its toilets to the public.

Councillor Norman stated that there never been any question of £10,000 being made available to any premises or organisation. The reality was that the Community Council had made enquiries with every shopkeeper and pub landlord in Pontyclun about the possibility of their toilet facilities being offered to the general public. Proprietors were asked to let the Council know if they would be prepared to offer such a facility and, if so, the cost to the Community Council. Not a single response had been received.

Councillor Norman also reminded the Council that it had consulted the public about the possibility of replacing the conveniences at its Have Your Say Day. A majority of residents stated that they wanted the conveniences to remain with further residents saying that they wanted modern conveniences.

Councillor Norman stated that the Community Council had a legal responsibility to make the public conveniences accessible to disabled people. In fulfilling this duty the Council also planned to modernise the conveniences. An architect had been appointed to give advice. No costings had been received. However, the "Pontyclun News" alleged that the improvements would cost £50,000.

A general discussion ensued and Councillor Norman was thanked for highlighting the inaccuracies contained in "Pontyclun News"

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council write to the person named in "Pontyclun News" pointing out the leaflet's inaccuracies.
 - (ii) That, provided the Community Council's letter is written on time, a request be made for the letter to be read out at the public meeting organised by the Pontyclun Labour Party on the evening of 16 November, 2011.
 - (iii) That when the Community Council's plans for the conveniences are finalised a

comprehensive letter to the public
be produced.

5. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 11 October, 2011**

RESOLVED: That the minutes Council's meeting of 11 October, 2011, be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Application for grant**

The Clerk advised the Council that since the presentation to the Council at its last meeting by Mr John Enticott he had not received the Income & Expenditure account requested by the Council.

RESOLVED: That a discussion on the award of any grant be left in abeyance pending receipt of the Income & Expenditure account.

(b) **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations**

The Clerk advised that following the Council's October meeting he had spoken to the Clerk to the Llantrisant Community Council about a possible joint celebration and had later followed up the conversation with a letter.

The letter was due to be discussed by the Llantrisant Community Council that evening since that Council's monthly meeting is held on the same day as the Pontyclun Community Council's meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Council await to hear the decision of the Llantrisant Community Council.

(c) **Felling of tree**

The Council discussed the e-mail of 12 October, 2011, from the Borough Council which had been received following concerns expressed by the Council that a felled oak tree at Crystal Wood may have been the subject of a tree preservation order.

The Borough Council's reply confirmed that the tree in question was not the subject of a tree preservation order and, as a result, no consent was required for the felling. Further, that the Borough Council had received a planning application for a two storey side extension and the re-positioning of a conservatory for the nearby property. In the course of deciding the application

the Council's Tree Preservation Officer had been consulted but did not consider that the tree warranted protection.

RESOLVED: That the position be noted.

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Refurbishment of the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed the preliminary plans received from the architect contracted to provide guidance on refurbishment and modernisation.

RESOLVED: That the Council approve the plans in principle and that the following comments be made to the architect:

- (i) There needs to be good illumination in the premises as light in the ladies' section, is affected by high growing trees on the railway embankment.
- (ii) There is a need for a baby changing facility in both ladies' and gents' sections of a drop down bracket arrangement fixed to a wall.
- (iii) That the possibility of replacing the grass verge with concrete outside the ladies' section be explored.
- (iv) That as the conveniences use a considerable amount of water the possibility of using a "grey water" eco-friendly system for collecting and recycling rainwater be explored.
- (v) That the possibility of erecting solar panels on the pitched roof to reduce electricity consumption be explored.
- (vi) That all signage be bilingual.
- (vii) That the car park sign at the front of the conveniences be removed.
- (viii) That an indicative timescale for the completion of work be sought.

- (ix) That an estimated cost is required for the proposed work.

(b) **Trees in the Ivor Woods**

The Clerk reported that a resident of Ivor Woods, Brynsadler, had drawn to his attention the dangerous condition of a group of trees in the Ivor Woods where they bordered houses in Ivor Park. The resident also drew attention to two further, albeit healthy trees, which were overhanging the rear of his property.

As all the trees in the Ivor Woods were covered by a tree preservation order the Clerk had requested a site meeting and advice of the Borough Council's tree specialist.

The officer confirmed that a group of four small sycamore trees to the rear of No. 5 Ivor Park, which had died due to a honey fungus infection, be felled. The officer also gave consent for the branches of two sycamore trees to the rear of No. 6 Ivor Park to be cut back to the boundary fence with the Ivor Woods. He further advised that monitoring of these two trees should take place to ensure no decline in their health.

The officer further advised that he would contact the Coed Cymru officer working with the Borough Council with a view to producing a woodland management scheme for the Ivor Woods.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council engage a contractor to fell the four small dead trees in the Ivor Woods to the rear of No. 5 Ivor Park.
 - (ii) That the resident of No.6 be advised that consent had been given for the trimming back to the boundary with the Ivor Woods of branches of the two sycamore trees overhanging his premises.
 - (iii) That the cost of work under (i) above be met by the Community Council.
 - (iv) That the cost of work under (ii) above, for consistency of treatment with owners of other properties bordering the Ivor Woods, not be met by the Community Council.

(c) **Grit bins**

The Council discussed the requests from residents for additional grit bins in the Community at the sites referred to in Appendix 3 to the Council's agenda.

The Council believed that any further requests to the Borough Council for the placement of additional grit bins, at Borough Council cost, were unlikely to be successful as the Borough Council had received many hundreds of requests for additional grit bins following two years of severe winter weather.

Experience from earlier requests showed that the Borough Council were assessing each request on a points basis and the sites put forward earlier by the Council had not scored highly enough to qualify. Consequently the Community Council had funded the siting of additional grit bins.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council discuss with the Borough Council the possibility of the placement of four further grit bins in accordance with the earlier funding arrangement.
 - (ii) That in view of the imminence of winter delegated authority to progress the matter be given to the Chair and Clerk.

(d) **Tylagarw Community Centre**

The Clerk reported an approach from a representative of the Tylagarw Community Centre for the Community Council's Handyman to assist in the erection of Christmas trees at the Community Centre.

The Clerk had replied that the Council would need to get clarification on the legal position from One Voice Wales but if there were no legal obstacles it would be necessary for the Community Council to recover its costs from the management committee of the Tylagarw Community Centre. The representative had verbally agreed to this.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That provided One Voice Wales does not foresee any legal difficulties with the proposal the approval of the Council is given.
 - (ii) That delegated authority be given to the Clerk to proceed with arrangements.

(e) **Pontyclun Foodbank Project**

The Council received an invitation to attend a concert at the Bethel Baptist Church, Pontyclun, organised by the Pontyclun Foodbank Project.

RESOLVED: That authority be given for any Member to attend the concert to represent the Council. Any attending Member should advise the Clerk in advance in order that the organisers can be informed.

(f) **Planning**

(Councillor Griffiths left the meeting at this stage in the meeting)

(Councillors Huish and Rea declared personal but not prejudicial interests in this item of business as members of the Borough Council's Planning Committee. Both exercised their right to remain in the Council chamber and did not take part in any discussions)

The Council reviewed planning applications contained in the latest Weekly Lists.

RESOLVED: That no comment be offered to the Planning Authority on applications contained in this month's notifications.

(g) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved for the creditors listed in Appendix 5 to the Council's agenda.

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

Council's accounts for 2010/11

The Clerk reported, and distributed, copies of the External Auditors' report on the Community Council's accounts for the year ending 31 March, 2011. The report had been received after the agenda for the meeting had been published.

The Clerk drew the Council's attention to the auditor's comment that he proposed issuing a qualified report because the Council had not approved its accounts before 30 September, 2011. The Clerk reminded the Council that a meeting to approve the accounts had been arranged for 26 September, 2011, but due to a last minute need to consult the Council's internal auditor the meeting had been postponed to 3 October, 2011.

On another matter not affecting the external auditor's opinion of the accounts, the Council was advised that it should formally review and approve its risk assessment annually.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council note the comments of its external auditors.
 - (ii) That the Clerk arrange for the Council to formally approve its risk assessment annually.
 - (iii) That the Clerk be congratulated on the way in which he had produced and presented the Council's 2010/11 accounts.

9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Borough Council's Draft Improvement Plan for 2011**

The Clerk reported receipt of the Borough Council's Draft Improvement Plan, 2011.

The document extended to around two hundred pages and for this reason the Community Council had only been provided with one copy.

RESOLVED: That any Member wishing to view the document contact the Clerk.

(b) **Proposed presentation in support of a request for a grant**

The Clerk advised the Council that a presentation by Mr Dave Allen, on behalf of St Paul's Church, Pontyclun, for financial assistance towards an extension at the Church was due to have been made at this meeting.

A call had been received from Mr Allen in the last week to say that he was not yet in a position to make his presentation since some preliminary work had yet to be finalised. Mr Allen hoped anticipated he would be in a position to make his presentation at the Council's February monthly meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(c) **Playarea/Youth Shelter**

Councillor Huish reported that he had received representations about the creation of a playarea or possibly the erection of a youth shelter. He suggested that the Council form a committee to discuss the feasibility of the proposal.

RESOLVED: (i) That Councillor Huish obtain further details of the proposals.

(ii) That the committee comprise Councillors Davies, Huish, Norman, Rea and Willis.

(d) **Pontyclun Football Club**

Members discussed the excellent work carried out by the Pontyclun Football Club in building a new Club headquarters adjacent to the football fields at Maesyfelin. The work was a first class example of how it was possible for organisations to move forward by harnessing enthusiasm and self help.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make enquiries of the Football Club when the new headquarters were likely to be opened.

(e) **Off street lighting**

Councillor Davies reported that there had been a number of incidents in the lane to the rear of Palatwyf Avenue during the hours of darkness. One of the incidents had resulted in a burglary when vehicle keys were removed from a house and a van was subsequently stolen. In another incident an intruder had been seen in a resident's back garden.

Residents had been advised that a light column in the lane would discourage anti social behaviour in the lane during the hours of darkness.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make enquiries of the Community Safety Partnership about the feasibility of erecting a light column in the lane.

10. The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.