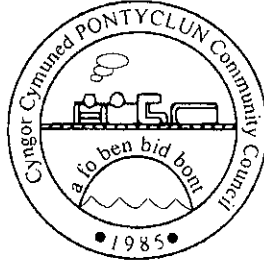


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun**Pontyclun Community Council**

Clerc i'r Cyngor:
JHG Lewis ACIS DMA
Mandalay
Heol Bontfaen
Talygarn
Pontyclun CF72 9BZ



Clerk to the Council:
JHG Lewis ACIS DMA
Mandalay
Cowbridge Road
Talygarn
Pontyclun CF72 9BZ

Ffôn: 01443 227094
Ffacs: 01443 238500
E-bost: greglewis@pontycluncc.org.uk
Wefan: <http://pontycluncc.org.uk>

Tel: 01443 227094
Fax: 01443 238500
Email: greglewis@pontycluncc.org.uk
Web: <http://pontycluncc.org.uk>

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held on 9 November, 2005, at 7.00 p.m. in the Pontyclun Community Centre.

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

Also in attendance: No members of the public were in attendance

1. **Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Community Councillors M Rea

2. **Declarations of interest**

RESOLVED: That the declarations of interest be recorded in the Register of Members' Interests

3. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 28 September, 2005**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 28 September, 2005, be approved as an accurate record.

4. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising

5. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 5 October, 2005**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 5 October, 2005, be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **IT problems during October**

The Clerk reported that shortly after the Council's meeting on 5 October, a virus problem had been experienced with the Council's computer. Verbal advice from IT engineers recommended that the computer should not be used, to prevent spreading the virus, until the engineer had been able to attend to the problem. Two appointments for the engineer to call had not been kept. On the third appointment the engineer found that virus could not be removed without taking the computer to his workshop. Although there was no delay in returning the computer, immediately after the return the Clerk had taken a pre-booked week's leave.

Shortly after returning from leave, the Clerk was notified that a free computer under the Borough Council's Shape IT. Org scheme would be delivered to the Community Council within a few days. The new computer had been received and some files from the former computer had been transferred to the new machine. The absence of a computer during most of October had resulted in Community Council work being delayed.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That in cases of further IT difficulties the Community Council take up the offer of Councillor David Henderson to carry out any remedial work at no cost to the Council.

(b) **Application by the Welsh Development Agency to develop land east and west of the A4119 at Mwyndy, Pontyclun**

It was reported that the highly controversial application by the WDA to develop land at Mwyndy, Pontyclun, was determined by the Planning Authority on 3 November, 2005.

In an extremely well attended and vocal meeting lasting over four hours the Planning Authority voted by 25 votes to 23 votes to refuse the application.

It was unclear whether the applicant would appeal the decision.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(c) **Actions arising out of the Council's Vision Day**

RESOLVED: That this item be deferred to the Council's next monthly meeting.

(d) **Seasonal decorations**

Councillor Lane advised that he had made enquiries about the possibility of purchasing illuminated lanterns for erection in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. His enquiries had revealed that illuminated lanterns were regarded as special items and that they were expensive and needed to be ordered early. It was unlikely that they could be obtained in time for erection this year.

Councillor Lane also advised that he had made enquiries about the purchase of illuminated rope. These were readily available and could be purchased at Makro. He had calculated that four lengths of 40 metre illuminated rope would be needed. Additionally, it would be necessary to obtain the permission of shopkeepers for the rope to be attached to their premises and arrange for the supply of electricity with time switches.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the purchase of illuminated lanterns not be pursued for Christmas 2005.
- (ii) That Councillor Lane be authorised to purchase illuminated rope and time switches for the Council and arrange the erection of the rope in conjunction with the shopkeepers and the Council's Handyman.
- (iii) That the Clerk make enquiries to establish the company responsible for the supply of Christmas illuminations to the community councils in Whitchurch and Cowbridge.

(e) **Woodland at Cefn yr Hendy**

The Clerk advised that he had carried out further enquiries to establish positively the area of woodland referred to by Mr Chris Lindley. The woodland is located immediately to the rear of Lon yr Awel and is in the ownership of the Welsh Development Agency.

The Council discussed in detail whether it wished to make any approaches to the Welsh Development Agency with a view to getting the land transferred into the ownership of the Community Council.

There was a consensus view that the public already had access to this land and while the Community Council might be able to introduce improvements to make the area more attractive and better used by the public, with the benefit of an Objective 1 grant, the Community Council had already entered into discussions with the WDA over the transfer of ownership of other land in the Community. It would be preferable for those discussions to be concluded before entering further discussions for the transfer of land.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk write to Mr Lindley to thank him for bringing the matter to the Council's attention stating that it would not be possible to approach the WDA at this time. The Council

would wish for other negotiations with the WDA for the transfer of land to be concluded before entering into further negotiations for land transfer.

7. **Police matters**

In the absence of P C Keddle, Members raised their issues involving the police.

(a) **Fireworks displays**

Reports were received about the fireworks displays at the Pontyclun Rugby Club and the Miskin Scouts field.

While the displays in 2004 had given rise to some complaints, it was reported that the 2005 displays had been organised in a very professional manner.

RESOLVED: That congratulatory letters be sent to the Pontyclun Rugby Football Club and Miskin Scouts thanking the organisations for the professional management of their displays which have become extremely popular and play important roles in the social fabric of the Community.

(b) **Southgate Garage, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

A report was received of a recent break-in at the Southgate Garage in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

It appeared that the nearby CCTV camera had been inoperative at the time of the break-in and that this had led to a public perception that the CCTV system in Pontyclun is ineffective.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk pursue the matter with the Borough Council.

(c) **Police website**

It was reported that the Community Council had still not received details of police contact details, including the police website, for inclusion on the Community Council's website.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the local police station for the details.

(d) **Youth annoyance**

The Council received a report of youth annoyance to residents on the Ynysddu Estate. It was felt that an occasional patrol by the police would help in overcoming the problems.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk raise the matter with the local police.

(e) **Youth behaviour**

The Council received a report of anti-social activities by youths in the lane between Station Terrace and Stuart Street, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk raise the matter with the local police.

(f) **Mobile police unit**

The Council received a report that the mobile police unit would be positioned in the car park near the Matalan store in Talbot Green in the weeks up to Christmas. Members of the public are welcome to call in to the unit to learn more about police work and useful security measures.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

8. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Actions arising out of Members' attendance at training days**

A discussion took place on the value of the training days which some Members had attended. There was agreement that the training had been of a very high standard and gave Members an insight into modern methods of governance operating in many community councils. It was suggested that the Council should review again some of these excellent practices and decide where they can be introduced in the Pontyclun Community Council.

RESOLVED: (a) That the Council at its next monthly meeting review the reports submitted by Councillors Henderson and Jenkins following their attendance at training days.

(b) That the Clerk produce a grid on key Council objectives highlighting progress to date and work planned for coming months.

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

The Chairperson, Councillor Sarah Jenkins, gave a verbal report on her attendance at the recent Annual Conference of One Voice Wales.

Councillor Jenkins expressed her concern at the relatively poor standard of the Conference. In support of her view Councillor Jenkins referred to the absence of the recently appointed Chief Executive on long term sickness. She also pointed out that other senior staff in the organisation were not present. Additionally, Conference papers for discussion had not been sent out to delegates in sufficient time for the views of their councils to be established. These delegates did not have a mandate and felt unable to vote. On a local level, Councillor Jenkins advised that no meetings of One Voice Wales had taken place. It was



ironic that One Voice Wales was proposing a 2.9% increase in membership fees for the next financial year.

Councillor Jenkins was pleased to be able to report that the afternoon session was much improved with an address from Sue Essex, of the Welsh Assembly Government, and an address on planning from a professor from Liverpool University. The address on planning was reinforced with copies of the professor's overhead notes.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Clerk write to One Voice Wales drawing attention to the lack of direction at the Conference and the Council's disappointment at the failure to hold local meetings.
- (ii) That Councillor Jenkins give a copy of the professor's overhead notes to the Clerk for duplication and circulation to all Members of the Council.

(c) **Access to planning applications**

The Council discussed the lack of access by the public to planning applications at a local level.

The Council was of the view that the public would be better served if access to applications could be made through existing hardware in public places. In Pontyclun this could be achieved by using the personal computers installed in the local library.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk write to the Borough Council to ask if access to planning applications could be made available to the public of Pontyclun through the personal computers at the Pontyclun library.

(d) **After school facilities in Pontyclun**

The Council considered a request for support in developing an after school club facility in Pontyclun.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk write to the organisers of the facility indicating that the Community Council is supportive in principle of the initiative. Further that the organisers be asked to indicate a specific item of equipment which is required to assist in providing the after school facility.

(e) **20th Anniversary of TEDS**

The Council received an invitation to send representatives to a celebratory evening on 24 November, 2005, marking the 20th anniversary of the formation of Treatment & Education Drugs Services.

RESOLVED: That Councillors Jenkins and Thomas be nominated to attend.

(f) **Regional One Day Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks**

The Clerk reported receipt of an invitation to attend the Regional One Day Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks on 5 December, 2005.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to attend the Conference.

(g) **Urdd National Eisteddfod**

The Council received a request from the Urdd National Eisteddfod for a donation towards the cost of staging the 2006 Eisteddfod.

RESOLVED: That the Council make a donation of £100.00.

(h) **Planning**

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

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

Application No. 05/1743

That while the Community Council is not opposed to the application, it has serious concerns over several aspects of the proposal, namely:

- (i) that vehicular access to the development should not be through the Ely Valley Industrial Estate, the bailey bridge across the river Ely and Station Terrace, Pontyclun
- (ii) that the proposal to construct in excess of a hundred units is a considerable over development of the site given that the original plans were for the construction of around 60 units
- (iii) that part of the land for the development may be subject to flooding according to the latest TAN 15 published by the Environment Agency
- (iv) that the proposal will place further burdens on an already overloaded local infrastructure
- (v) that the development should not result in the creation of urban rights of way rather than rural rights of way

- (vi) that the proposal was yet another example of piecemeal residential development in the area

Application No. 05/1840/10

That the Community view this proposal as an ancillary habitable development and that appropriate parking spaces for vehicles should be provided within the curtilage of the premises.

Application No. 05/1942/10

That the Council object to the proposal since it is an inappropriate development in the countryside and represents creeping industrialisation.

A Member also raised the matter of a planning consent awarded in 2003 for two new industrial units on the Ely Valley Industrial Estate. A condition on the consent provided that the units should not be brought into beneficial use until such time as the road serving the units had been completed. The Member understood that the developer had now applied for the condition to be removed.

RESOLVED: That the Council object to the application for the removal of the consent. The Council believed that the condition had been imposed, properly, with the intention of protecting residents of Pontyclun from nuisance. Removal of the condition would expose residents to intolerable and unnecessary nuisance.

(i) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 7 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) **Sale of land in Miskin**

The Clerk reported verbally on progress in the sale of a Council owned plot of land in Miskin to the lessee, Mr Penman, of The Lodge, Miskin. Mr Penman held a lease on the land for a period of 999 years.

The Clerk advised that the sale had been protracted since the purchaser had not expected to have to pay the professional fees incurred in the transaction by the Community Council's valuer and solicitor. Agreement had eventually been achieved and the District Valuer was preparing a report and a valuation of the land and the Council's solicitor has prepared a draft contract.



RESOLVED:

- (i) That the valuation of the land be brought back to the Council for information.
- (ii) That the Clerk establish the position on the payment of fees in the event of the purchaser deciding to withdraw from the transaction.

(b) **The Older People's Strategy Welfare Rights Project**

The Council received details of the Older People's Strategy Welfare Rights Project run by the Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the details be noted.

(c) **Planters and hanging baskets**

The Council received correspondence from the Borough Council in which it was stated that the Borough Council was unable to contribute to the capital cost of planters due to budget constraints. However, consideration would be given to whether any "in kind" assistance could be given for the watering of the planters and hanging baskets.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

(d) **Shape IT.org**

The Clerk reported that under the Borough Council's Shape IT. Org scheme he had earlier registered the Community Council's interest in receiving a free computer. The Clerk had also registered the interest of approximately 15 other local organisations. In return for a free computer, receiving bodies undertook to provide local contributions for the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council website.

The Clerk was pleased to be able to report that a free Dell Dimension 3000 computer, together with printer, had been delivered to the Council on 20 October, 2005.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

11. The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.