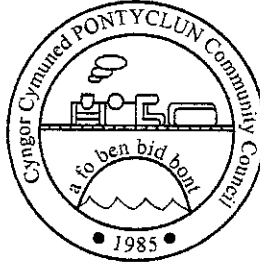


## Clyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

## Pontyclun Community Council

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Minutes of the January monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Babel Chapel vestry, Llantrisant Road, Groesfaen, Pontyclun at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 10 January, 2012.

**PRESENT:** Community Councillors R G Norman, M Rea, S Rogers and C Willis

**Also in attendance:** Four members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor J V Huish.

2. **Declarations of interest**

The following declaration of interest was made:

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

3. **Residents' concerns**

(a) **Mr A R Lane**

Mr Lane spoke of his concern that the bus stop at the layby outside the Tesco store in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, was regularly used by large delivery vehicles. This resulted in buses being unable to access the bus stop, forcing them to stop in the highway, often with passengers being obscured from bus drivers' view. The problem was particularly severe for wheel chair users. Mr Lane produced photographs of the problem for Members' information.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Rea raise the matter with the Borough Council.

(b) **Dr B. O'Reilly**

Dr O'Reilly stated that he had sent an e-mail to the Clerk and Chair stating the opposition of the Pontyclun Action Group to the plans of the Community Council on the plans to refurbish the public conveniences in Pontyclun. He was disappointed to note that his letter was not on the agenda for the meeting.

Dr O'Reilly was informed told that his e-mail had not asked for the views of the group to be brought to the attention of the Council. Had this request been made the e-mail would have been included on the agenda. As Dr O'Reilly's intention was now clear there was no difficulty in circulating the e-mail to Members.

(c) **Member vacancy**

Dr O'Reilly referred to the vacancy on the Council which had arisen as a result of Councillor Cale's inability to attend Council meetings.

He said that the position had been discussed at the last Council's meeting and that he had expected a report back to the Council's January meeting.

The Clerk advised Dr O'Reilly that the vacancy would be discussed later in the meeting.

4. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

In the absence of a representative from the police the Clerk reported that earlier that day he had received a list of reported crimes in the Community for the previous month.

The Clerk read out the report.

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

(b) **Reports from Members**

There were no reports from Members for this month.

5. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 13 December, 2011**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

**Casual vacancy**

The Clerk advised that responsibility for the interpretation and administration of electoral legislation lay with the Borough Council.

He had discussed the casual vacancy in the Cefn yr Hendy Ward with the Borough Council and had been told that as there were fewer than six months before the next elections the Council had two options. The Council could co-opt a member of the public to the vacancy or could decide to carry the vacancy until the next elections.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council carry the vacancy until the next elections.

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Lease on Council owned land in Brynsadler**

A copy of the proposed lease was included at Appendix 2 to the Council's agenda.

The Clerk reported that the terms of the lease had been agreed by the Community Council's working group and representatives of the Pontyclun Ward Community Trust. The terms of the lease had also been separately agreed by the Welsh Government and the Land Registry.

The lease needed to be formally agreed by the Community Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the lease be approved and that a copy be passed to the Pontyclun Ward Community Trust for its information.

(b) **Deed of Covenant**

In connection with the above lease the Welsh Government required the lessee to enter into a Deed of Covenant that it will observe and perform the covenants restrictions stipulations and obligations imposed on the Community Council. A copy of the Deed of Covenant was included at Appendix 3 to the Council's agenda.

**RESOLVED:** That the contents of the Deed be noted and that a copy be passed to the Pontyclun Ward Community Trust.

(c) **Council's Annual Return for 2011/12**

The Council discussed the note received from its external auditors, Mazars, that the date for the submission of the Council's Annual Return for 2011/12 had been brought forward by three months to 30 June, 2012.

The Clerk advised that he was deeply concerned at this arbitrary action since the first three months of the new financial year were always the busiest. In addition to the Council's routine work it was necessary to create new financial records, balance the Council's accounts, and make PAYE and VAT returns to HMRC by given deadlines to avoid penalties. Preparatory work is also undertaken in this period in readiness for the award of grants in July.

The new requirements meant that in addition to normal work it would now be necessary to prepare the accounts and supporting statements for internal audit, presentation of the accounts for initial approval by the Council and complete the Annual Return for external audit during the three busiest months of the year.

In previous years there had been difficulty in meeting the deadline for all work to be completed by 30 September. Now it was required to complete all the work three months earlier.

The Clerk stated that he would do his best to complete all the necessary work on time. However, he could offer no guarantee that all the work would be completed within the new timescale.

**RESOLVED:** That the date of the annual grants meeting be delayed if this would help.

(d) **Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Bill**

The Council discussed the consultation document from the Welsh Government on a Bill giving effect to the proposals to simplify procedures for making and enforcing local government byelaws.

**RESOLVED:** That if any Members had any thoughts or comments they wish to make on the Bill they should pass them to the Clerk who would co-ordinate a reply on behalf of the Council.

(e) **Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations**

The Clerk reported that following the Council's representations to the Llantrisant Community Council about a possible joint

celebration, he had been told that a joint meeting with interested parties would be held in the Llantrisant Community Council offices on the evening of 17 January, 2012.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council be represented at the meeting by Councillor Norman and the Clerk.

(f) **Pontyclun War Memorial**

The Council discussed an e-mail from Mr Edgeley Thomas of Brynsadler who, in advance of the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, had carried out detailed research on the people whose names were inscribed on the Pontyclun War Memorial. Copies of the research work were included in the Council's agenda at Appendix 6.

Mr Thomas's plan is to place a number of copies of his research work in the Pontyclun library and possibly other local libraries as well. Mr Thomas asked whether the Council would be prepared to cover the modest printing costs of producing his research work.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That Mr Thomas be congratulated for producing an original piece of work to commemorate those local people who had made the ultimate sacrifice during the First World War.
  - (ii) That in principle the Council agree to fund the work subject to Mr Thomas indicating the total cost of the printing.

(g) **Japan Earthquake Appeal**

The Council discussed an appeal for financial assistance towards the Japan Earthquake Appeal Fund.

The Council gave careful consideration to the request and had deep sympathy for all those people in Japan now experiencing hardship. However, the Council came to the view that the appeal had international overtones and that it would be more appropriate, given the scale of devastation, for international contributions rather than a localised contribution.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council decline to make a contribution.

(h) **Planning**

(Councillor Rea declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in this item of business as a member of the Borough Council's

Planning Committee. He exercised his right to remain in the Council chamber but did not take part in any discussions)

The Council discussed planning applications contained in the latest Weekly Lists received from the Planning Authority.

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

**Application No. 11/1331/10**

That while the Council is not opposed to the application, it urges the Planning Authority to take into account the possibility of more properties in this street being subject to similar conversions and the effect this will have on access and parking facilities.

(i) **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 8 to the agenda.

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

(a) **Letter of support**

The Clerk reported that a request had been made to the Community Council for its support by way of a letter to the Borough Council outlining the difficulties in accessing his home now facing Mr David Speed of High Street, Brynsadler, following his recent surgery. The Council was asked to urge the Borough Council to give Mr Speed priority for the allocation of sheltered accommodation in the Community at David's Court, Pontyclun.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk send an appropriate letter in support of the request.

(b) **County Borough Wide Designated Public Place Order**

The Clerk read out a letter from the Borough Council seeking the Council's views on proposals to extend existing provision to tackle anti-social on-street drinking.

At present, the powers were confined to specific defined areas. The new proposals would introduce the measures throughout the Borough. If approved, the new control measures would make it an offence to refuse to surrender alcohol to a police officer or a police community support officer.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council support the new proposals.

(c) **Community Safety presentation**

Councillor Rea advised that Borough Council members had recently been given a presentation on safety in the community.

The presentation had been very well received by Borough Council members and Councillor Rea was making arrangements for the same presentation to be delivered to residents of the Community. It was likely that the presentation would be given in the Pontyclun Community Centre.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Rea's report be noted.

9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Council Tax Base for 2012/13**

The Council discussed a letter from the Borough Council advising that:

- (i) the Council Tax Base for the Community for the financial year 2012/13 was £3,442.21 and that
- (ii) the Council's precept for 2012/13 must be issued to the Borough Council before 1 March, 2012.

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

(b) **Public conveniences**

(i) **Site meeting**

The Clerk reminded Members that a site meeting would be held with the architect engaged to advise the Council on the improvements needed to be made to the public conveniences in Pontyclun to meet current legislation.

The meeting would be held near the public conveniences in Ely Valley Road, Talbot Green at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, 14 January, 2012, and an invitation to attend the meeting was extended to all Members.

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

(ii) **Dr B. O'Reilly**

The Council invited Dr O'Reilly to outline the contents of his letter of opposition to the Community Council's plans for carrying out improvement works to the public

conveniences in Pontyclun to meet current legislative requirements.

Dr O'Reilly stated that the Pontyclun Action Group had discussed the issue of the conveniences several times. PAG was of the view that the project was not in the best interests of the Community. Given that elections to the Council would be taking place in the coming months a new council might agree that the project should not go ahead. PAG believed that the project should be placed on hold until the new council had been given an opportunity to consider the position.

Members pointed out that the Community Council had a statutory responsibility under the Disability Discrimination Act, 1995, reinforced by the Equality Act, 2010, to make the public conveniences accessible for disabled people. The Community Council was meeting its responsibilities and doing so in an efficient, effective and economical way.

(c) **Flood Awareness meeting**

In response to a question about the proposed meeting on flood awareness to be held by the Environment Agency in the Pontyclun Community Centre, the Clerk responded that the meeting was scheduled to be held on 24 January, 2012. Posters advertising the meeting had been prepared, laminated, and would be displayed in Council noticeboards on Wednesday, 11 January, 2012.

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

10. The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.