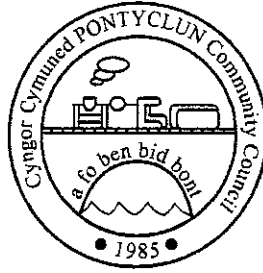


## Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

## 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

Ffon: 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 April monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Committee Room of the Pontyclun Community Centre, Heol yr Orsaf, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 April, 2011.

**PRESENT:** Community Councillors J G Davies, P Griffiths, J V Huish, S Jenkins, M Rea, and C Willis

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** P C Mike Perry, PCSO Jade Lewis for part of the meeting and three members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors V A Cale, D Clayton-Jones, R G Norman and S Rogers

2. **Declarations of interest**

The following declarations of interest were made:

**Councillor J V Huish** for agenda item 9(n) – “Member of Planning Committee”

**Councillor M Rea** for agenda item 9(n) - “Member of the Planning Committee “

**Councillor P Griffiths** for agenda item 17 (d) – “ refers to footpath in which I have a personal interest”

3. **Residents' concerns**

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

(i) **Public Right of Way – Footpath No 341**

Dr O'Reilly wished to bring the Council's attention to the poor condition of parts of Footpath No. 341 near the former fishponds alongside the river Ely.

Dr O'Reilly acknowledged the work carried out by the Community Council's Handyman in carrying out repair work on the footpath but pointed out that the improvements were short lived and more comprehensive repair work was needed.

The Clerk thanked Dr O'Reilly for his report. The Clerk advised that as a public right of way, responsibility for maintenance of the footpath lay with the Highway Authority, that is the Borough Council. The Clerk would report Dr O'Reilly's concerns to the Highway Authority.

(ii) **Domino Pizza, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

Dr O'Reilly wished to bring to the Council's attention the concerns of a resident in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, over the way in which he believed the premises were being run.

The Clerk advised that the Community Council had received a copy of the e-mail sent from the resident to Dr O'Reilly.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk make enquiries of the police and the Borough Council to establish whether the actions complained of contravened any regulations.

(b) **Mr A R Lane**

**Community Council owned land in Brynsadler**

Mr Lane read out a number of facts associated with the Council's purchase of land in Brynsadler.

Mr Lane did not raise any concerns or ask any questions of the Council.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Lane's statement be noted.

(c) **Car park at Ivor Park**

An un-named resident sought clarification on the plans for the car park adjacent to the newly constructed premises of the Pontyclun Football Club in Ivor Park.

The Clerk explained that while the Community Council contributed towards the cost of improving the car park many years earlier, responsibility for managing the land lay with the Pontyclun Football Club under a lease granted to the club by the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

4. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

(i) **Crime**

P C Mike Perry and PCSO Jade Lewis reported verbally on the eleven recorded crimes in the Community for the last month.

P C Perry stated that, overall, it had been a relatively quiet month in the Community. This was particularly noticeable in the evenings in Pontyclun. P C Perry was of the view that more people were coming in to Pontyclun in the evenings and visiting restaurants.

(ii) **Restructuring**

P C Perry also reported that following a restructure in the police force he would no longer be the beat manager for the whole of the Community.

Responsibility for the Community would be shared with P C Perry's colleague, P C Danny Pike, with the latter having responsibility for Pontyclun and Brynsadler and P C Perry retaining responsibility for Miskin and Groesfaen and other villages towards Pontypridd. In practice, P C Perry's area had doubled in size.

(b) **Reports from Members**

A Member sought clarification of the rules applying to the operation of scrap dealing in residential areas.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk make enquiries of the Borough Council.

5. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 8 February, 2011**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 8 February, 2011, be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

**Possible toilet provision by shopkeepers in Pontyclun**

A Member asked what response had been received from shopkeepers in Pontyclun about the Community Council's decision to sound out whether shopkeepers would be prepared to make toilet facilities at their premises available to members of the public and at what cost.

The Clerk responded that the circular letter to shopkeepers had not yet been sent but that he would give the matter priority.

7. **Minutes of the Council's Special Meeting of 24 March, 2011**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council's Special Meeting of 24 March, 2011, be approved as an accurate record.

8. **Matters arising**

A Member asked what progress had been made towards erecting additional signage for the Council's car park in Heol yr Orsaf, Pontyclun, since it was believed that some signage had been removed.

The Clerk advised that the Community Council only became responsible for the car park from 1 April, 2011. Since that time he had been in touch with the Borough Council and requested a site meeting to discuss the improvements required by the Community Council. The Clerk advised that the site meeting was imminent.

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

9. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Capital Strategy for 2011/12**

The Council discussed a Financial Strategy document for 2011/12.

The Clerk advised that the document was not a capital budget for 2011/12 as a significant part of the expenditure listed would be treated as revenue expenditure in the Council's accounts.

**RESOLVED:** That the document be approved subject to:

- (i) the inclusion of an additional grit bin being located on Council owned land at The Hollies, Brynsadler

- (ii) tenders being sought from local builders for the proposed provision of a timber bus shelter at a site to be identified in Mwyndy
- (iii) the Borough Council being asked to identify a suitable site for a bicycle stand in Pontyclun
- (iv) the Borough Council being asked to provide the Community Council with a date when the proposed highway improvement works would begin
- (v) a review of the progress made under the capital strategy document being undertaken later in the financial year.

(b) **Report on the public conveniences in Pontyclun**

A preliminary report from the architect engaged by the Community Council to suggest ways of modernising the conveniences was discussed.

The architect reported that the existing building is capable of repair and upgrading to meet current requirements for disabled persons' access and incorporate recent environmental controls to reduce the reliance on resources such as power and water, etc.

The architect concluded that a new building of similar space standards is likely to be more expensive than undertaking improvements to the existing. A new building would also waste an existing resource rather than recycling the old and is therefore more sensitive to current environmental concerns.

A wide ranging discussion took place which covered the need for self cleaning facilities, doors which opened outwards similar to public conveniences in Laugharne and Llandovery and ways of adapting the existing conveniences by reducing its size.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Clerk contact the architect and ask him to produce proposals to meet current environmental standards, sustainability factors and incorporating the comments of the Council.
- (ii) That the architect be also asked to provide the Council with estimated costs for carrying out the work.

(c) **Community Council's insurance cover**

The Clerk reported that on 11 March, 2011, the Council received its invitation to renew its insurance cover for 2011/12 from Zurich Municipal.

The invitation incorporated an offer to renew cover for 1, 2 or 3 years with a 2 and 3 year renewal being offered at a discount over a one year renewal.

On 1 April, 2011, the date on which the Council took up its responsibilities for managing the car park at Heol yr Orsaf, the Clerk contacted Zurich Municipal and explained that the Council would not be in a position to decide on the length of its insurance renewal until the next meeting of the Council on 12 April, 2011. The Clerk also requested an extension of the Council's existing policy to cover the newly acquired car park at Heol yr Orsaf.

Zurich Municipal agreed to the Council's requests and on 4 April, 2011, provided revised renewal figures for 1, 2 and 3 years.

*f*  
**RESOLVED:** That the Council opt for a 1 year renewal of its insurance cover with Zurich Municipal and thereafter test the market for subsequent insurance cover.

(d) **Community Council owned land in Brynsadler**

The Council discussed the e-mails received from Mr Ken Forsdyke, Chairman of the Pontyclun Ward Community Trust, about the erection of a fence on land adjacent to the Community Council owned land.

**RESOLVED:** That the e-mails be noted.

(e) **After School Club at Pontyclun Primary School**

The Council discussed a copy letter addressed to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors of Pontyclun Primary School and subsequent e-mails from Mr & Mrs A Enticott, seeking the Community Council's support in opposing the plans to relocate the After School Club currently being held at the Pontyclun Primary School.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council decline to become involved in the matter since it believed that the School's Governing Body is best placed to decide the issue.

(f) **Meeting with a representative of the Pontyclun RFC**

The Clerk reported on the meeting which had taken place between representatives of the Community Council and a representative of the Pontyclun RFC about the earlier proposal for the erection of a gate to control entry into the car park adjacent to the club.

The Council's representatives were told that the problem being experienced by the club appeared to have improved considerably since concerns were first raised. In addition, the club had recently installed CCTV which was expected to improve the situation still further. The club would continue to monitor the situation.

**RESOLVED:** That no further action be taken for the time being.

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

The Council received details of the 2011 Annual Conference of One Voice Wales in October and was invited to nominate representatives to attend.

**RESOLVED:** That the Chairperson and Clerk be nominated to attend the Conference.

(h) **Application for financial assistance**

The Council discussed a letter from Angharad Rees of the 1<sup>st</sup> Pontyclun Guides who had been selected to represent Wales at its international event in Belgium in July.

In order to attend the event it was necessary for Angharad to raise approximately £900. She asked whether the Community Council would be prepared to make a contribution towards her fundraising activities.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council make a contribution of £200 towards Angharad Rees's fundraising subject to her providing a report of her experience at the event for publication on the Community Council's website.

(i) **Application for financial assistance**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance from the charity Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal. It was stated that in the Regiment's last operational tour to Afghanistan in 2009 seven servicemen had been lost.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council make a donation of £250 towards the appeal.

(j) **One Voice Wales**

The Council was invited to renew its membership of One Voice Wales for 2011/12.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council renew its membership.

(k) **Councillor Development Programme, 2011**

The Council discussed the Councillor Development Programme for 2011 planned by One Voice Wales.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Sarah Jenkins be nominated to attend the course on Community Engagement scheduled to be held on 21 July, 2011.

(l) **Ynni'r Fro Programme**

The Council received preliminary details of the Welsh Assembly Government's Ynni'r Fro Programme from the Energy Saving Trust.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council obtain further information on local hydro-electric power generation and details of where this had been successfully implemented.

(m) **One Voice Wales volunteers**

Following increasing requests for comments on a diverse range of technical subjects, One Voice Wales, conscious of its own lack of expertise in some of these areas, had circulated its member councils and asked if any members with expert knowledge in any of 20 fields would be prepared to assist the Association in preparing responses.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council reply to One Voice Wales to the effect that no members of the Pontyclun Community Council were in a position to provide expert advice in the special fields listed.

(n) **Planning**

(Councillors Rea and Huish declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in this item of business as members of the



Borough Council's Planning Committee. They remained in the Council chamber but took no part in the Council's deliberations)

The Council discussed planning applications contained in the latest weekly notices.

**RESOLVED:** That Members study the full details of the planning applications now available on the Borough Council's website and notify the Clerk of any comments they may have for forwarding to the Borough Council.

(o) **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendices 12 and 13 to the Council's agenda.

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

(a) **Re-launch of Pontyclun Library**

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from the Borough Council for all Members of the Community Council to attend a small ceremony on 27 April, 2011, for the re-launch the Pontyclun Library following significant improvement work at the premises.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council be represented at the ceremony by Councillors Rea, Davies and the Clerk.

(b) **Charter arrangements with the Borough Council**

The Clerk reported that following the introduction of the Charter arrangements a considerable number of reports and minutes of Borough Council meetings were now being received by the Community Council. Many of the reports to Borough Council committees were voluminous and often comprised in excess of 100 pages.

In an ideal situation the Clerk would have wished to pass the information on to Members of the Community Council in hard copy format. However Community Council resources were not sufficient to allow this to happen. The Clerk sought the Council's wishes for dealing with these reports.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk not be required to produce hard copies for Members but that the links to the reports be forwarded to those

Members of the Community Council who had access to the internet.

11. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Working hours of the Clerk**

The Council received a report from the Clerk on the re-arrangement of his hours of work under his contract of employment with the Community Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the re-arrangement of hours be noted.

(b) **Adoption of Local Development Plan 2006-2021**

The Council received an Adoption Statement for the Local Development Plan 2006-2021 from the Borough Council.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the Adoption Statement be noted.

- (ii) That the Clerk enquire whether the Borough Council could provide a copy of the Plan on disk for each Member of the Community Council.

(c) **Litter at Pontyclun railway station**

The Council discussed the reply from Network Rail to a complaint from the Community Council about the accumulations of litter in the vicinity of the station.

It was claimed by Network Rail that its contractors cleaned the "track beds and up to 100 metres either side of stations on a regular frequency" and that "Pontyclun Station is cleaned approximately 6 times a year".

The Community Council was deeply sceptical over whether cleaning had taken place as regularly as Network Rail claimed since there were some items of litter which were believed to have been present for many months.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That Network Rail be asked for a site meeting in order to substantiate to Network Rail representatives that any cleaning activities had fallen far short of an acceptable standard.

- (ii) That at the site meeting, in the absence of proposals from Network Rail to improve cleaning standards, permission be sought

for cleansing staff of the Borough Council to enter Network Rail owned land and, away from any danger zones, remove accumulations of litter.

- (iii) That an estimate be obtained from the Borough Council of the cost of erecting signs requesting members of the public using the station to dispose of their litter in the litter bins provided.

(d) **Revised diversion routes for Public Right of Way (Footpath No. 334) in Talygarn**

(Councillor Griffiths, having earlier recorded his personal interest in this item of business, vacated the Council chamber and did not return to the meeting.)

The Clerk reminded the Council that at its February meeting the Council had decided not to offer any objection to the route of the proposed diversion.

Since the February meeting two further amendments had been made to the proposed diversion routes by the Borough Council. These were reflected in Appendices 17 and 18 to the Council's agenda.

**RESOLVED:** That the proposed further amendments be noted.

(e) **Licensing arrangements**

The Council discussed the correspondence which had taken place between the Community Council and the Borough Council about licensing applications and the apparent lack of facility for objections to be made to an application.

The Borough Council had replied to the effect that any resident living in the vicinity of a licensing application could make comments to the Licensing Authority as an "interested party". In addition comments could be made through a resident's local Borough Council member.

In the near future it was likely that further reforms to licensing application procedures would be made through an improvement in the community engagement. The Borough Council had highlighted community engagement as part of their improvement plans for 2011/12.

**RESOLVED:** That where Members of the Community Council become aware of concerns of residents about licensing applications they should advise residents to write direct to the Borough Council.

(f) **Actuarial Valuation of the Borough Council's Pension Fund**

The Clerk advised Members that the Community Council, as an employing authority in the Borough Council's Pension Fund, had been provided with a copy of the actuarial report on the fund at 31 March, 2010.

**RESOLVED:** That any Member wishing to read the report should contact the Clerk.

(g) **Countryside Council for Wales**

The Clerk advised the Council of a newsletter, extending to 19 pages, from the Countryside Council for Wales listing a wide range of organisations which were able to provide grants towards schemes providing for the management and protection of the environment, countryside and seas in Wales.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be kept on file.

12. The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.