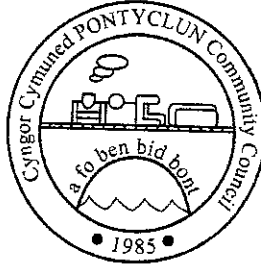


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

Pontyclun Community Council

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Minutes of the July monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Minor Hall of the Bethel Baptist Church, Heol Miskin, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 July, 2011.

PRESENT: Community Councillors J G Davies, J V Huish, Ms S Jenkins, R G Norman, M Rea, and Ms C Willis

Also in attendance: Three members of the public and, for part of the meeting, Ms Karyl May of the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Ms V A Cale, D Clayton-Jones, P Griffiths and S Rogers

2. **Declarations of interest**

The following declarations of interest were made:

Councillor Ms S Jenkins for agenda item 8(c) – “ I am a member of the Pontyclun Ward Community Trust”

Councillor J V Huish for agenda item 9(e) – “ I am a member of the Borough Council’s Planning Committee”

Councillor M Rea for agenda item 9(e) - “I am a member of the Borough Council’s Planning Committee “

3. **Bereavement**

Councillor Rea reported the sudden death while on holiday of the Clerk's wife, Dorothy, on 29 May, 2011.

Members stood for a minute as a mark of respect.

4. **Chair**

In the absence of the Chairperson, Councillor Willis, the Vice Chairperson, Councillor Rea, occupied the Chair.

5. **Order of business**

The Chairperson advised that he was revising the order of business to allow Ms Karyl May, Democratic Services Manager at the Borough Council, to give a presentation to the Council on the roles of members at the Borough Council.

6. **Members' roles at the Borough Council**

Ms Karyl May gave the Council a wide-ranging presentation on the decision making processes at the Borough Council and the roles of members. The presentation was supported by a comprehensive set of notes.

Following her presentation Ms May answered a number of questions from Members.

Ms May was thanked for her informative presentation.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

7. **Chair**

Towards the end of Ms May's presentation, Councillor Willis arrived at the meeting and gave her apologies for her late arrival. Councillor Willis occupied the Chair.

8. **Residents' concerns**

Heol yr Orsaf car park, Pontyclun

Mr A R Lane stated that a letter had been sent from the Management Committee of the Pontyclun Community Centre to the Borough Council about the number of parking spaces available at the car park leased by the Community Council in Heol yr Orsaf, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

9. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

In the absence of a representative from the police there was no police report.

(b) **Reports from Members**

(i) **Closure of police office**

Councillor Rea reported that Inspector Griffiths, the new police inspector at Talbot Green, had spoken to him in connection with the closure of the police office at the Pontyclun Community Centre. Inspector Griffiths had advised that the closure was as a direct result of the need to make savings due to a reduction in police funding. Similar closures of police offices had been made across the force's area.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(ii) **Damage to boundary wall**

Councillor Norman reported damage to a boundary wall at Swyn yr Afon, Heol y Coed, Pontyclun when an uninsured driver car driver collided with the wall.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(iii) **Helicopter**

Councillor Graham Davies sought information from the Council on the presence of a helicopter which had hovered over Pontyclun for a period of time some days earlier. He believed that certain roads in the vicinity were closed at about the same time.

No Member had any information to offer Councillor Davies.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

10. **Minutes of the Council's Annual Meeting of 10 May, 2011**

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

11. **Matter arising**

Calendar of meetings for 2011/12

The Clerk reported that the meeting of the Community Council scheduled to be held in the Pontyclun Community Centre on 13 December, 2011, would not be held at the Community Centre since the Committee Room had been allocated for another purpose on that evening.

The venue for the meeting would be the Bethel Baptist Church and Centre.

RESOLVED: That the change of venue be noted.

12. **Minutes of the Council's monthly meeting of 10 May, 2011**

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

13. **Matters arising**

(a) **Winter grit bins**

The Council discussed in detail the need for additional winter grit bins in the Community and the refusal of the Borough Council place grit bins at three identified sites. The three sites had been refused grit bins provision on the basis that the sites did not score highly enough in the Borough Council's assessment process.

The Borough Council was prepared to place grit bins at the identified sites subject to the Community Council meeting the costs of purchase and replenishment of salt.

The Council expressed its disappointment at the Borough Council's stance. One Member, while acknowledging the need for grit bins, pointed out that if the Community Council was to purchase its own grit bins it would result in a situation where Council tax payers would be paying twice for the service since an element of Council tax already provided for the provision of grit bins. The Member accepted, however, that if the Community Council did not make a purchase Community residents were likely to suffer in the event of a winter of the severity of the last winter.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Community Council accept the Borough Council's offer to purchase and site three winter grit bins, with an initial fill of salt, for the sum of £212.48 per bin.
 - (ii) That the Community Council decline the Borough Council's offer for each subsequent refill of a winter grit bin at a cost of £115.24 per bin.

- (iii) That supplies of salt for refills be obtained from local builders' merchants.
- (iv) That the possibility of equipping each winter grit bin with a lock to deter pilferage be explored.
- (v) That when the Community Council publishes its next newsletter an article on the Borough Council's refusal to fund the provision of the three additional bins be included.

(b) **Pontyclun Community Flood Plan**

The Clerk reminded the Council that at an earlier informal meeting with an officer of the Environment Agency a tacit agreement had been made to assist the Agency in its production of a Pontyclun Community Flood Plan by holding a public meeting in the Pontyclun Community Centre in June or July, 2011.

For a number of reasons it had not been possible to hold the meeting in June or July and, as a result of many people taking holidays in August, that month would also appear to be unsuitable. The Clerk sought the Council's guidance for a month in which to hold the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Environment Agency about the possibility of holding the meeting in September, 2011.

(c) **Community Council owned land in Brynsadler – Proposed lease with the Pontyclun Ward Community Trust**

It was reported that following further discussions with the Pontyclun Ward Community Trust it had been agreed to make further amendments to the draft lease to reflect:

- (i) the removal of the "no fishing" clause and
- (ii) that the Trust would only become responsible for any legal actions arising from the actions of the Trust

The specific wording under (ii) above would be forwarded to the Clerk.

RESOLVED: That after receipt of the amendments the Clerk

request the Community Council's solicitor to make the necessary amendments to the draft lease.

14. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Notice of Motion**

The following Notice of Motion, moved by Councillor Norman and seconded by Councillor Davies, was discussed by the Council.

"The Community Council is to be commended in its attempts to give the public more opportunity to attend Community Council meetings by rotating venues for its monthly meetings.

However, an analysis of attendance by residents living locally to these venues shows disappointing results.

It is also very discouraging to note that in the relatively short period of venue rotation there have been two instances where the Council has been unable to gain access to the premises where meetings have been scheduled necessitating a last minute transfer to alternative premises. On yet another occasion, there was a 20 minute delay in starting a meeting while the caretaker was contacted to unlock the premises. It is only by chance that it was not raining when councillors were unable to gain access to hold their meetings

Prior to the introduction of the rotation policy, Council meetings had been held at the Pontyclun Community Centre for over 20 years without any problems of gaining access.

I move that the Council, bearing in mind the experience of problem-free access for over 20 years, and the poor results since venue rotation was introduced, revert to its former practice of holding its meetings in the Pontyclun Community Centre."

A full exchange of views took place on the Notice of Motion. On being put to the vote the motion was lost.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk place an item on the agenda for the Community Council's September meeting to discuss ways of further improving communication with the public.

(b) **Pontyclun Public Conveniences**

(Councillor Rea declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in this item of business and remained in the Council chamber. He did not take part in the Council's deliberations)

The Council discussed the e-mail from Mr Martin Killick about the proposals to modernise the conveniences.

Mr Killick advised that before he could undertake any work for the Council it would be necessary for the Council to approve a formal contract containing his terms and conditions.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That, subject to Mr Killick's terms and conditions being comparable with the terms and conditions of other architects, approval be given for Mr Killick to undertake work the architectural work for the Community Council.
 - (ii) That a comparison of Mr Killick's terms and conditions be made with the terms and conditions of Robert Roberts, architects, in Talbot Green.
 - (iii) That in the event of there being no significant difference in the terms and conditions quoted by Mr Killick delegated powers to progress the modernisation plans to the Clerk.

(c) **New recreational field at Ffordd Cefn yr Hendy, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed a copy letter from Mrs Lowri who believed that there had been a lack of consultation by the Borough Council over the plans to develop the new recreational field at Ffordd Cefn yr Hendy, Pontyclun. Mrs Lowri further expressed her worries about the appearance of graffiti in the area. Mrs Lowri had written direct to the Borough Council about her concerns.

Members did not share Mrs Lowri's perceptions about a lack of consultation. Enquiries made with the head of the nearby school showed that there was a full understanding of the development plans. It was also noted that there had been correspondence on the facility with the Borough Council and that the Borough Council had taken action to remove graffiti in the vicinity.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That Mrs Lowri be thanked for her letter in the expectation that she would, by now, have received a response from the Borough Council.

- (ii) That Mrs Lowri be advised that the Community Council would be pleased to offer assistance in the event of other concerns.

(c) **Application for financial assistance**

The Council discussed an application from Miss Rhian Edwards of Lanelay Road, Talbot Green, who asked whether the Council would be prepared to make a financial contribution towards the her costs of representing Girlguiding Wales at a community based project during the summer.

The Chairperson, Councillor Willis, volunteered that she would make a donation of £50.00 to Miss Edwards' expenses from her Chairperson's Allowance.

(e) **Planning**

(Councillors Rea and Huish declared personal but not prejudicial interests in this item of business as members of the Borough Council's Planning Committee. They elected to remain in the Council chamber but did not take part in the Council's deliberations)

The Council discussed planning applications contained in the latest Weekly Notices received from the Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That no comments be offered to the Planning Authority on any of the planning applications for this month.

(f) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved for the creditors listed in Appendix 8 to the Council's agenda.

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

None were reported.

16. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Members' roles at the Borough Council**

This item had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

(b) **Former Brofiscin Quarry, Groesfaen**

Councillor Rea reported on the recent open day held in Groesfaen to explain to residents the proposals for dealing with the chemicals which had been dumped in the former Brofiscin Quarry many years ago.

Work would be undertaken to construct a permanent cap to contain the chemicals and assurances were given that during construction work there would be no danger to the public as a result of fumes or leachate. The result would be significant peace of mind for residents.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(c) **New town centre proposals**

A discussion took place on the recent, well attended, exhibition on the proposals for a new town centre on the site currently occupied by Leekes and the sites of the former Purolite and Staedtler factories.

It was felt that there were a wide range of issues to be resolved and any Section 106 benefit agreement should be shared between local communities. Development was likely to take several years and it was important to avoid any withdrawals by any of the parties resulting in a partially completed development.

Councillors Rea and Huish stated that they had already met the Director of Regeneration and Planning at the Borough Council to discuss their concerns in advance of the submission of a formal planning application. In particular, They had requested an independent traffic assessment of the proposals and sought assurances that existing shopkeepers in the locality would not be adversely affected.

RESOLVED: That the position and reports be noted.

(d) **Community Council Allotments Competition, 2011**

The Council received information on the winners of the 2011 Competition at Appendix 9 to the agenda.

RESOLVED: (i) That the information be noted.

(ii) That the Council thank Councillor Norman for his hard work in organising the Competition.

(e) **Ombudsman's Annual Report for 2010/11**

The Council received a copy of the covering letter from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales on his Annual Report for 2010/11.

The Clerk advised that only one copy of the report had been provided to the Council but any Members wishing to see the report should let him know. Alternatively, a copy of the report could be read on the Ombudsman's website.

RESOLVED: That the letter and comments of the Clerk be noted.

(f) **L'Oreal volunteers**

The Clerk reported that since the Council's last meeting he had been contacted by a personnel officer at the L'Oreal factory in Talbot Green and told about the company's policy of sending their staff out into communities for one day each year to carry out public work.

The officer had asked whether there was any work which three members of the L'Oreal's staff could carry out in Pontyclun for one day. Insurance cover and protective clothing would be provided by L'Oreal.

The Clerk told the Council that he had chosen three wayside seats which were in need of painting and given this to the L'Oreal staff as the project for the day.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council welcome the contribution made by L'Oreal staff.
 - (ii) That enquiries be made to establish whether any other companies offered a similar volunteer facility to communities.

(g) **Talygarn Pavilion**

The Clerk reported that since the Council's last meeting he had been approached by Dr Grace Karamura, vicar of Pontyclun with Talygarn, who asked if assistance could be given in getting the terms of the Section 106 agreement enforced to provide water to the cricket pavilion in Talygarn. The absence of a water supply to the pavilion had prevented the premises from being brought back into beneficial use in the community.

The Clerk had contacted the Borough Council and asked for pressure to be brought on the developer to fulfil his responsibilities under the Section 106 agreement. Within a few

days of the call it had been noted that work to connect the water supply had started.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(h) **St Paul's Church, Pontyclun**

Councillor Huish reported that he had been approached by Dr Grace Karamura about the possibility of the Community Council making a financial contribution to building work at the church.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Huish ask Dr Grace to arrange a presentation on the proposals to a future meeting of the Community Council.

(i) **Cannon and Smith law practice, Pontyclun**

Councillor Jenkins referred to the earlier report at (f) above and said that she had received an e-mail from Cannon and Smith, solicitors, who stated that they wished to become involved in the Community. Councillor Jenkins suggested that the firm may wish to become involved in a similar way to the recent involvement of L'Oreal staff.

RESOLVED: That further enquiries be made on the offer from the firm and, if necessary, arrangements be made for a presentation to the Council.

17. **Further matters for decision**

(a) **Exclusion of the press and public**

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the next item of business on the grounds that disclosure of the proceedings would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

(b) **Allocation of grants for 2011**

Before awarding any grants the Clerk reminded the Council of the guidance received from the former District Auditor for awarding grants, namely:

- (i) whether payment was of direct benefit
- (ii) whether benefit is in proportion to the payment made
- (iii) whether the organisation's own resources are sufficient and other potential income considered including other local councils'

- (iv) whether the money was being used to circumvent any limitation on specific powers
- (v) whether the award of grants would result in a precedent leading to applications from other groups

RESOLVED: That the following grants be made:

Organisation	Amount	
	£	p
Merched Y Wawr	100	00
Cantorian Pontyclun	100	00
Pontyclun with Talygarn Parish	250	00
Llantrisant & District Local History Society	100	00
Pontyclun Women's Institute	100	00
Pontyclun & District Allotments Association	100	00
Pontyclun Senior Citizens	100	00
P'clun Institute & Athletic Ladies' Bowls Club	100	00
Bobath Children's Therapy Centre, Wales	100	00
St Paul's Church Nursery	250	00
Bethel Baptist Boys' Club	100	00
Minnesingers Male Chorus	100	00
Shelter Cymru	100	00
Miskin & Mwyndy W. I.	100	00
Miskin Manor Cricket Club	300	00
St Paul's Sunday School	100	00
St David's Church, Miskin	250	00
St David's Church, Groesfaen	250	00
Pontyclun Athletic Men's Bowling Club	200	00
Pontyclun Ladies Short Green Bowls Club	100	00
Tuesday Young at Heart Club	100	00
The Bridgend Samaritans	100	00
Babell C M Church, Groesfaen	250	00
Pontyclun Football Club	300	00
Pontyclun Bosom Pals	100	00
After 50s Afternoon Club	100	00
Miskin Explorers' Scout Group	100	00

18. The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

Barrie A. Willis