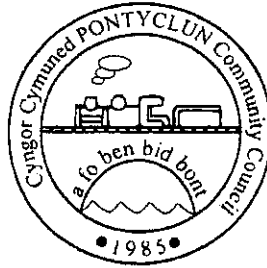


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun**Pontyclun Community Council**

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Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun at 7.00 p.m. on Monday, 12 June, 2006.

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Three members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**

No apologies were received.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

No declarations were received.

3. **Minutes of the Council's Annual Meeting of 3 May, 2006**

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

4. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

5. **Minutes of the Council's monthly meeting of 3 May, 2006**

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

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Land in Miskin**

The Clerk advised the Council that the sale of part of the small plot of land in Miskin owned by the Council had been

completed and the sum of £1,000.00 had been received from the purchaser.

A few days after the sale, the Community Council received a letter from Dr and Mrs Wynne Davies of Ceulan, Miskin, drawing attention to the habit of residents in the area of depositing waste on the plot. Dr and Mrs Davies asked whether the plot of land could be better managed with the possibility of improving the side entrance into Miskin Church. The letter was attached at Appendix 3 to the agenda.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Clerk arrange for the Council's Handyman to tidy up that part of the land still in Council ownership.
 - (ii) That, as a long-term measure, the Council consider the possibility of improving the side access into Miskin Church.

(b) **Green Pontyclun**

(i) **Planters**

The Clerk advised that he had sought the consent of the Highway Authority to re-locate 4 planters on Highway Authority owned land. Seven possible sites had been suggested. The Highway Authority had refused consent for three of the sites on the grounds that they might cause a visibility hazard to traffic. Of the other sites, the Community Council believed that some were unsuitable. Two further sites were still sought.

It was hoped that a site might be available outside the Peking House Chinese restaurant and a further site adjacent to the Autopoint garage. Both sites were in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That enquiries to re-site the planters be carried out with urgency.
 - (ii) That, if possible, the planters be re-sited on a Sunday morning to minimise traffic congestion.

(ii) **Hanging baskets**

The Clerk advised that the order for hanging baskets had been placed with Boverton Nurseries several

months earlier and delivery of the baskets was imminent. As soon as the baskets were received they would be erected.

The report was noted.

(c) **Photography Competition**

The Clerk reported that judging of the Council's 2005 Photography Competition took place in the Pontyclun Library on 24 May, 2006, by Mr Richard Williams, photographer for the Llantrisant Observer and South Wales Echo.

Mr Williams had commented on the very high standard of entry and had subsequently reproduced some of the photographs in an edition of the Llantrisant Observer. The Clerk had also arranged for an article on the Competition to accompany the photographs.

Provisional arrangements had been made with Mr Williams and Mrs Saunders, the Librarian, for a formal presentation to the winning entrants to be made at 5.00 p.m. on 27 June, 2006.

The Clerk read out a letter he had received from Mrs Betty Walker of Rhyd y Nant, Pontyclun, congratulating the Community Council on organising the event and suggesting possible ways in which the competition might be improved upon in future years.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Chairperson, Councillor Sarah Jenkins make the presentation to winning entrants on the evening of 27 June.
 - (ii) That an invitation be extended to all Council Members to attend the presentation to winning entrants on the evening of 27 June.
 - (iii) That the Clerk thank Mrs Walker for her congratulations and suggestions for future competitions.
 - (iv) That the Clerk prepare details for the Community Council's 2006 competition.

(d) **New Riverside Walk**

(i) **Report of the Clerk**

The Clerk gave a verbal report on the site meeting which took place with Members and residents of Millfield on the morning of Sunday, 21 May, 2006.

The purpose of the meeting was to view the removal of undergrowth and branches by contractors of the Welsh Development Agency which residents feared would result in the public accessing the new riverside walk from Millfield. Residents were concerned that if access from Millfield were allowed this would lead to traffic congestion in Millfield

Members present, and the Clerk, repeated to residents the assurance given at an earlier Community Council meeting that the Community Council had no plans to create an access point to the new walk from Millfield. Instead, the Community Council would allow the regeneration of undergrowth to discourage the public from accessing the land and footpath from Millfield.

The Clerk further advised that while most residents were happy with this outcome, one resident expressed her opposition to the plans believing that it would be better to create an access point from Millfield to the footpath and newly purchased land.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council re-affirm its decision not to create an access point from Millfield.
 - (ii) That a request be made to the Borough Council's Footpaths Officer for advice on the range of alternatives open to the Council.
 - (iii) That investigations be undertaken into whether there were any health and safety considerations in opening the footpath to the public along the newly acquired land.

(ii) **Comments of Mr Keith Noakes**

The Clerk reported that during the site meeting, one Millfield resident, Mr Keith Noakes, handed the Clerk a list of comments emphasising the verbal points made by residents and giving some suggestions for dealing with issues arising from the plans of the Community Council to make the land available for

walking by the public. A copy of the comments and suggestions was attached as Appendix 4 to the Council's agenda.

RESOLVED: That the Council thank Mr Noakes for his note and consider the detail of his suggestions at a later date.

(ii) **Residents comments on the purchase of the land**

The Council discussed two letters received from residents who had written expressing their support and appreciation of the Council's purchase of the land for a riverside walk. One resident had offered to make a donation of £500 towards a fighting fund if the actions of the Community Council should be challenged at law.

RESOLVED: That the actions of the Clerk in thanking the residents for their support be confirmed.

(e) **Traffic congestion in Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed a letter from Mr Mike Saunders of Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun, about the problem of traffic congestion in Palalwyf Avenue.

Mr Saunders proposed that, as a short-term measure, traffic entering the Institute and Athletic Club's car park should do so by a designated entrance and a designated exit.

As a long-term solution to the problems of congestion, Mr Saunders proposed that the Borough Council give consideration to making the traffic flows through Cerdin Avenue and Palalwyf Avenue "one way" with traffic entering Cerdin Avenue from Cowbridge Road and rejoining Cowbridge Road through Palalwyf Avenue.

RESOLVED: That both proposals submitted by Mr Saunders be supported with the short-term proposal being forwarded to the Institute and Athletic Club's Management Committee and the long-term proposal being forwarded to the Borough Council.

7. **Police matters**

The Clerk advised the Council that PCSO Martin had rung him earlier that evening to say that he would not be able to attend the meeting and

asked if the Clerk could report the following two items to the Council for information:

(a) **Pontyclun railway station**

In the light of earlier reports of problems being experienced at the railway station, PCSO Martin was making enquiries with the British Transport Police about the possibility of installing a CCTV camera at the station which would link in to the CCTV system in Pontyclun. In this way, monitoring of the camera would be undertaken from the Borough Council's control room in Pontypridd. It was hoped that funding for this initiative would be met by British Transport Police.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **Parking problems outside Spar, Cowbridge Road**

In the light of concerns about parking difficulties outside the Spar grocers' shop in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, investigations were being made into the possibility of getting deliveries to the premises delayed.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(c) **Deliveries to Bargain Booze, Cowbridge Road**

Mr K Penhallurick, a member of the public in attendance at the meeting, raised the subject of deliveries to Bargain Booze in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

Mr Penhallurick pointed out that delivery vehicles regularly reversed down the narrow lane running alongside the post office. This practice had resulted in damage to the fence separating the lane from Railtrack land and to the bridge parapet. The damage had not been repaired.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with Railtrack and the Borough Council.

(d) **Police And Communities Together meeting**

A report was received from Councillor Davies on the first PACT meeting. Future meetings were scheduled to be held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, starting at 6.00 p.m., on the first Wednesday of every month.

The initial meeting was attended by 6 members of the public and lasted 2.5 hours. The following matters were discussed:

(i) **Pontyclun railway station**

The police had visited the railway station on a number of occasions and had asked congregating youths to move along. As a long term measure to resolve issues at the station, the feasibility of installing a CCTV camera link into the nearby Borough Council CCTV system was being explored.

(ii) **Parking restrictions in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

Following the concerns expressed by some residents of Cowbridge Road about the recently enforced restrictions on parking in lower Cowbridge Road, the police had clarified that the restrictions would continue to be enforced. It was clarified that it was the Highway Authority which was responsible for the introduction of highway restrictions and any representations against the restrictions should be made direct to the Highway Authority.

(iii) **Theft in Miskin**

It was reported that the police were investigating a case of theft in Miskin.

(iv) **Vandalism at the cricket pavilion, Miskin**

It was also reported that the police were investigating an incidence of vandalism to the cricket pavilion in Miskin.

(v) **Anti social behaviour, Miskin**

The meeting was told of instances of anti social behaviour in Miskin. There had been occasions when signs being torn down and a builder's skip being moved into the middle of a road. It appeared that three separate groups, who kept in touch by mobile phone, were responsible for the problems. Residents in Miskin were very concerned at the actions of the youths and threats of physical action against the youths had been made.

Councillor Davies stated that he was prepared to act in a liaison capacity between the PACT and the Community Council.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Davies's report be noted.

8. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Charter 88**

The Council discussed a letter and enclosure from the co – directors of Charter 88 seeking the Community Council's support for the organisation's campaign for a modern democracy by empowering citizens and local councils.

The Council was asked to support the objectives of Charter 88 by completing the enclosure with its letter asking the local MP to support the campaign by signing "signing Early Day Motion No. 641 and handing it to the Table Office.

RESOLVED: That the Council support in principle the objectives of Charter 88 and that a request be made to the local MP to sign the Early Day Motion.

(b) **Electoral arrangements in Wales**

The Council received the discussion document from the Local Government and Public Services Committee of the National Assembly of Wales on Electoral Arrangements in Wales dated 2 June, 2006.

RESOLVED: That discussion of the document be deferred to the Council's July monthly meeting.

(c) **Pontyclun Digilab**

The Council received a presentation from Mr Kevin Reeves, manager, on the facilities available at the Digilab located at The Bridge in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

Mr Reeves explained that the facilities at the Digilab were funded by the European Union and were aimed, mainly at the 16 to 25 age group. The Digilab provided a host of high tech equipment including 10 workstations, web cams, laptop computers and cameras. Use of the facilities is free.

Mr Reeves pointed out that the facilities at the Digilab would be particularly attractive to students carrying out projects and possibly schoolchildren. The target attendance for the remaining 12 months of funding is 120 attendees. Mr Reeves suggested

that the Digilab's facilities might be of use to the Community Council in constructing its website.

The Digilab is open from midday to 9.00 p.m. from Tuesdays to Fridays and from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Saturdays. Expert assistance is always on hand for users.

RESOLVED: (i) That Mr Reeves be thanked for his informative presentation.

(ii) That the Chairperson contact Mr Reeves to discuss the possibility of using Digilab facilities for the Community Council's website.

(d) **Christmas decorations**

The Council discussed its plans to erect Christmas lights in December, 2006. It was agreed that the erection of Christmas lights was best undertaken by a specialist company.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the specialist company based at Coed Cae Lane, Pontyclun, with a view to getting one of their representatives to discuss the Community Council's needs with group of Members comprising the Chairperson and Councillors Davies and Norman.

(e) **Royal Glamorgan Hospital**

Councillor Thomas told the Council that she was alarmed to hear reports that there was a possibility of the status of the relatively new Royal Glamorgan Hospital being down-graded. The result of any down-grading would mean that certain casualty patients would need to receive treatment at the Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr Tydfil.

During the period the Royal Glamorgan Hospital had been operational it had earned a first class reputation and, in some cases patients were transferred to the Royal Glamorgan from the University of Wales Hospital in Cardiff.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Area Health Authority, the local Member of Parliament and the local Welsh Assembly Member telling them that the Pontyclun Community Council is opposed to any plans to down-grade the status of the Royal Glamorgan Hospital and seeking their support in

opposing any plans for a reduction in status of the hospital.

(f) **Pontyclun Community Centre**

Councillor Norman advised the Council that the Management Committee of the Pontyclun Community Council was currently faced with a significant bill for carrying out exterior works to the Community Centre. As a regular user of the Centre, and the garage to the rear of the Centre, Councillor Norman asked if the Community Council would be prepared to make a contribution towards the cost of carrying out the exterior works.

After explaining the matter, Councillor Norman, as a member of the Management Committee of the Community Centre, immediately vacated the Council Chamber and took no part in the Council's deliberations.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council make a contribution of £2,500 towards the cost of the exterior works required at the Pontyclun Community Centre.

(g) **Management Committee of the Pontyclun Community Centre**

The Council received an invitation to submit a nomination to sit on the Management Committee of the Pontyclun Community Centre.

RESOLVED: That as Councillor Norman is already a member of the Management Committee, no additional nomination be made.

(h) **Pontyclun Community Centre – Retirement of Caretaker**

The Council discussed a note from the Secretary of the Management Committee of the Pontyclun Community Centre advising of the retirement of the Centre's Caretaker, Mrs Sheila Heke.

The Council was invited to send up to two representatives to the retirement party being held in the Centre on 30 June, 2006, and to consider whether the Council wished to make a contribution to Mrs Heke's leaving present.

The Clerk advised that on an earlier occasion he had sought the advice of the District Auditor on whether the Community Council had powers to make a contribution to an employee's retirement present. The advice received was that the Community Council

could only spend money on matters which were of community benefit. There were no powers which would allow the Council to contribute towards the retirement present of an employee. It had been suggested by the District Auditor that it was within the discretion of the Chairperson to make a contribution to a leaving present from the Chairperson's Allowance.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Chairperson attend the retirement function for the Caretaker.
 - (ii) That any contribution to the Caretaker's leaving present be at the discretion of the Chairperson.

(i) **Planning**

The Council discussed the latest Weekly Notifications received from the Planning Authority.

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

Application No. 06/0483/10

That while the Community Council is not opposed to the application, the Planning Authority be urged to recognise that the application is within a Conservation Area and that any development should be only be undertaken after the receipt of appropriate professional advice.

Application No. 04/2333/13

That the Council is opposed to the application since it is outside the Local Plan and constitutes development in open countryside.

Application No. 06/0690/10

That the Community Council is opposed to the application on the grounds that:

- (i) the ground is polluted
- (ii) the development would lead to nuisance from traffic.
- (iii) the neighbouring land contains trees which are subject to a Tree Preservation Order

(iv) there is important flora and fauna on the site.

(j) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 16 to the Council's agenda.

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

There were no matters reported.

10. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Resignation of Councillor Henderson**

The Council received a letter dated 1 June, 2006, from Councillor Henderson stating that he wished to resign his membership of the Community Council. Councillor Henderson stated that due to business reasons he was moving from Pontyclun to the North of England.

The Clerk advised that there was now a casual vacancy on the Council and that the vacancy would need to be advertised. If ten or more residents, within a period of 14 days, requested a poll the casual vacancy would be filled by election. If no poll was requested, it was open to the Council to co-opt a resident on to the Council.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk arrange for the casual vacancy to be advertised.

(ii) That Councillor Henderson be thanked for his services to the Community Council.

(b) **Members' Code of Conduct**

The Clerk reported that the "roadshow", organised by the Borough Council to bring members of community councils up to date on amendments to the Members' Code of Conduct, had been postponed and would now take place on 27 June, 2006.

The Clerk pointed out that the re-arranged date clashed with an existing commitment for the presentation to prize-winners of the Community Council's Photography Competition.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council's apologies be given to the Borough Council for non-

attendance at the roadshow due to a prior commitment.

- (ii) That the Borough Council be requested to forward any relevant papers from the roadshow to the Clerk.

(c) **Application to develop land at Mwyndy, Pontyclun**

The Clerk reported that he had been told, verbally, that an appeal had been made against the refusal of the Borough Council to award planning consent for development at Mwyndy. The appeal would normally be heard by a planning inspector appointed by the Welsh Assembly Government.

It was likely that the appeal hearing would last between one and two weeks and was unlikely to be heard before the end of the year. Formal details of the appeal hearing would be sent to the Community Council in due course.

RESOLVED: That when details of the hearing were known, the Clerk advise the Inspector that a representative of the Community Council would like to speak at the hearing in opposition to the application for development.

(c) **One Voice Wales**

The Council received draft minutes of the Area Committee's meeting of 20 April, 2006.

RESOLVED: That the draft minutes be noted.

(d) **Community Council's Website**

The Council received an offer from Sian E Evans, who is a fluent Welsh speaker, to give assistance with the translations of material to be included on the Community council's website.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council thank Ms Evans for her offer of assistance and to say that if the Council required assistance it would contact her.

(e) **Area Regeneration Coordinator**

The Council received the report of the Area Regeneration Coordinator, Mr Adrian Evans, following his presentation at the Council's April meeting.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That Mr Evans be asked whether there was any progress on the possibility of mini football pitches being made available to the Community.
 - (iii) That Mr Evans be asked if he could place pressure on the Acting Group Director for Environmental Services at the Borough Council to progress the outstanding Section 106 arrangements of Cefn yr Hendy, Pontyclun.
 - (iii) That the Chairperson write to the Borough Council asking that the £100K sum allocated for improvements at Cefn yr Hendy under the Section 106 agreement be ring fenced to ensure that the money is not used for other purposes in the Borough.

(f) **Determination of appeal**

The Council received the result of a planning appeal where the Inspector had dismissed an appeal for consent to extend a hairdressing salon at 11 Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

The result was noted.

(g) **Community Council's Allotments Competition**

RESOLVED: That the Council re-affirm its decision to support the 2006 Community Council Allotments Competition with a grant of "£225.00.

(h) **Boundary Commission**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had contacted the Borough Council's Electoral Registration officer with a view to Members receiving a presentation at his office on the review of community boundaries in Wales. Two dates had been offered to the Members for the presentation, namely the afternoons of 7th and 14th July, 2006.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk advise the Borough Council that 14th July, 2006, would be more suitable for Members to receive the presentation.

11. The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.