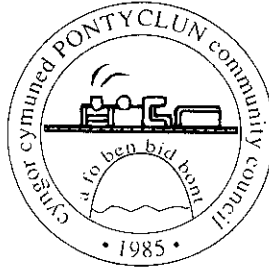


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

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Pontyclun Community Council

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Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held at the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 12 November, 2003.

PRESENT: Community Councillors C G Bendle, Mrs V A Cale, C Davies, J G Davies, J R Dilworth, J V Huish and M Rea (Chairperson)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

P C Kettle of the South Wales Constabulary for part of the meeting.
 There were also approximately 25 to 30 members of the public in attendance in the Council Chamber and the adjacent corridor.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors R G Norman, S Rogers and Mrs P Thomas

2. **Declarations of interest**

Declarations of interest were invited from Members.

There were no disclosures.

3. **Order of business**

RESOLVED: That in view of the large number of members of the public present the order of business be revised and that the first item of business to be transacted would be the application for planning consent to construct a new access road to the Ely Valley Industrial Park in Pontyclun.

4. Planning application No. 03/1759/10 – Proposed access road to existing Industrial Estate – Ely Field, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun

The Chairman, Councillor Rea, welcomed members of the public who had attended the meeting to hear the Council's consideration of the planning application.

Councillor Rea explained that it would not be possible to give every person present the opportunity to speak. Instead, and conscious that there were supporters and opponents of the application, he intended asking a representative from each of the groups in attendance to nominate a representative to speak for 4 minutes to present its case. He asked that each representative address comments to the Chair.

The applicant for planning consent, Mr J Barrington Williams, was the first representative to speak. He stated that he was a long standing member of the Community and that it was wrong to say that the proposal was new. The Ely Valley Industrial estate had been in existence for over 100 years. There was a need to sustain the 400 jobs at the site. Many of the workers at the site made an important contribution to the local economy. The existing access to the estate was overloaded. A study had shown that the most acceptable way of improving access was by the construction of a relief road through Ely Fields. He stated that his own campaign to generate support for his proposal would start immediately. The second representative to speak stated that he was employed at the estate. Prior to this he was unemployed and due to financial pressures came near to losing his home. He was grateful for the opportunity of a job on the estate since it was a lifeline. He was concerned that if the new access road was not constructed it would make his job at the estate less secure.

*insert following sentence:

"Mr. Williams indicated his willingness to talk to all parties concerned about his proposal"

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Mr. Williams indicated his willingness to talk to all parties concerned about his proposal.

The third representative to speak, Mr Mark Watts, of Station Terrace, Pontyclun, stated that he was in favour of any measure which would relieve residents of Station Terrace of the constant passage of heavy vehicles through the street. He pointed out that Station Terrace residents' quality of life was greatly reduced by the regular passage of heavy goods vehicles and the constant use of the street for on-street parking. Despite the volume of heavy traffic using the road, developers had seen fit to construct a children's play area in the street. Mr Watts made reference to the promises for the development of the west-bound railway platform to provide additional car parking spaces. Years had passed and the development was still awaited. Mr Watts emphasised that he did not wish to see additional traffic use Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. He believed that access to the Industrial Estate should be from Tylagarw.

The fourth representative to speak was Mrs Howard of River's Edge, Pontyclun. Mrs Howard said that she, and her neighbours, were opposed to the application. She said it would adversely affect large sections of the community. Specifically, the proposal would produce additional heavy

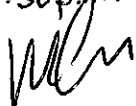
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traffic for the commercial area of Pontyclun and compromise the safety of users of the well used playing fields and children's play area at Maesyfelin. It was also probable that wildlife in the area would be seriously affected and residential properties would face the likelihood of light pollution and flooding.

* insert the following sentence

The last representative to speak was Mr Graham Leigh, Chairman of the Clos Brenin & Millfield Action Committee. Mr Leigh drew the Council's attention to the well attended public meeting of the previous Friday. He asked the Council to take into account that there was a significant consensus of opinion against the application for development. For the Council's information Mr Leigh tabled the minutes of the public meeting and the letter of objection sent by the Action Committee to the Planning Authority.

"A number of residents were informed that the meeting would commence at 7.30 p.m."



Councillor Huish addressed the meeting. He stated that as a Cabinet Member of the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council he was not in a position to influence the decision on the application. Neither would he comment on the application.

Councillor Huish stated that he understood residents' concerns and had already asked for traffic and environmental studies to be carried out to aid full consideration of the application. Councillor Huish said that saying "yes" or "no" to the application was insufficient since all the groups present at the meeting had issues which needed to be addressed. It was the role of the Community Council to ensure that the differing views of residents were conveyed to the Planning Authority. It is the role of the Planning Authority to take into account the differing views and apply planning legislation and planning policies. Councillor Huish stated that, contrary to some of the opinions being expressed, he believed that the application processes had only just begun; the processes were not at an end.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the Council note Councillor Huish's inability, as a member of the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Cabinet, to influence a decision on the application and the decision of Councillor Huish not to comment on the application.

(ii) That the views expressed by all five representatives, including those expressed in writing by Mr Leigh, be forwarded to the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

5. **Chairperson's/Leader's business**

(a) **Remembrance Sunday**



The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, reported that he and Councillor Huish had laid wreaths at the Pontyclun War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. At the Miskin War Memorial a wreath was laid by Councillor Chris Davies.

(b) **Public Meeting**

Councillor Rea reported that he had represented the Council at the well attended public meeting referred to under minute 2 above on the evening of Friday, 7 November, 2003.

(c) **Post-box in Groesfaen**

Councillor Rea was pleased to be able to report that after numerous telephone requests and several letters to Royal Mail extending over a year a replacement post-box had been erected in Groesfaen.

(d) **Rate Support Grant settlement – 2004/05**

The Leader, Councillor Huish, reported that preliminary indications had been received by the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council of the likely Rate Support Grant Settlement for 2004/2005.

While the average settlement for unitary authorities in Wales was likely to be a 5% uplift, it appeared that the provisional settlement for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council was likely to be in the region of 4.6%. The outlook appeared to be a shortfall of £11 million. If this shortfall in finance were to be raised through the Council Tax, it would result in an increase of around 24%. Representations for a more realistic settlement would continue.

The Welsh Assembly Government had also given notice to local authorities that it would withdraw any capital monies which had not been committed by the end of the financial year.

In summary, the settlement for 2004/05 appeared to be the hardest for many years.

(e) **Groesfaen highways safety scheme**

Councillor Huish reported that the “red carpets”, part of the highways safety scheme in Groesfaen, would shortly be re-painted.

(f) **Y Pant Comprehensive School, Pontyclun**

Councillor Huish was very pleased to be able to announce that Y Pant Comprehensive School, Pontyclun, had achieved top place in the Sunday Times’ Parent Power List of comprehensive schools in Wales.



RESOLVED: That the Clerk congratulate the Headteacher and Chairperson of the Board of Governors on the excellent achievement of the School.

(g) **Traffic calming scheme, Pontyclun**

Councillor Huish reminded the Council that investigations into the traffic problems experienced in Pontyclun had been taking place for some time. Councillor Huish was pleased to be able to say that plans were now at an advance stage and a display of the Borough Council's proposals would shortly go on display in Pontyclun Library.

RESOLVED: That when the dates for the display were known, the Clerk notify all Members.

(h) **Proposed new school for Cefn yr Hendy, Pontyclun**

Councillor Huish stated that plans were well advanced for the new primary school for Cefn yr Hendy, Pontyclun. Councillor Huish believed that the Council would benefit from a presentation from one of the lead officers in progressing the school, Mr Garry Kiss.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk invite Mr Kiss to make a presentation to the Council at the monthly meeting for February or March, 2004.

6. **Police matters**

(a) **Reported crime**

P C Keddle stated that there were 23 reported crimes in the Community for the month of October.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(b) **Playarea at the western end of Station Terrace, Pontyclun**

P C Keddle reported that complaints continued to be received about youths gathering in the children's playarea at the end of Station Terrace, Pontyclun. Some people found the presence of youths to be intimidating.

A Member also reported that there had been complaints that the playarea was dirty, littered with rubbish and was the focal point for anti social behaviour.

Some Councillor Huish advised that discussions were to take place with local residents and the Pontypridd and District Housing Association about the future of the playarea.

(c) **Telephone kiosk, Llantrisant Road**

Councillor Bendle drew P C Keddle's attention to the vandalism that had recently been caused to the telephone kiosk near St Paul's Church in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. The glass door had been shattered with broken glass covering the adjacent footways.

P C Keddle noted the incident.

(d) **Reduction in police resources**

Councillor Bendle referred to the restructuring of police areas locally which had resulted in Gilfach Goch and Tonyrefail being transferred out of the area to be replaced by Beddau, Church Village and Tonteg. Councillor Bendle pointed out that without an increase in police resources the restructuring had resulted in a lower level of police cover for the Community of Pontyclun. He was very disappointed at this outcome since the large increase in the police precept in 2003/2004 was to provide better levels of police coverage.

Councillor Dilworth reported that he had earlier attended a liaison committee meeting. The view expressed at that meeting was that despite the large increase in the police precept the levels of police cover were at a stand still.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council's concern at the reduced level of policing in the Community of Pontyclun be expressed to the South Wales Constabulary.

(e) **Illegally parked vehicles**

Councillor Dilworth said that he was pleased to note that traffic wardens had been active in Pontyclun of late enforcing parking restrictions. The deterrent effect was important and would discourage motorists from flouting the law.

P C Keddle noted Councillor Dilworth's comments.

(f) **Footway in front of Heol Miskin, Pontyclun**

P C Keddle asked whether clarification had been obtained from the Highway Authority on whether the footway could be used by vehicles or whether it was for the exclusive use of pedestrians.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk clarify the matter with the Highway Authority.



(g) **Parking at the rear of Station Terrace, Pontyclun**

A Member reported that a resident of Station Terrace, Pontyclun regularly parked his vehicle in the lane at the rear of Station Terrace. The result was that the vehicle caused an obstruction and other residents were unable to fully access the lane.

P C Keddle agreed that he would speak to resident concerned.

7. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 1 October, 2003**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 1 October, 2003, be approved as an accurate record.

8. **Matters arising**

(a) **Proposed diversion of Footpath No 334, Talygarn**

The Clerk reported that the application for the diversion of the Footpath was due to the desire of the owner of Maesyderi to sell the property.

RESOLVED: That the Council object to the application to divert the Footpath on the grounds that the application is being made solely for financial benefit. The Community Council could see no valid reason for the diversion of a footpath which had followed its present route for generations.

(b) **Council's meeting of 3 December, 2003**

The Clerk reminded the Council that an approach had been received from the Pontyclun Girls' Club asking if the Council would be prepared to move its meeting of 3 December, 2003 to allow the Girls' Club to have access to the Committee Room in connection with Christmas festivities.

The Clerk advised that he had checked with the Caretaker and found that the only alternative date in the week following the 3 December would be on 10 December, 2003. Some Members stated that this date was inconvenient to them.

RESOLVED: That the Council cancel its meeting of 3 December, 2003. The next meeting of the Council would be on Wednesday, 7 January, 2004.

9. **Matters reported for decision**



(a) **Public conveniences, Pontyclun**

The Clerk reported that, in accordance with the Council's earlier decision, he had advertised the part time post of caretaker as two separate posts. The advertisement was displayed on all noticeboards throughout the Community.

No applications were received and, as a temporary measure, the Clerk's son had continued to cover the duties of caretaker.

The Council discussed the options for filling the post.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council reverse its earlier decision to appoint two separate employees and advertise the vacancy for one temporary part time caretaker until the Council has decided whether to incorporate the duties of caretaker into the duties of an assistant to the Council's Handyman.
 - (ii) That the Clerk's son be thanked for assisting the Council in keeping the public conveniences open for the public.

(b) **Proposal to change the date of the 2004 local elections**

The Council discussed a letter from the Welsh Assembly Government setting out the options for holding elections in 2004. It appeared that the Assembly was in favour of combining the elections for European, community councils, county councils and county borough councils with election day being 10 June, 2004.

The Community Council's view on the proposals were sought.

- RESOLVED:** That the Clerk advise the Assembly that the Council is in favour of keeping the traditional pattern of elections which is well understood by the public. This view is also supported by an overwhelming majority of electoral registration officers in Wales who are apprehensive and concerned about the complications involved in holding three elections on the same day.

(c) **Christmas celebrations in the Community**

The Council discussed proposals for Christmas celebrations.

- RESOLVED:** That the Council arrange for:



- (i) the purchase and erection of Christmas trees for commercial premises in the main thoroughfares of the Community
- (ii) painting competitions at Pontyclun Primary and Y Pant Comprehensive schools; the prizes at each school to comprise book tokens to the value of £25, £15 and £10
- (iii) a best illuminated house competition in each of the Council's four wards with a prize of £25 to each ward winner
- (iv) that in the poster advertising the Community Council's best illuminated house competition, residents' attention be drawn to a similar competition being organised by the Borough Council
- (v) that a judging committee for the best illuminated house competition be formed comprising the seven Members present at the meeting together with the Clerk.

(d) **Planning**

The Council discussed planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ended 19 & 26 September, 3, 10,17 & 24 October, 2003

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

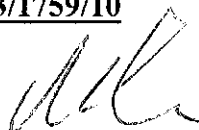
Application No. 03/1605/01

That while the Community Council is not opposed to the application, the Planning Authority be urged to ensure that no light pollution results for residents living in the vicinity of the premises.

Application No. 03/1764/10

That the Community Council is opposed to the proposed development since no parking facilities are provided. The likely result is that patrons of the premises will park in adjacent side streets and add considerably to congestion problems already faced by local residents.

Application No. 03/1759/10



That in addition to the comments made under item 3 above, the Highway Authority needs to carry out a traffic assessment to assess the impact of the proposal on Pontyclun.

Application No. 03/1692/10

That the Council is opposed to the proposal since the reason underlying the application is to gain planning consent for a landfill site.

A landfill site in the heart of the conservation area of Miskin village is entirely inappropriate.

The access road to the earmarked site for landfill is narrow and unsuited for the movements of heavy vehicles.

The area earmarked for landfill is part of the floodplain of the river Ely. If the level of the floodplain were to be raised it would cause flooding on land along the river Ely which is presently above the flood plain.

The area earmarked for landfill contains several trees which are covered by tree preservation orders. There is a strong likelihood that these trees would be damaged by the infill and the movements of heavy plant.


(e) **Licensing – Plans for the refurbishment of the Marquis of Bute**

The Council viewed plans submitted for a licensing application in connection with proposed refurbishment work at the Marquis of Bute, Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the application for a license be opposed on the grounds that no parking facilities are provided. The likely result is that patrons of the premises will park in adjacent side streets and add considerably to congestion problems already faced by local residents.

(f) **The Role, Functions and Future Potential of Community and Town Councils in Wales**

The Council received an invitation to attend a one day conference in Cardiff arising out of the study carried out by the University College, Aberystwyth, into the Role, Functions and Future Potential of Community and Town Councils in Wales.



RESOLVED: That the Clerk, together with any other Members of the Council, be authorised to attend the one day conference.

(g) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 7 to the Council's Agenda.

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

There were no matters for decision which had arisen since the despatch of agendas.

11. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Annual Conference of the Wales Association of Community & Town Councils**

The Clerk gave a verbal report on what was likely to be the last Annual Conference of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **Planning Appeal**

The Council received details of an appeal against the decision of the Planning Authority not to award planning consent for the change of use of land at "Hollybush" Elms Farm, Llanharry Road, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the details be noted.

(c) **Station Approach, Pontyclun**

The Council noted that the Clerk had written to Network Rail drawing attention to the urgent need for maintenance of Station Approach. The Clerk added that he had subsequently received a telephone call to say that work would commence within a fortnight.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

(d) **Ramblers' Association**

The Council noted the letter of 31 October, 2003, complimenting the Community Council in its speedy resolution of a problem with a stile on Footpath No. 295.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(e) **Renewal of a Public Entertainment Licence**

The Council received details of an application for the renewal of a public entertainment licence at the Windsor Hotel, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Council note the application.

(f) **Brofiscin Liaison Group**

The Council received the notes of the meeting of the Brofiscin Liaison Group which took place on 18 August, 2003.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(g) **Junction 34 on the M4 motorway**

The Council discussed the response of the Borough Council about traffic congestion in accessing the M4 motorway at Junction 34.

The Community was pleased to learn that the problem was being investigated in conjunction with the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council and Cardiff County Council.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

(h) **Industrial Estate signage**

The Council received the reply of the Borough Council in which it was stated that the Community Council's contribution towards improving industrial estate signage had been utilised in providing two additional signs. No further erections were planned.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Huish pursue the matter with the Borough Council.

12. The meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.

