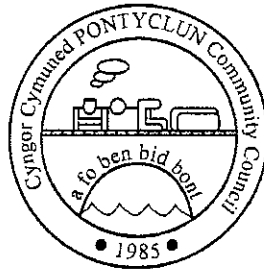


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

Pontyclun Community Council

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Minutes of the October monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Bethel Baptist Church and Centre, Heol Miskin, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 October, 2010.

PRESENT: Community Councillors J G Davies, D Clayton-Jones, P Griffiths, R G Norman, M Rea and C Willis

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Mike Perry and PCSO Jade Lewis of the South Wales Constabulary (for part of the meeting) and four members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors V A Cale, J V Huish, S Jenkins, and S Rogers

2. **Declarations of Interest**

The following declaration of interest was made:

Councillor M Rea for agenda item 10 (h) - "I am a member of the Borough Council's Planning Committee "

3. **Members' Code of Conduct**

The Council was addressed by Mr Paul Lucas, the Monitoring Officer of the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

Mr Lucas advised the Council that it was the wish of the Borough Council's Standards Committee that an officer from the Borough Council address each community council within the Borough to underline the importance of following the Members' Code of Conduct and to update community councillors on recent developments affecting

Carole A. Willis

the Code. Mr Lucas advised that it was likely that the standards regime in England would disappear but for the time being, in Wales, the current arrangements would continue.

Mr Lucas summarised significant points from the notes of guidance produced by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales and gave the Council practical examples of how the Code of Conduct had been interpreted. He referred to the case in the Borough Council which had resulted in a councillor being suspended for a period of 6 months for a breach of the Code.

For Members' guidance, Mr Lucas distributed copies of the guidance from the Public Services Ombudsman in Wales and an extract from the revised Borough Council Code which had been adopted in May, 2008.

Mr Lucas was thanked by the Council for his presentation and for highlighting key points in the Code.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange for copies of the documentation distributed by Mr Lucas to be made available to those Members who were not present.

4. **Residents' concerns**

(a) **Site for a new bus stop in Brynsadler**

Dr O'Reilly thanked the Community Council for giving clarification on the site for the new bus stop in Brynsadler. The site had been agreed following a meeting between representatives of the Highway Authority, the police and the Community Council.

RESOLVED: That the thanks be noted.

(b) **Request for improvements to footpath and provision of grit bins and dog waste bins**

Dr O'Reilly referred to the requests made by Mrs Smith of Maesyfelin. While he accepted that the maintenance of rights of way and the provision of grit and dog waste bins were the responsibility of the Borough Council, he asked whether the Community Council could support the requests made by Mrs Smith.

RESOLVED: That the three requests for improvement made by Mrs Smith be supported by the Community Council and that the Clerk follow up the matters with the Borough Council.

(c) **Traffic proposals for Pontyclun**

Dr O'Reilly expressed his concerns over the proposals by the Highway Authority for improved traffic management in Pontyclun. He pointed out that consultation needed to be undertaken with residents and people affected by the proposals.

Dr O'Reilly was advised that copies of the proposed plans for improved traffic management in Pontyclun were on display in the local library from 12 October and would be on display until the end of October. Additionally, the plans would be on public display in the Pontyclun Community Centre from Wednesday, 13 October to Saturday 16 October. An officer from the Highway Authority would be present in the Community Centre on Thursday, 14 October and would be able to answer queries raised by members of the public.

Notices advertising the displays had been displayed in shops in Pontyclun and notifications of the displays had also been sent to residents living in the centre of Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(d) **Ownership of land**

Mr A R Lane, acting secretary of the Pontyclun Community Centre Management Committee, gave a detailed account of correspondence which had taken place over the ownership of land at the Pontyclun Community Centre. Mr Lane stated that he had requested the production of documents from the Borough Council to prove its ownership of the land. The documents had never been produced to him.

Councillor Rea reminded Mr Lane that extensive enquiries had been carried out by the Borough Council in connection with the challenge to ownership of the land. The Borough Council's solicitors were satisfied that the land was owned by the Borough Council. This information had already been conveyed to the Management Committee. The Management Committee had admitted that ownership of the land rested with the Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the position be noted.

5. **Minutes of the Council's monthly meeting of 14 September, 2010**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's monthly meeting of 14 September, 2010, be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Plans for improved traffic management and pedestrian safety in Pontyclun**

The Council was of the view that this item of business had been substantially covered earlier in the meeting but some Members wished to comment on the contents of an e-mail copied to them by Dr O'Reilly.

In particular, Councillors Rea, Griffiths and Norman wished to make it clear that the proposal for a second crossing in Pontyclun was not new. Representations for a second crossing for Pontyclun had been made to the Highways Authority over 25 years. Various reasons had been given why the Highway Authority had been unable to respond to the requests. The most recent reason was that a second crossing would be unsafe for pedestrians due to its siting and the relative speed of traffic approaching the crossing. The current plan to "raise" the second crossing and impose a speed restriction on traffic approaching the crossing overcame the earlier concern.

Members also pointed to the new proposals having been drawn up by qualified traffic management engineers after a study of traffic flows in Pontyclun. Members refuted suggestions that the new proposals had ".....no justification" and that the proposals had been put forward ".....so that councillors can look good and be seen to be doing something."

The Council was of the view that proposals for improved traffic management for Pontyclun needed to be judged in the light of local conditions in Pontyclun. Comparisons with traffic management schemes in another area were invalid unless that other area had the same local conditions as were prevalent in Pontyclun.

Members expressed the importance of the public having an opportunity to comment on the Highway Authority's proposals for Pontyclun. The Council had reservations about whether the Highway Authority had circulated details of its proposals widely enough.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Rea contact the Highway Authority about the limited circulation of leaflets offering residents the opportunity to view and comment upon the scheme for Pontyclun.

(b) **Council's Annual Return for 2009/10**

The Clerk confirmed that following the internal audit of the Community Council's accounts for 2009/10 and the Council's Special Meeting of 30 September, 2010, the Annual Return for 2009/10 had been forwarded to the Council's external auditor by the appointed date.

Following the late changes to the Accounts and Audit Regulations earlier in the year, the report from the Council's external auditor together with the 2009/10 accounts needed to be brought back to the Council for formal approval by 31 December, 2010. In the event that the information had not been received in time for the December monthly meeting, a special meeting of the Council would need to be convened to meet the deadline.

RESOLVED: The Clerk's report was noted.

(c) **Bicycle stand**

Councillor Griffiths suggested that as the Council approved site for the erection of a cycle stand had now been proposed by the Highway Authority for the site for the new pedestrian crossing in Pontyclun, consideration should now be given to erecting a cycle stand on the "build-out" outside the physiotherapist's premises in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Rea raise the matter with the Highway Authority engineers.

7. **Minutes of the Council's Special Meeting of 30 September, 2010**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's Special Meeting of 30 September, 2010, be approved as an accurate record.

8. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

9. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

(i) **Crime Report**

PC Mike Perry and PCSO Jade Lewis presented the monthly report on reported crimes. It was reported that 15 crimes had been reported since the last meeting of the Community Council. The list of reported crimes was read out.

In response to a question from a Member it was stated that seven people had been apprehended in connection with the offences

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(ii) **Halloween and Bonfire Night celebrations**

The officers reported that the police were looking for cooperation from the public in making the evenings enjoyable for all.

In advance of Halloween information had been distributed to local shopkeepers giving advice on ensuring that the evening passed without incident.

It was planned that police teams would be on duty on both evenings.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(iii) **Pontyclun RFC**

The police officers referred to the earlier agreement by the Community Council to found the erection of a gate at the Pontyclun RFC.

It was reported that the problem which had led to the agreement to erect a gate had now become "manageable". There was no need to erect a gate at this time.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(iv) **Police helicopter**

In response to a question from Councillor Clayton-Jones, P C Perry confirmed that the current cost of operating the police helicopter was in the region of £1,000 per hour.

P C Perry stated that the use of the police helicopter had resulted in the saving of several lives and that the costs of operation were shared with the Gwent Constabulary.

P C Perry believed that the Dyfed-Powys police force might be considering abandoning use of their helicopter.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **Reports from Members**

None were made.

10. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Notice of Motion**

The Chairperson advised that the Notice of Motion at Appendix 3 to the Council's agenda had been withdrawn by Councillor Norman but that Councillor Norman reserved the right to bring the Notice of Motion back to the Council at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the position be noted.

(b) **Footpaths, grit bins and dog waste bins**

The Council discussed the letter from Mrs Smith of Maesyfelin, at Appendix 4 to the agenda, and forwarded to the Council by Dr O'Reilly.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That there was little the Council could do to improve the standard of the footpath near the Brynsadler fishponds and bring it to the standard of the footpath alongside the river Ely at Ynysddu,
- (ii) That the Council would request the Highway Authority to replace the grit bin which was formerly located near the Pontyclun Library.
- (iii) That the Council would request the Highway Authority to erect dog waste bins in the Ivor Woods.

(c) **Sites for bus shelters**

(i) **Brynsadler**

The Council discussed correspondence from Dr O'Reilly contained at Appendix 6 to the agenda and a site plan, at Appendix 7, forwarded to the Council by the Borough Council.

The Council was pleased to note that that the site had been jointly agreed between representatives of the Highways Authority, the police and the Community Council.

Councillor Rea advised that an officer from the Borough Council had been in contact with a supplier of bus shelters and obtained an estimate of between £2,250 and £2,500 for the erection of the shelter.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council approve the purchase and erection of a bus shelter in Brynsadler at the approved site at an estimated sum of between £2,250 and £2,500.

(ii) That given the cooperation of the Pontyclun Community Council in allowing its earlier bus shelter in Brynsadler to be demolished to assist Redrow to develop the Clos Brenin site, that Redrow be asked for a financial contribution towards the Community Council's costs.

(ii) **Mwyndy**

Members also discussed the provision of a bus shelter, at the existing bus stop, to serve the needs of residents of Cefn yr Hendy and Mwyndy. It was noted that the existing bus shelter is in open countryside without any protection for bus users from the weather.

RESOLVED: That the Council approve the construction of a stone-faced bus shelter in Mwyndy to serve the needs of Community residents.

(d) **Search & Rescue – RAF Chivenor**

The Council discussed the press release forwarded by Councillor Aspey of the Porthcawl Town Council about plans to hold a protest meeting in support of the retention of 24 hour Search & Rescue facilities at RAF Chivenor.

An invitation was extended to all councillors to attend the protest meeting being held at the Rest Bay car park in Porthcawl at 3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 31 October, 2010.

RESOLVED: That a decision on whether to attend the protest meeting be left to individual councillors.

(e) **National Eisteddfod, 2011**

The Council discussed the letter from the organisers of the 2011, National Eisteddfod, to be held in Wrexham, requesting a donation towards the cost of staging the event.

RESOLVED: That the Council make a donation to the appeal of the same amount contributed by the Council in 2010.

(f) **Pontyclun Foodbank Project**

The Council discussed a letter from "Bob" a volunteer with the Pontyclun Foodbank Project based at Bethel Baptist Church, Pontyclun.

Bob advised the Council that the Foodbank Project was in need of a laptop computer and printer to keep records of organisations, client details, statistics and to send e-mails. The cost of the hardware had been estimated at £450.00 and the Council was asked if it would consider making a contribution towards the purchase.

RESOLVED: That the Council make a contribution of £100 towards the purchase.

(g) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 11 to the Council's agenda.

(h) **Planning**

(Councillor Rea declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in this item of business. He elected 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 from the Planning Authority.

RESOLVED: (i) That the following comments be made to the Planning Authority:

Application No. 10/0842/10

That while the Council is not opposed to the application, attention be drawn to the fact that when garages are converted into habitable

accommodation it normally results in increased on-street parking.

Application No. 10/0875/10

That while the Council is not opposed to the application, attention be drawn to the fact that when garages are converted into habitable accommodation it normally results in increased on-street parking.

- (ii) That details of planning application No. 10/0877/10 be provided to Councillor Norman when they are received.
- (iii) That in relation to planning application No. 10/0987/18 the Council congratulate Mr Mark Hebden on the first class woodland management schemes he had implemented in Talygarn over several years

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

None were reported.

12. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Community Council owned land in Brynsadler - Pontyclun Ward Community Trust**

(Councillor Griffiths declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in this item of business. He elected to remain in the Council chamber but did not take part in any discussion)

The Chairperson reported that a meeting of the Council's working group and members of the Pontyclun Ward Community Trust had taken place the previous evening.

The meeting reviewed the conditions in the draft lease and achieved substantial agreement subject to any comments by the Council's solicitor.

The Council was informed that when the terms of the lease had been agreed by both parties, locally, a copy of the lease would need to be forwarded to the Welsh Assembly Government, as successor body to the former Welsh Development Agency, since this was a condition in the purchase agreement. After the

lease had been approved by the WAG it would need to be signed by both local parties.

The Chairperson also advised the Council that she had provided the Trust members with details of grants which may be available towards creating an access to the land.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **Correspondence on the proposed bus stop in Brynsadler and the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960**

The Council received a copy of a response from the Clerk to Dr O'Reilly in response to an earlier e-mail from Dr O'Reilly.

RESOLVED: That the exchange of correspondence be noted.

(c) **Domino Pizza in Pontyclun**

The Council discussed the e-mail from Tej Randeva, Director of the SSG Group which had recently opened a Domino Pizza outlet in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council write to Tej Randeva to thank him for his letter.
- (ii) That the Council suggest to Mr Randeva that his company might wish to make a contribution to the Pontyclun Foodbank Project.

(d) **Car parking in the vicinity of Pontyclun Primary School**

The Clerk read out an e-mail from Dr Katherine Moodley thanking the Community Council for explaining why the Pontyclun Institute and Athletic Club had been forced into closing its private car park to parents who were dropping off and collecting their children from the nearby primary school.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Dr Moodley's e-mail be noted.
- (ii) That a copy of Dr Moodley's e-mail be forwarded to the Pontyclun Institute and Athletic Club for information.

12. The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.

