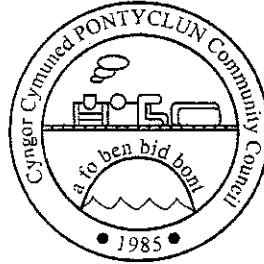


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

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Minutes of the December monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Bethel Baptist Church & Centre, Heol Miskin, Pontyclun at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 13 December, 2011.

PRESENT: Community Councillors R G Norman, M Rea, S Rogers and C Willis

Also in attendance: Two members of the public and Miss Angharad Rush for part of the meeting

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors J G Davies, P Griffiths, J V Huish and S Jenkins

2. **Declarations of interest**

The following declaration of interest was made:

Councillor M Rea for agenda item 7(h) - " I am a member of the Borough Council's Planning Committee"

3. **International Girl Guiding event, Belgium**

The Council received an informative presentation from Miss Angharad Rush, a former pupil of Pontyclun Primary School and Y Pant Comprehensive School, following her selection to represent Wales at the International Girl Guiding event held in Belgium during the summer.

Following the presentation Miss Rush answered a number of questions from the Council and stated that she intended to use the knowledge and experience acquired during in the course of her attendance to further her career.

RESOLVED: That Miss Rush be congratulated on her presentation and wished well in her career.

4. **Residents' concerns**

(a) **Mr Cecil Walker**

Mr Walker addressed the Council and spoke of his concerns over the publication, at what he understood, by the Community Council, of a pamphlet called "Pontyclun News". He said that he was a member of the Pontyclun Action Group and that PAG had already used the title "Pontyclun News" in pamphlets they had published. Mr Walker said that the publication of the latest pamphlet had caused confusion in the minds of the public.

Mr Walker was told that the recent publication of "Pontyclun News" was not the work of the Pontyclun Community Council. It was believed that the pamphlet had been published by the Pontyclun Labour Party. The Community Council had its own concerns over the publication since it contained a number of inaccuracies about the work of the Community Council. The inaccuracies had been brought to the attention of the Pontyclun Labour Party as evidenced by the letter produced at Appendix 10 to the agenda for that evening's Council meeting.

Mr Walker apologised for the misunderstanding and thanked the Council for clarifying the matter.

(ii) **Mr A R Lane**

Mr A R Lane addressed the Council and asked whether, at the forthcoming elections, there would be 12 Community Council seats to be filled in accordance with an earlier minute of the Community Council and, also, the decision of the Borough Council to transfer the residential developments at Clos Brenin and Ynysddu into the Community of Pontyclun. Mr Lane tabled a letter detailing his request. He stated in his letter that a copy of his request to the Community Council had also been sent to the Borough Council.

Mr Lane was advised that the re-alignment of the boundaries of the Community to include the residential developments of Clos Brenin and Ynysddu was not as a result of any decisions made by the Community Council or the Borough Council.

The re-alignment was as a result of a legislative Order by the Welsh Assembly Government following the acceptance of a report from the Boundary Commission for Wales. The Order had provided for 11 councillors for the Community Council with 5

councillors to represent the Cefn yr Hendy Ward, 4 councillors to represent the Maesyfelin Ward and 1 councillor to represent each of the Miskin and Groesfaen Wards.

Mr Lane appeared not to accept the explanation and repeated his question.

Councillor Rea confirmed the verbal explanation given to Mr Lane by the Council and said a written response would be sent to him.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange for a letter to be sent to Mr Lane giving the background to the re-alignment of boundaries and the current position where 11 seats on the Community Council would be due to be filled at the May, 2012, elections.

5. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

In the absence of a representative from the police Councillor Rea reported verbally on a telephone call he had received from the police earlier in the day.

Councillor Rea advised that during the last month there had been 11 reported incidents. They included a burglary, thefts and public order offences. The police had agreed to provide Councillor Rea with a copy of the crime report with a further copy to the Clerk for his information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **Reports from members**

There were no reports from Members for this month.

6. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 8 November, 2011**

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

7. **Matters arising**

(a) **Risk Management Review**

The Council discussed the Risk Management Review contained at Appendix 12 to the agenda.

The Clerk advised the Council that most of the risks faced by the Council were covered by its comprehensive insurance policy with Zurich Insurance. However, there were some risks which were not covered and legislation now provided that the Council should produce a list of potential risks and outline methods of dealing with those risks should they materialise.

The Risk Management schedule should be reviewed annually. The Council's external auditor would require evidence that the annual review had been undertaken at the time the Annual Return is submitted.

RESOLVED: That the Risk Management schedule at Appendix 2 to the agenda be approved and that the Council note the requirement for an annual review of its Risk Management document.

(b) **Additional grit bins**

The Council received copies correspondence which had taken place between the Council and the Borough Council.

The Community Council was pleased to find that with one exception the additional grit bins requested for the Community were now in place and filled with salt.

The one exception was the site at the junction of High Street, Brynsadler with Cowbridge Road, where there was insufficient room to place a grit bin.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council note the good progress in the placement of additional grit bins.
- (ii) That in the case of High Street, Brynsadler, the possibility of siting a grit bin on land at the opposite end of High Street be investigated.

(c) **Council's letter to Mr Len Arthur**

A report was received that despite the letter at Appendix 10 to the agenda having been written and delivered in time it had not been read out at the meeting convened by the Labour Party on the evening of 16 November, 2011, as requested by the Council. The Clerk stated that there had been no response to the letter.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That a copy of the letter at Appendix 10 be sent to Mr Owen Smith, M.P. and to Mr Mick Antoniw, A.M.

- (ii) That a copy of the letter at Appendix 10 be placed in each of the Community Council's noticeboards.

8. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Improvement works at the Pontyclun public conveniences**

The Clerk reported that a costing had been received for the proposed work at the public conveniences. The estimated cost to include the additional provision for a "grey water" facility and photochromic cells on the roof of the conveniences was in the region of £100,000.

The architect had anticipated that the cost of this work was likely to be in excess of the funds available to the Council and, as a result, had offered to provide an estimate of the cost of basic work sufficient to meet the Community Council's statutory responsibilities by following the adaptation works carried out to the public conveniences in Talbot Green.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange a site meeting in Talbot Green with the architect after the Christmas holiday.

(b) **Monitor of Council's expenditure**

The Council reviewed its expenditure from 1 April, 2011 to 30 November, 2011, against its budget for 2011/12. The Council also considered its projected expenditure to 31 March, 2012.

The Clerk reminded the Council that its expenditure to 31 March, 2012, should be seen against the background of no increase in the Council's precept for the last two financial years.

RESOLVED: (i) That the information on expenditure to 30 November, 2011, and planned expenditure to 31 March, 2012, be noted.

- (ii) That the Clerk make arrangements for additional for the erection of further Community Council noticeboards at Clos Brenin in the Maesyfelin Ward and Ynysddu, Pantydderwen and a site near YGGG Llantrisant, in the Cefn yr Hendy Ward.

(c) **Independent Internal Auditor's report on the Community Council's accounts for the period 01/04/11 to 30/09/11**

The Council received the report of its independent internal auditor on the Council's accounts for the first six months of the 2011/12 financial year.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(d) **Non attendance of a Member**

The Council discussed the report of the Clerk at Appendix 6 to the agenda.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That in view of Councillor Cale's ill health every opportunity be explored to grant dispensation for non attendance.
- (ii) That in the event that it was not possible to grant dispensation the Council declare a casual vacancy and that the Clerk advise the Borough Council of the casual vacancy.
- (iii) That in the event of a casual vacancy needing to be declared the Clerk write to thank Councillor Cale for her long and valued service to the Community Council and to the people of Pontyclun.

(e) **Application for financial assistance**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance on behalf of Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru whose annual eisteddfod is to be held at Llandow in the Vale of Glamorgan from 4th to 11th August, 2012.

RESOLVED: That the Council make a donation of £250.00 towards the cost of staging the event.

(f) **New Town Centre Development planning application**

The Clerk reported that following a discussion with the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson he had contacted Planning Aid Wales for assistance in formulating the Community Council's comments on the application to the Planning Authority.

The consultant at Planning Aid Wales stated that he used to teach commercial property development and that he had examined the mass of information accompanying the planning application on the Borough Council's website.

The consultant also stated that he know of no other apparently serious proposal for this kind of scheme anywhere else in the

country let alone somewhere with the demographics of the Valleys. In the previous year virtually the entire UK total of completed retail space was accounted for by one big "swanky" scheme in London. His first thoughts were that a local company, without any financial base, had submitted the planning application with the intention of selling on the planning permission. His later investigations into the company proved that his initial thoughts were unfounded since the developer was well capitalised.

He further stated that the developer will have done his "homework" and concluded that the scheme would work financially. Homework in this instance consists of stacking up total costs against demographics and drive times. The crucial determinant is drive times within 30 minutes, possibly an hour for people with disposable income. The other consideration is where else those same people might go and, if there are few alternatives, it strengthens the case. It is for this reason that Cardiff can support so many large shops and suck up so much of the investment in South East Wales – there's no real competition. In a scheme like this it is vital for the developer to get a large anchor developer on board at the outset – nowadays a large supermarket because they will draw in people from miles around. The developer will not be able to attract other retailers without an anchor store.

The consultant believed that the developer had probably bought the land for a pittance and that there may be other inducements. It was possible that there may be some sort of agreement for the Borough Council to rent out office space since it was difficult to see where demand from the private sector might come.

The consultant continued by saying that if the site had been identified in the Local Plan for a new town centre there would be a very strong presumption in favour of the application.

He continued that claims about the creation of jobs should be treated with care since many of the new jobs would be part time with some employees having working hours of only 2 hours per week.

The consultant stated that traffic generated by the development would be a concern and it was important to focus on these. It may be possible to get the developer to fund a roundabout to ease congestion but the more that was sought under a Section 106 Agreement the less viable the development would become.

Importantly, too, the consultant had no doubt that the development would have an impact on shopkeepers in the locality. The shops at most risk were likely to be grocers, travel

agents, cafes, bakers and possibly banks. He continued by saying that while competition between rival businesses is not a planning matter, it may be possible for the Planning Authority to place restrictions on ancillary services in the development to protect the viability and vibrancy of existing village centres.

Councillor Rea advised the Council that a meeting of five local Borough Council members had taken place to discuss the application. There was deep scepticism of the developer's claims that the development would only generate an additional 20 car movements at peak periods. It was unclear whether the developer had taken account of the very large residential consent recently awarded for development in the Llanilid area, the proposals for residential development on the former Cwm Colliery site and the proposals for further residential development in the Community adjacent to the A4119.

It was generally agreed that what was needed to manage the increased traffic flow was a fly-over at the Matalan roundabout on the A4119. The Borough Council had estimated that this would cost around £91 million to construct and there was no funding available. A further meeting of the five local Borough Council members was planned for four weeks time.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Planning Authority be informed that the Community Council has grave concerns about the amount of traffic which will be generated by the development on an already overloaded road system at peak hours.
 - (ii) That the Borough Council insist that a traffic assessment, independent of the applicant, be carried out to take account of known major residential planning consents in the area and the likely impact of the new town centre proposals.
 - (iii) That the cost of the report be borne by the applicant.
 - (iv) That an environmental impact assessment be carried out, independent of the applicant, on the effect the developer's proposals for Pontyclun.
 - (v) That the cost of the report be borne by the applicant.

- (vi) That the presence of suspected buried carcinogenic chemicals at the site be highlighted.
- (vii) That, in the event that the Planning Authority is minded to award consent, the Borough Council be asked for its plans on how it intends to preserve the viability and vibrancy of the village of Pontyclun.

(g) **Community First Responder Scheme**

The Council discussed an e-mail enquiry from Mr Michael Nash of the Community First Responder Scheme who sought the Community Council's assistance to increase the number of volunteer members in the Scheme.

RESOLVED: That a copy of Mr Nash's letter e-mail be placed in the Community Council's noticeboards inviting members of the public who are interested in volunteering to contact Mr Nash direct.

(h) **Planning**

(Councillor Rea declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in this item of business as a member of the Borough Council's Planning Committee. He exercised his right to remain in the Council chamber but did not take part in any discussions)

The Council discussed planning applications contained in the latest Weekly Notifications received from the Planning Authority.

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

Application No. 11/1192/10

That while the Community Council is not opposed to the application, concern be expressed about the adequacy of parking spaces associated with the proposed development since School Street is already suffering from severe on street parking difficulties.

(i) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 9 to the agenda.

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

(a) **Strong Roots Project**

The Clerk read out a letter from One Voice Wales advising of the project being managed jointly by Cynnal Cymru and One Voice Wales and inviting the Council to nominate a representative to attend a Green Futures Training Programme.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be nominated to attend the training course to be held on Thursday, 9 February, 2012.

(b) **Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod**

The Clerk read out a letter emphasising the opportunities provided by the Llangollen Musical Eisteddfod for soloists, choirs and folk dancing groups from all over Wales to compete against the best that the rest of the world had to offer.

The Chairman of the Eisteddfod stated that the support given during challenging economic times was valued and he urged community councils across Wales to continue backing this iconic festival to help the festival to sustain its impact and to grow and develop even further.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

10. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Pontyclun Flood Awareness Plan**

The Clerk reported that the public meeting in connection with the Pontyclun Flood Awareness Plan would be held in the Pontyclun Community Centre at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 24 January, 2012.

The meeting would be attended by representatives of the Environment Agency, the Borough Council and the Fire and Rescue Service. Publicity for the meeting would be produced by the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **"Pontyclun News"**

The Council noted the letter which had been sent to Mr Len Arthur in response to the inaccuracies contained in the recent edition of "Pontyclun News"

(c) **Borough Council's Pension Fund**

The Clerk advised the Council that a copy of the 2011 Annual Report on the Borough Council's Pension Fund had recently been received.

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

(d) **Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal**

The Clerk reported that following the Council's earlier donation to the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal, a complimentary copy of the Welsh Guards Biennial Dinner programme had been sent to the Community Council.

Of particular interest to the Council was an outline of the career of the late T E Rees who had played rugby for Pontyclun RFC before joining the Welsh Guards and was later selected to play international rugby for Wales.

RESOLVED: That any Member wishing to read the programme contact the Clerk.

11. The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

Barrie A. Willis

