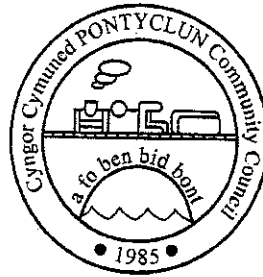


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

Pontyclun Community Council

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Minutes of the December monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Heol yr Orsaf, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 14 December, 2010.

PRESENT: Community Councillors D Clayton-Jones, P Griffiths, S Jenkins, M Rea and C Willis

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Two members of the public for part of the meeting

1. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors V A Cale, J V Huish and R G Norman

RESOLVED: That the Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery be sent to Councillor Norman.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were made:

Councillor M Rea for agenda item 9 (f) - "I am a member of the Borough Council's Licensing Committee "

Councillor M Rea for agenda item 9 (o) - "I am a member of the Borough Council's Planning Committee "

Councillor S Jenkins for agenda item 10 - "I am the Chairperson of 1st Miskin Mill Scouts"

3. **Residents' concerns**

(a) **Mr Brendan O'Reilly**

Mr O'Reilly wished to draw the Council's attention to three matters:

- (i) The possibility of surfacing a footpath connecting Crystal Wood and Brynamlwg, on Cefn yr Hendy.
- (ii) The possibility of the Community Council placing pressure on Railtrack to remove accumulations of litter from Pontyclun Railway Station.
- (iii) The absence of a member of the Community Council for a number of meetings.

Mr O'Reilly was advised that the Council would investigate the matters he had raised and give him a formal reply.

(b) **Mr A R Lane**

Mr Lane wished to draw the Council's attention to the inaccuracy of the maps of the Borough Council car park in Heol yr Orsaf, Pontyclun, displayed on the Community Council's website.

The Clerk responded that the maps had been provided by the Borough Council as indicative of the land as formerly acquired by the former Taff Ely Borough Council and latterly, in relation to the area at the rear of the Tesco store, as land which remained in Borough Council ownership. The maps should be read in together. The Community Council had displayed the maps on its website in good faith.

Mr Lane replied that the explanation was wrong.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk raise the matter with the Borough Council.

4. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 12 October, 2010**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 12 October, 2010, be approved as an accurate record subject to the word "found" in minute 9(a)(iii) being amended to read "fund"

5. **Matters arising**

(a) **Bus stop in Brynsadler**

The Clerk reported that 3,000 copies of the newsletter had been received from the printers and had been delivered to those Members who had volunteered to undertake distribution.

Councillors Griffiths and Jenkins reported that they were making arrangements to cover Pontyclun. Councillor Willis reported that she had already carried out distribution in Groesfaen. Councillor Clayton-Jones also volunteered his services for distribution. Councillor Griffiths agreed that he would hand that his surplus copies of the newsletter to Councillor Clayton Jones.

RESOLVED: That the distribution arrangements be noted.

8. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

The Clerk reported that PC Perry had contacted him to say that due to existing work commitments there would be no police presence at this evening's meeting. PC Perry asked that if any urgent matters arose the Clerk report them direct to him after the meeting.

(b) **Reports from Members**

None were reported.

9. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Annual Return for 2009/10**

The Council received the report of the external auditors in which it was stated that "There were no issues in respect of which we propose to qualify our audit opinion on the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March, 2010."

RESOLVED: That: (i) the Council formally approve the 2009/10 Annual Return

(ii) the Chair be authorised to sign Section 1 and re-sign Section 2 of the Annual Return

(iii) the Council note the External Auditor's comments on the extension of risk assessments.

(b) **Internal Auditor's report on the Council's accounts for the period 1 April, 2010 to 30 September, 2010**

The Clerk reported that the bus shelter for the site identified in Brynsadler had been ordered by the Borough Council. The company would erect the bus shelter and invoice the Community Council for the cost.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **Traffic management proposals for Pontyclun**

The Clerk reported that he had established that Highway Authority staff were evaluating the comments made by members of the public on the proposals for improved traffic management in Pontyclun.

Councillor Rea advised that before any work started on the scheme there would be full consultation with the Borough Council members for the Pontyclun Electoral Division.

RESOLVED: That the reports be noted.

(c) **Proposed bus shelter at Mwyndy**

The Clerk advised that he had been told that it would be necessary to obtain planning consent for the erection of the proposed bus shelter in Mwyndy to serve the needs of local residents and residents of the new residential development at Cefn yr Hendy.

The Council discussed the cost of the proposed bus shelter and, given the relatively high cost of a stone faced shelter, agreed to the erection of a wooden bus shelter.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk obtain examples of the types of wooden bus shelters available from manufacturers.

(ii) That after a decision had been taken on the type of wooden shelter required the Clerk arrange to obtain planning consent from the Planning Authority.

6. **Minutes of the Council's Special Meeting on 16 November, 2010**

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

7. **Matters arising**

Newsletter on the leasing of the car park

place the item had been carried forward to the December agenda of the Council.

The complainant had drawn attention to the lack of enforcement of traffic and planning regulations for the Tesco store and pizza outlet opposite his home in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. Residents had been further annoyed and frustrated by the actions of the manager of the pizza outlet in encouraging passing motorists to sound their horns as they passed. The three issues had resulted in a significant reduction in the quality of life for residents of lower Cowbridge Road.

The Clerk reported that the residents' concerns had been forwarded to the police and to the local Borough Council councillors. This had resulted in the police speaking to the manager of the pizza outlet and obtaining agreement on parking and litter issues.

The Borough Council councillors had clarified that, in the absence of any other agreement with the Borough Council, deliveries to the pizza outlet could only take place between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 11.00 p.m. If deliveries continued outside authorised hours the Borough Council would consider issuing a Breach of Conditions Notice.

The Borough Council councillors had also asked for enforcement action to be taken against any motorists who ignored the presence of the "loading only" and bus stop restrictions in the layby outside 36 Cowbridge Road.

It appeared that the Borough Council had no statutory powers to prevent the proprietor of the pizza outlet from asking passing motorists to sound their horns when passing the premises.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council write to the manager of the pizza outlet asking for his cooperation in recognising the rights of residents of Cowbridge to quiet enjoyment and to remove any signs inviting motorists to sound their vehicle horns when passing the premises.

(f) **Licensing arrangements in Pontyclun**

Councillor Griffiths informed the Council that there had been a suggestions that one of the relatively newly opened restaurants in Pontyclun intended applying for a licence to sell alcohol into the early hours of a morning. If the application were to be granted there would be a wide variation in the hours during which alcohol would be available in Pontyclun.

The Council received the written report from its Internal Auditor on the Council's accounts.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Internal Auditor be noted.

(c) **Review of Council's expenditure against budget at 31 October, 2010**

The Council examined details of the Council's expenditure against its budget for the 2010/11 financial year.

RESOLVED: (i) That the information be noted.

(ii) That at the Council's 11th January, 2011, meeting consideration be given to proposals for expenditure during the 2011/12 financial year using the format contained in Appendix 4 of the current meeting.

(iii) That a precept be decided upon at the Council's 8th February, 2011, meeting.

(d) **Proposed Charter arrangements with the Borough Council**

The Council received a report from the Clerk on a meeting he had attended with the Borough Council's Legal and Democratic Services Officer at which proposals for closer working relationships with community councils in the Borough were discussed.

The proposals had originally formed part of the "Aberystwyth Report" commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government and developed by One Voice Wales.

Members discussed the proposals and concluded that the adoption of Charter arrangements with the Borough Council could lead to more efficient and more effective service provision better understood by the public.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council participate in Charter arrangements with the Borough Council.

(e) **Complaints from a resident of Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun about issues at Unit 2 at 36 Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

The Clerk explained that this was a matter which had originally been planned for discussion at the Community Council's November monthly meeting. As that meeting had not taken

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- to those used by the Southgate Garage in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, would provide a more effective and economical solution.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact Mr Croad with a view to convening a further meeting with representatives of the Pontyclun RFC.

(i) **Proposal to extend footpath lighting at the Windsor Field**

The Community Council discussed an e-mail from Mr Graham Croad of the Pontyclun RFC requesting an extension of the current footpath lighting alongside the Windsor Field.

The Council discussed the request.

RESOLVED: That Mr Croad be informed that while the proposal may have some merit, the Community Council declined to fund the work and that an approach should be made to the Borough Council. Alternatively, the Pontyclun RFC may consider funding the work itself.

(i) **Hanging baskets**

The Clerk reported that due to concerns over the weight of the large hanging baskets and the health and safety of Council staff maintaining these baskets, it had been necessary to replace the baskets with medium size baskets. The result had been the Council now had a number of large hanging baskets surplus to requirements.

An offer to purchase the surplus baskets had been received from the Llantwit Major Town Council. The Council discussed the request.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council decline the offer of the Llantwit Major Town Council to purchase the large hanging baskets.
 - (ii) That the large hanging baskets be used elsewhere in the Community. To assist their erection the Council approved the hire on an ad hoc basis of a "cheery picker"
 - (iii) That Members submit to the Clerk their suggestions of suitable lampposts for checking with the Borough Council before placing an order for hanging basket brackets.

A discussion followed when it was noted that the statutory powers previously enjoyed by community councils to comment on most licensing applications had been abolished. Currently all licensing applications were handled directly by principal councils in Wales. I was unclear whether there was any prospect of the statutory powers being returned to community and town councils

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council contact the Borough Council and ask that in the absence of any notification to the Community Council advising of an application for a restaurant alcohol licence in Pontyclun that, in the interests of consistency, any licence granted not be allowed beyond midnight.
 - (ii) That the Community Council make enquiries about action community councils can take under existing legislation to make effective comments to their principal authorities on licensing applications
 - (iii) That the Council make enquiries on whether the proposed additional powers for community councils will include statutory provision for community councils to make comment on applications for alcohol licenses.

(g) **Siting of an additional planter**

The Council discussed a proposal from Councillor Rea to site a planter on the grass verge outside the Pontyclun Library in Heol y Felin, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That a planter of the same design as the existing planters be sited on the grass verge outside the library and in time to be filled with summer bedding plants.

(h) **Proposal to erect a gate in the car park near the Pontyclun RFC**

The Council discussed the e-mail from Mr Graham Croad of the Pontyclun RFC about the proposal to erect a gate to the car park alongside the Pontyclun RFC.

The Council was of the view that while it wished to assist in preventing some of the anti-social behaviour which had taken place, it was not convinced that the erection of a gate is the most economical and effective way of doing so. It was suggested that the installation of demountable bollards, similar

RESOLVED: That no donation be made.

(o) **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: That the following comments be made to the Planning Authority:

Application No. 10/1184/10

That while the Community Council has no objection to the proposals, it urges the Planning Authority to ensure that all materials used in building work are sympathetic to development in a Conservation Area.

(p) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 12 to the Council's agenda.

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

Miskin Mill Scout Group

The Clerk stated that the Council had received a letter from the Group Scout Leader of the Miskin Mill Scouts' Group in relation to the Council's grant towards building work at their Miskin headquarters.

Councillor Jenkins, Chair of the Group, declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in the matter. Councillor Jenkins vacated the Council chamber.

The letter sought confirmation from the Community Council of the balance of grant payable to Miskin Scouts and the arrangements for payment. The letter also contained an invitation for Members to view the building works carried out to date at the Scouts Headquarters.

RESOLVED: (i) that the Clerk arrange for the payment of any outstanding grant subject to the receipt of copy invoices to the value of the instalment being claimed.

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(k) **Late application for financial assistance**

The Council discussed a late application for financial assistance from Cantorion Ladies Choir formerly known as Cantorion Pontyclun.

It was drawn to the Council's attention that a change of treasurer had taken place within the organisation and this had prevented an application being made with the Community Council's timescale.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That in the exceptional circumstances, a grant be made to Cantorion Ladies Choir of the same amount that had been awarded in 2009.
 - (ii) That an updated list of local organisations' contact officers be supplied to Councillor Jenkins for updating the information on the Community Council's website.
 - (iii) That the Council review its grant application form at its January, 2011, meeting.

(l) **Wales Air Ambulance**

The Council considered a request for a financial donation from the Wales Air Ambulance.

RESOLVED: That on this occasion no donation be made.

(m) **Application for financial assistance**

The Council discussed a letter seeking financial assistance from Mrs Beryl Giles on behalf of the Llantrisant Community Woodwind Band.

The Council discussed the application in detail.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £100.00 be made to the Llantrisant Woodwind Band subject to the organisation providing a balance sheet for its last full year of operation plus an e-mail address.

(n) **Llangollen Musical Eisteddfod, 2011**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance in support of the Llangollen Musical Eisteddfod, 2011.

- (ii) that provisional arrangements be made for a visit by Members to the Scouts' headquarters towards the end of January, 2011.

11. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Remembrance Sunday**

The Clerk gave a verbal report on a very well attended Remembrance Sunday service at the Pontyclun War Memorial.

The Chair also reported on a well attended service at the Miskin War Memorial.

RESOLVED: That the reports be noted.

(b) **Boundary Commission proposals for electoral changes at the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

The Council received extracts from the Boundary Commission's proposals report for electoral changes at the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

Overall, the Commission had recommended that the number of seats should remain the same although it had been proposed that the Electoral Division for Pontyclun should gain one seat.

In a further development it was reported that, contrary to expectations, any changes would not be introduced until the 2016 Borough Council elections.

RESOLVED: That the reports be noted.

(c) **Legal charges**

The Council received a letter from its solicitor, Mr Clive Ashton, dated 3 December, 2010, regarding the legal charges for drafting the lease on the Council's land in Brynsadler.

Mr Ashton reported that his original estimate for drafting the lease had been exceeded due to alterations to his original brief. He estimated his current fees to be in the region of £1,200 with the final bill for additional work taking the total amount due to around £2,000.

RESOLVED: (i) That Mr Ashton be authorised to continue with the work of drafting the lease.

(ii) That the Clerk arrange a meeting for

Councillors Rea and Clayton-Jones with
Mr Ashton to discuss provisions in the
lease.

(d) **Trees in the Ivor Woods**

The Clerk reported a further case of claimed interference to television reception from a resident in the Ivor Woods.

A site meeting had been arranged with the Arboriculture Officer of the Borough Council who had given consent for the pruning of a tree in the Ivor Woods subject to the resident making application and arranging for the work to be carried out in strict accordance with the issued consent. The resident had been notified to this effect.

(e) **Community Council trees in The Hollies, Brynsadler**

The Clerk reported that while the Borough Council's Arboriculture Officer was in Brynsadler he invited him to give his professional opinion on two fir trees near the entrance to The Hollies. The trees appeared to be leaning towards the access road into The Hollies.

After examination of the trees the Arboriculture Officer advised that both trees were leaning into the road and posed a potential danger to pedestrians and property.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make arrangements for the removal of the trees by a professional tree surgeon.

(f) **Health and Safety requirements at the Council's garage at the Pontyclun Community Centre**

The Clerk reported that a recent Health and Safety inspection at the Pontyclun Community Centre had highlighted a series of work which needed to be carried out.

Some of this work involved the Council's garage at the Centre and would involve implementing relatively minor measures to satisfy current legislative standards.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to arrange for work to be carried out to meet to ensure the Council garage complied with current Health and Safety standards.

12. The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.