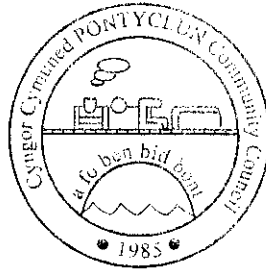


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

Pontyclun Community Council

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Minutes of the September monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council scheduled to be held in the Babel Chapel vestry at 7.00 p.m. but subsequently held at Ty Llwyn y Pennau, Groesfaen, Pontyclun, at 7.20 p.m. on Tuesday, 14 September, 2010.

PRESENT: Community Councillors J G Davies, P Griffiths, J V Huish, S Jenkins, R G Norman, M Rea, and C Willis

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Two members of the public

1. On arrival at the Babel Chapel, Groesfaen, Members found that the premises were locked and they were unable to gain entry. The Clerk telephoned the caretaker but there was no reply. He advised that if the meeting was to go ahead it should be held in public but not on licensed premises. The Chairperson, Councillor Willis, invited the Council, and the members of the public present, to hold the meeting at her home. The Council and the members of the public accepted the invitation. A note was placed on the door of the vestry advising any further members of the public that the meeting had been re-scheduled at short notice to Ty Llwyn Pennau, Groesfaen, and that they were invited to attend the meeting at the new venue.

Councillor Norman advised the Council that he was feeling unwell and needed to return home. He would not be attending the meeting at the new venue.

2. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors V A Cale, D Clayton-Jones, and S Rogers
3. **Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were made:

Councillor P Griffiths for agenda item 9 (a) – “I am a member of the Pontyclun Ward Community Trust”

Councillor M Rea for agenda item 7 (i) - “I am a member of the Borough Council’s planning Committee “

Councillor J V Huish for agenda item 7 (i) - “I am a member of the Borough Council’s planning Committee “

4. **Residents’ concerns**

(i) **Shelter in the playground of Pontyclun Primary School**

Councillor Davies reported defects in bottom course of mortar/brickwork of the children’s shelter in the playground of the Pontyclun Primary School.

Councillor Rea advised that he was aware of the problem and had already notified the matter to the appropriate department of the Borough Council.

The position was noted.

(ii) **Defective down-pipe**

Councillor Davies reported a defective down-pipe outside the Spar store in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

Councillor Rea advised that he was aware of the problem and had already notified the matter to the appropriate department of the Borough Council.

Councillor Rea advised that he was aware of the problem and had already notified the matter to the appropriate department of the Borough Council.

(iii) **Parking at the Pontyclun Institute & Athletic Club**

The Council discussed a letter from Dr Catherine Moodley requesting the Community Council to obtain a statement from the Pontyclun Institute & Athletic Club on why the Club felt it needed to prevent parents using the car park at the Club. Dr Moodley believed that using the Club’s car park reduced traffic congestion in Pontyclun and reduced the possibility congestion in Pontyclun.

Councillor Davies advised that the Club had cooperated for many years in allowing parents to park their vehicles in the car park while picking up and dropping off their children from the nearby school.

It had been noticed that undue wear had occurred to the surface of the car park through use by parents. The cost of re-surfacing the car park had been quoted at £40,000. The Club had reluctantly concluded that it needed to restrict use of its private car park to Club members.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Community Council not request a statement from the Club.
- (ii) That the information given to the Community Council for the closure of the private car park to parents be passed to Dr Moodley

5. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 13 July, 2010**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 13 July, 2010, be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Environmental Partnership Forum**

Councillor Jenkins reported on a meeting she had attended on 24 June, 2010, which had been organised by the Sustainable Development Team of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

The function of the Team is to consider, on a local basis, a number of challenging issues such as climate change, waste, poverty and their impact not only on the environment but also on people's quality of life. Many of the issues are interconnected and it was necessary for all sections of the community to work together to resolve the issues.

The Team had produced a practical guide for anyone who wished to educate and empower people to improve the environment of their community. Councillor Jenkins had asked for a copy of the guide in order that it could be placed on the Community Council's website and passed on to local schools and organisations.

The Sustainable Development Team was anxious to learn about species of local flora and fauna with the presence of blackberries within communities being a good example. The Team was also keen to hear of local initiatives in communities. They need not be exceptional.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That Councillor Jenkins be thanked for her report.

- (ii) That the Council await the guide referred to by Councillor Jenkins for the dissemination of information.

(b) **Member training for the Code of Conduct**

The Council received the letter from Mr Paul Lucas, the Director of Legal & Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer of the Borough Council to confirm that he would provide a "Code of Conduct" training session for the Members of Pontyclun Community Council at its meeting on Tuesday, 12 October, 2010.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(c) **Car park at Pontyclun Community Centre**

The Clerk reported that the meeting of the Council's working group with Borough Council officers scheduled for 5 July, 2010, had not taken place. This was due to Councillor Huish suffering ill health that afternoon and needing to be admitted to hospital.

Annual leave commitments of members of the working group and Borough Council officers had prevented a re-arranged meeting being held in August. A re-scheduled meeting would now take place on 15 September, 2010.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(d) **Proposed Youth Club at Pontyclun RFC**

The Clerk reminded the Council that earlier in the year it had been provisionally agreed that a new youth club, based at the Pontyclun RFC, would start in September, 2010.

Since that time nothing further had been heard from the organisers of the proposed youth club.

Some Members were of the view that a new youth facility had started in the Bethel Baptist Church thus taking away the need for a separate youth club at the Pontyclun RFC.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Jenkins contact the organiser of the proposed youth club to establish the position.

(e) **Proposed Forest Wood Quarry Liaison Committee**

In response to a question about the failure of the Borough Council to form a Forest Wood Quarry Liaison Committee, the

Clerk confirmed that he had raised the matter with the Borough Council.

The reply confirmed that consideration had been given to the formation of a Liaison Committee but the Committee had never been formed.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk provide a copy of the response to Councillor Rea.

(f) **Proposed bus shelter in Brynsadler**

Councillor Rea referred to the meeting which had taken place with a Highways Authority representative, a representative of the police and Community Council Members.

Following agreement on the site for the new bus stop the Borough Council representative had agreed to pursue the provision of a bus shelter. The cost had been estimated at approximately £2,500.

The Borough Council officer had stated that before an order was placed for a bus shelter it would be necessary to approach the public utilities as it was believed that underground services were present at the site of the bus stop.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

7. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

PCSO Jade Lewis reported that the last month had been relatively quiet with only eleven crimes reported.

All the crimes were minor in nature.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **Reports from Members**

A Member reported that there had been a serious road traffic accident near the Pontyclun Fire Station during the previous week.

No further details were available.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

8. **Matters reported for decision**

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

The Clerk reported that in March, 2010, the Welsh Assembly Government made changes to the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations, 2005.

The changes affect how the annual accounts and audit is undertaken and introduces a new two stage process. The first stage required the Clerk to certify the accounts by 30 September, 2010, before the Annual Return is sent to the external auditor. At the end of the audit the external auditor will send the Council a report setting out the findings and conclusions from the audit.

Following receipt of the external auditor's report the Clerk is required to re- certify the accounts before submitting the Annual Return to the Council for approval. The Council must then approve the Annual Return by 31 December but only after it has received the external auditor's report and the accounts have been re-certified by the Clerk.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the changes be noted.
 - (ii) That the Clerk make arrangements for the Council's accounts for 2009/10 to be audited by the internal auditor and presented to a Special Meeting of the Council by 30 September, 2010.

(b) **Review of the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Management document**

The Council discussed the report of the Clerk following his review of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Management.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the recommendations contained in the Clerk's report be accepted by the Council.
 - (ii) That a sub group comprising Councillors Willis, Rea and Jenkins be established to recommend the adoption of revised Standing Orders.

(c) **Plans for improved traffic management and pedestrian safety in the vicinity of Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

Councillors Rea and Huish reported that in their roles as Borough Councillors they had met a senior traffic manager of

the Highway Authority to follow up the Borough Council's commitment to improving traffic management and pedestrian safety in the vicinity of Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

As a first step in a consultation exercise with the public, Councillor Rea had been provided with a map of the Highway Authority's proposals to share with the Pontyclun Community Council. Councillor Rea advised that the plan provided for:

- a "raised" second pedestrian crossing located outside No. 4 Cowbridge Road
- a parking bay for disabled drivers
- removal of the "concrete eggs"
- "shared" residential parking for residents of Station Terrace
- 20 mph speed restrictions in Cowbridge Road and Llantrisant Road

Councillor Rea added that it might be possible, dependent on a contribution from the Community Council, to incorporate a speed hump in the lane between Palalwyf Avenue and the Pontyclun Junior School into the plans. This would result in a significant improvement in safety for the considerable number of children using the lane each day.

Councillor Rea added that in Miskin it had been proposed to improve the flow of traffic by introducing parking restrictions on the approach to the bridge over the main line railway.

It was planned to hold a public consultation exercise on the proposals where members of the public could study and discuss the plans Borough Council engineers. It was likely that the plans would be displayed in the Pontyclun Community Centre at a future date. Work on the project was scheduled to start in the 2010/11 financial year and possibly overlap into the following financial year.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council welcome the plans for Improved traffic management and enhanced pedestrian safety.
 - (ii) That the Council offer assistance in publicising the opportunity for members of the public to comment on the plans.
 - (iii) That as the site for the installation of a bicycle stand had now been allocated for a pedestrian crossing, Members give further thought to where

a bicycle stand might be installed in Pontyclun.

(d) **Consultation on proposed Local Government (Wales) Measure**

The Council discussed the letter from Dr Dai Lloyd, AM, Committee Chair at the Welsh Assembly, offering all community councils the opportunity to comment on the proposed Local Government (Wales) Measure.

RESOLVED: That the Council decline the offer to comment on the basis that the comments already provided by One Voice Wales to the Assembly would comprehensively cover the position of community councils in Wales.

(e) **House of Commons – Early Day Motion No. 557**

The Council discussed the circular letter from the organisation No Need for Nuclear inviting members of the public to write to their Members of Parliament asking the MP to sign Early Day Motion No. 557. The Motion calls for an inquiry into whether or not new power stations are needed.

RESOLVED: That the Council take no corporate action in the matter and that it be left to individual Members to decide whether to write to their MP.

(f) **Standards and Ethics Conference**

The Council received an invitation from the Borough Council to send Members to the annual Standards and Ethics Conference due to be held in Cardiff on 14 October, 2010.

RESOLVED: That the Council decline to nominate any Members to attend the Conference since Councillor Rea, as a member of the Borough Council's Standards and Ethics Committee, would be in a position to report back to the Community Council on issues arising at the Conference.

(g) **Pontypridd Schools' Rugby Union – Greyhound Stadium**

The Council received a letter from Mr S Jones of Cross Inn, Llantrisant, seeking the Community Council's support in opposing the transfer of the facilities at the Greyhound Stadium to the Rhydyfelin Football Club.

RESOLVED: That the Council decline to become involved in the dispute since it was felt that the issue was better dealt with locally.

(h) **Payment of creditors**

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

(i) **Planning**

(Councillors Rea and Huish, as members of the Borough Council's Planning Committee, declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in this item of business. They elected to remain present at the meeting but did not take part in any discussions.)

(Councillor Griffiths also declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in planning application No. 10/0879/10. Councillor Griffiths elected to remain present at the meeting but took no part in the discussion on application No. 10/0879/10.)

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

RESOLVED: That no comment be made to the Planning Authority on any of the applications this month.

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

None were reported.

10. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Council owned land in Brynsadler**

The Clerk reported that the Council's working group met representatives of the Pontyclun Action Group on 6 July, 2010, and discussed the terms of the lease in the draft lease produced by the Council's solicitor.

Some amendments were agreed with PAG while other provisions in the draft needed to be referred back to the Council's solicitor for clarification.

Members of the working group were later surprised to find that in a subsequent e-mail received from Dr O'Reilly some proposals from PAG were still suggested for inclusion in the lease despite

having been declined by the working group at its meeting on 6 July.

A further meeting of the Council's working group took place on 19 July, when Dr O'Reilly's e-mail was discussed. The working group re-affirmed the decisions it took on 6 July. A confirmatory note was sent to Dr O'Reilly. The note was acknowledged by Dr O'Reilly who described the note as being "timely" since a meeting of the Pontyclun Ward Community Trust was due to take place the following evening. Dr O'Reilly further stated that as the Trust had now taken over from PAG he would ensure that the Council's note was passed to the Trustees and arrange for it to be discussed on the following evening. Dr O'Reilly gave the impression that the Trust would get back to the Clerk.

No further comment had been received from the Trust or PAG on the lease save for an e-mail from the Trust giving the names of their members who would negotiate with the Council's working group.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Trust advising that the Community Council would progress the lease in accordance with the confirmatory note sent to Dr O'Reilly.

(b) **Rights of Way – Agency Agreement**

The Council discussed the reply of the Borough Council to the Community Council's request for an increase in the amount of grant for agency work carried out to Public Rights of Way in the Community. It had earlier been pointed out to the Borough Council that while Community Council costs had increased significantly in the last 25 years the amount of grant paid by the Borough Council had remained at its 1985 level.

The Council noted that the Borough Council's reply was to refuse the request and, in addition, to request a detailed breakdown of work carried out in 2008/09.

The Clerk advised that the Borough Council's grant for agency work carried out in 2008/09 had already been paid to the Community Council. Any detailed breakdown of the agency work carried out in 2008/09 would only consume more Community Council resources with no additional benefit accruing.

RESOLVED: That a summary of the agency work undertaken be provided to the Borough Council rather than a detailed list.

(c) **Proposed Tree Preservation Order in Talygarn**

The Council received details of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Tree Preservation Order (No.134) 2010.

In making this Order, the Borough Council also provided details of the immediate protection of a Provisional Tree Preservation Order and the subsequent objections which modified the effect of the Provisional Order.

RESOLVED: That the Order be noted.

(d) **Determination of the Planning Authority for land in Talygarn**

The Council received notification of the refusal of consent for development for a change of use of land for residential purposes, erection of two proposed sheds and retention of existing sheds for a temporary period during construction at Maes-y-Deri, Talygarn Manor, Talygarn.

RESOLVED: That the refusal be noted.

(e) **Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan**

The Council received notification from the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council that its Cabinet had endorsed a revised Local Development Plan timetable.

The revised timetable indicates that consultation on the Deposit LDP will now take place in January/February 2011 and shows an indicative adoption date of December, 2012.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(f) **Local Government Partnership Scheme**

The Council received notification from the Welsh Assembly Government that the Local Government Partnership Scheme: Annual Report 2009-10 was now available on the WAG's website.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(g) **"The Voice"**

The Clerk reported receipt of the latest edition of "The Voice", the publication of One Voice Wales.

Only two copies of "The Voice" had been provided to the Council and any Member wishing to read the publication should contact the Clerk for a copy.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

11. **Further matters for decision**

To consider two late applications for grant.

(i) **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the next item of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of information for a service provided by the Council.

(ii) **Guidance of the former District Auditor**

The Clerk advised Members of the guidance given to community councils by the former District Auditor in deciding the award of grants, namely:

- (a) whether payment was of direct benefit
- (b) whether benefit is in proportion to the payment made
- (c) whether the organisation's own resources are sufficient and other potential income considered including other local councils'
- (d) whether the money was being used to circumvent any limitation on specific powers
- (e) whether the award of grants would result in a precedent leading to applications from other groups.

RESOLVED: That the following grants be made:

	£
Pontyclun Women's Institute	100.00
Pontyclun Senior Citizens	100.00
Miskin & Mwyndy Women's Institute	100.00

12. The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.