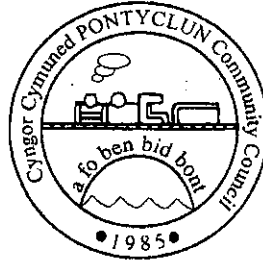


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun**Pontyclun Community Council**

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Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 15 November, 2006.

PRESENT: Community Councillors Ms V A Cale, D Clayton-Jones, Ms D Hayes, S Jenkins, A R Lane and R G Norman, M Rea and Ms P Thomas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Geraint Morgan of Arriva Trains Wales and Mr Andrew Evans of the British Transport Police for part of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors C Davies and P Griffiths

2. **Declaration of Interest**

No declarations were received.

3. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 4 October, 2006**

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved as an accurate record subject to the inclusion of a note, in minute 4 (e), to the effect that Councillor Lane asked why he had not received an invitation to attend the site meeting. The Clerk had replied that notification of the site meeting had been given to Members at the Council's meeting on 6 September, 2006.

4. **Matters arising**

(a) **Casual Vacancy**

RESOLVED: That Ms Dawn Hayes of 98 Ynysddu, Pontyclun, by co-opted to fill the vacancy.

(b) **Active Lifestyles Community Capital Programme**

The Clerk reported that he had rung the Sports Council for Wales on 9 October, 2006 to establish the name of the contact in the Borough Council who was dealing with the programme. He was given a name and told that it was highly unlikely that any proposals from the Community Council would be accepted since a meeting had taken place that morning to finalise the schemes which were to be included.

Despite this the Clerk rang the Borough Council contact that day. The contact confirmed what had been said by the representative of the Sports Council for Wales. The Clerk asked the Borough Council officer whether community councils had been contacted under the Programme. He responded that a wide variety of local organisations had been contacted but community councils had not been contacted.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council express its strong disapproval of the Borough Council's failure to bring the contents of the Programme to the attention of community councils, especially as the Programme was targeted to community needs and community councils were specifically mentioned in the Welsh Assembly Government circular.

(c) **Directional sign to "River's Edge"**

Councillor Lane explained that the sign which he had referred to at the previous meeting was located adjacent to the roundabout at Millfield, Pontyclun. He believed that a sign had been erected giving directions for gaining access to River's Edge and that the sign had been erected on land which was not in the ownership of the Highway Authority.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make enquiries about ownership of the land on which the sign had been erected.

(d) **Community Council Strategy Update**

The Council received an updated strategy.

RESOLVED: That due to the length of the Community Council's agenda consideration of the strategy be deferred to the Community Council's December meeting.

5. **Police matters**

RESOLVED: That in the absence of PCSO Martin, this item be deferred to the Council's next meeting.

6. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Proposed "adoption" of Pontyclun Station**

The Council received a presentation from Mr Geraint Morgan of Arriva Trains Wales and Mr Andrew Evans of British Transport Police about the scheme for the "adoption" of railway stations by local communities. The scheme was first launched in 2004.

Where stations are adopted Arriva Trains Wales would ask that regular survey forms be submitted advising of the standard of facilities. In addition, to enable the effects of anti-social behaviour to be tackled promptly, to be advised of graffiti, vandalism and litter.

To date, over 140 stations had been adopted and problems had decreased by 40% as a result of local ownership of stations and the immediate environment.

The Council took the opportunity to get support from Mr Morgan and Mr Evans for an improvement in parking facilities around Pontyclun station. In particular, the availability of land from the former Beddau/Penygraig line for the creation of additional parking.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That Pontyclun Community Council "adopt" Pontyclun railway station.
 - (ii) That Councillor Paul Griffiths be nominated as the person who would complete the survey forms.
 - (iii) That the arrangement be reviewed after a period of six months.
 - (iv) That the Clerk provide Mr Geraint Morgan with a history of the parking difficulties experienced in the vicinity of Pontyclun station.

(b) **Independent Internal Auditor's report on the audit of the Community Council's accounts for 2005/06**

The Council discussed the report of the Council's Independent Internal Auditor, Mr Peter Morgan, on his audit of the Community Council's accounts for 2005/06.

The Clerk advised the Council that the Annual Return to the Wales Audit Office was due to have been made by 23 October, 2006. However, as the independent internal auditor had only been prepared to give a qualified assurance on the accounts, the Council needed to be aware of the position before the Annual Return was submitted to the Wales Audit Office. The Wales Audit Office had been contacted and told that the Annual Return and a copy of the independent internal auditor's report would be made available on 20 November.

Views on the audit report varied. Some Members believed that the auditor had over-stated the importance of the Council's reserves. In support of this they quoted the advice from the Chartered Institute of Finance and Accountancy which stated a recommended a minimum reserve of 6% of budgeted expenditure. In this case, the Community Council's reserves were significantly higher than 6%. Other Members believed that the concerns of the auditor should be addressed with Councillor Norman wishing the minutes to record that the found the auditor's report to be "damning". Another Member believed the auditor's report to be "political".

RESOLVED: That the Council's Independent Internal Auditor be invited to attend the Council's meeting of 6 December, 2006, to discuss the report.

(c) **Hanging baskets**

The Clerk reminded the Council that, due to the very considerable manual effort, and cost, involved in watering the hanging baskets for seven days a week in the summer of 2006, the Council had, at a previous meeting, considered the possibility of purchasing baskets containing a water reservoir for the summer of 2007. Reservoir type baskets only needed watering on alternate days in hot weather.

Although reservoir baskets were initially more expensive than the non-reservoir type, the additional cost would be recouped through avoiding the need for seven day a week

watering. The Clerk sought the Council's instructions for the 2007 hanging basket programme.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Clerk arrange for the purchase of reservoir type hanging baskets for half of the Council's baskets for 2007.
 - (ii) That for the other half, conventional baskets be retained and the effectiveness of water-retaining gel be monitored.

(d) **Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy**

The Council discussed a letter in which the Borough Council stated that it wished to involve community councils in the early stages of the Local Development Plan. As consultees, community councils would be kept fully up to date on the consultation on the Preferred Strategy and the Borough Council would ensure that community councils would receive the necessary documentation to allow them to comment fully on the emerging proposals.

In addition to formal consultation, the Borough Council was keen to know whether community councils would like to receive a presentation on the Preferred Strategy. In the event that there was sufficient interest the Borough Council would arrange for a joint presentation to be given.

- RESOLVED:** That the Borough Council be informed that the Pontyclun Community Council is interested in receiving a joint presentation on the Preferred Strategy.

(e) **Board of Governors**

The Council received an invitation to nominate a governor to the new bilingual school on Cefn yr Hendy, Pontyclun.

- RESOLVED:** That given the experience of Councillor Chris Davies in sitting on a school's governing body, the Clerk raise with Councillor Davies the possibility of him sitting on the Board of Governors of the new school at Cefn yr Hendy.

(f) **Draft Guidance on the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, 2005**

The Council was invited to submit written comments to the Welsh Assembly Government on the consultation document on the draft guidance on the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, 2005. The consultation document also contained draft copies of regulations in respect of fixed penalty notices and dog control orders and comments were also sought on these.

RESOLVED: That the Council decline to comment.

(g) **Campaign for the retention of local post offices**

The Council received details of a campaign being promoted by the Countryside Alliance for the retention of local post offices. Details of how bodies could demonstrate their support were enclosed with the letter.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council support the main campaign for the retention of local post offices but not the campaign being promoted by the Countryside Alliance.

(h) **Precept notification**

The Council discussed the request of the Borough Council for an early notification of its precept requirement for 2007/08.

The Clerk advised the Council that while it would be possible to compile a budget for 2007/08 earlier than usual, unless the Community Council received notification of the Band D equivalent for the Community of Pontyclun for 2007/08, it would not be possible to gauge the effect of the Council's new precept on properties in the Community.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk point out to the Borough Council that while it wished to comply with the request, the Community Council could only do so when the Band D equivalent for the Community of Pontyclun for 2007/08 had been notified.

(i) **Application for financial assistance from the Rhondda Taff Citizens' Advice Bureau**

RESOLVED:

- (i) That a donation of £100.00 be made.
- (ii) That the Bureau be asked to provide details of the mobile service it provides to residents

(j) **Application for financial assistance from The Samaritans**

RESOLVED: That a donation of £100.00 be made.

(k) **Application for financial assistance from Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru**

RESOLVED: That a donation of £100.00 be made.

(l) **Application for financial assistance from Pontyclun Tî a Fi**

RESOLVED: That a donation of £100.00 be made.

At 8.55 p.m. Councillor Rea advised the Chairperson that he was leaving the meeting. Councillor Rea did not return to the meeting.

(m) **Planning**

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

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

Application No. 06/1708/10

That while the Council is not opposed to the application in principle, the Council has concerns about safe access and egress for commercial vehicles to and from the busy A4119.

Application No. 06/1782/10

The Council is concerned that if the proposed development is approved it will lead to an increase in the amount of on-street parking.

Application No. 06//2022/10

The Council is concerned, following earlier similar applications, that the noise emanating from the generators will interfere with residents' quality of life. The Council would urge the Planning Authority to mitigate the effect of disturbance on neighbours by insisting that the generators are switched off in the evenings or are installed with sound baffles.

Application No. 06/1714/10

The Council is concerned that if the proposed development is approved it will lead to an increase in the amount of on-street parking.

Application No. 06/1825/10

The Council is concerned that if the proposed development is approved it will lead to an increase in the amount of on-street parking.

Application No. 06/1517/10

The Council is concerned that if the proposed development is approved it will lead to an increase in the amount of on-street parking.

(n) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 13 to the Agenda.

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

No matters were reported.

8. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Hanging baskets and planters**

RESOLVED: That the letter of appreciation received by Mrs Saunders be noted.

(b) **Annual Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks**

The Clerk gave a verbal report on his attendance at the Annual Conference of the Society of Local Councils. Of particular note were the initiatives introduced by parishes on the Isle of Wight and the expected legislation which would impact on local councils in the next 12 months.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(c) **Festive decorations in Pontyclun**

The Clerk reported on discussions which had taken place with the Highway Authority and the Council's contractors about the erection of festive lighting in Pontyclun. It was planned that eight decorations would be erected on lampposts during the

next week and that they would be illuminated during the following week. The Clerk also reported that letters had been sent out to shopkeepers in Pontyclun inviting them to apply for a Christmas tree.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(d) **Paint staining to clothing**

The Council was informed of a claim being made against the Council for paint staining to clothes. The circumstances surrounding the case were being clarified and the Council's insurers would be asked to deal with the matter.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

9. The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.