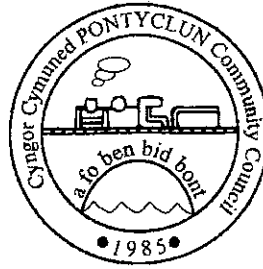


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Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Friday, 19 January, 2007

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ms V. A. Cale, P.Griffiths, Ms D Hayes, Ms S.Jenkins, A. R. Lane, R.G. Norman and Ms P. Thomas

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** PCSO Chris Martin for part of the meeting, Mr Richard Cotter and Mr Adrian Davies, and Mr David Williams of the Llantrisant Observer.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors D. Clayton-Jones, C Davies and M Rea.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were received.

3. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 10 December, 2006**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 10 December, 2006, be approved as an accurate record.

4. **Matters arising**

(a) **Directional sign to River's Edge, Pontyclun**

The Clerk reported that he had again attempted to establish the ownership of the land on which the sign had been erected. The response of the Borough Council was that the sign had been erected in the public interest and that if any party had any difficulties with the sign they should contact the Borough Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Council take no further action to establish the owner of the land.

(b) **Audit of Accounts for 2005/06**

(i) **Independent Internal Audit**

The Clerk reported that he had raised with the Independent Internal Auditor the possibility of the auditor meeting with the Chairperson and Clerk to discuss issues related to the 2005/06 audit. The auditor had responded that he was quite prepared to answer any questions related to the audit but would prefer if the questions were in written form.

**RESOLVED:** That the questions raised at the Council's meeting of 10 December, 2006, be forwarded to the auditor for comment.

(ii) **External audit**

The Clerk reported that as a consequence of the Community Council's expenditure exceeding £100,000 for the first time during 2005/06, the external auditor had written seeking considerably more financial information than in previous years for the completion of the audit. In particular the Council had been asked to provide detailed explanations for the increase in expenditure over the previous year.

The Clerk commented that while the auditor's additional requests could be met, the need to carry out in depth research would be time consuming and would inevitably impact on other work being carried out.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the position be noted.

(ii) That the response of the Council's Independent Internal Auditor to the questions posed in (i) above be sent to the External Auditor for his information.

(c) **Former Park Hall cinema site, Pontyclun**

The Clerk advised the Council that details of the application to develop land at the site of the former Park Hall cinema had been received from the Borough Council. A copy of a Transport Statement in support of the application had also been received. Enquiries of staff in the Development Control Section of the

Borough Council showed that the application was likely to be determined at the March, 2007, Taff Ely Planning Committee meeting.

Members referred to the public meeting, held at the Community Centre on the evening of 17 January, 2007, to discuss the proposal for development. Approximately approximately 300 Community residents very well attended the meeting. The overwhelming majority in attendance opposed the plans for the development of Tesco Express store at the site. It was clear, too, that those in attendance wanted to see the Pontyclun Community Council take action to oppose the proposed development.

There were many planning reasons for opposing the proposed development. A draft of a possible comment to the planning authority was discussed and agreed.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Community Council oppose the application on the grounds that highway and parking facilities are wholly inadequate to meet a large retail store's requirements. Further, that there will be significant adverse effects for users of the Pontyclun Community Centre, users of the Pontyclun Day Centre and residents living in neighbouring streets. In addition, the safety of the public, and particularly children using the nearby primary school, is likely to be compromised by the considerable increase in traffic. The proposal to move the bus stop in Cowbridge Road, from the safety of a purpose built lay-by to the middle of the carriageway in order to provide vehicle delivery access to the store is likely to lead to road traffic accidents.
  - (ii) That the Officers in Charge of the local fire and ambulance stations be invited to send their views on the proposal to the Planning Authority.
  - (iii) That a copy of the Community Council's letter of opposition to the planning application be sent to Mr



David Williams at the Pontypridd  
Observer.

- (iv) That the Borough Council be asked that the Chairperson of the Community Council be allowed to address the Planning Committee when the application is being determined.

(d) **Boundary Commission's review of community boundaries**

The Clerk advised the Council that the original notifications issued by the Boundary Commission had been found to be defective. As a result, new notices had been issued inviting comments on the proposals to alter the boundaries of community councils in the area. The revised date for the receipt of comments is now 8 March, 2007.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Council support the proposals for alteration of boundaries submitted by the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. Further, that the attention of the Boundary Commission be drawn to the close affinity between the new residential developments at Ynysddu and Clos Brenin, both immediately adjacent to the existing boundary, with Pontyclun. The affinity is demonstrated by the fact that residents of both developments use Pontyclun shops, doctors' and dentists' surgeries, use Pontyclun recreational facilities, attend Pontyclun places of worship, and send their children to Pontyclun schools.

(e) **Best Illuminated House Competition, Christmas, 2006**

The Council was informed of the winning houses in the Christmas, 2006, Best Illuminated House Competition in the Community.

The winning houses were:

**Maesyfelin Ward**

No. 20 Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler  
No. 39 The Hollies, Brynsadler

**Cefn yr Hendy Ward**

No. 18 Heol y Coed, Pontyclun  
No. 30 Lon yr Awel, Pontyclun

**Miskin Ward**

No. 12 Oaklands, Miskin

**Groesfaen Ward**

No. 5 Glan Creigiau, Groesfaen

**RESOLVED:** That a cheque for £25.00 be sent to the householder at each address.

5. **Police matters**

(a) **Crime figures**

PCSO Chris Martin tabled the police authority's crime figures for Sector for the months of November and December, 2006.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

(b) **Parking infringements**

PCSO Martin reported that letters had been distributed to houses in the Cerdin Avenue and Palalwyf Avenue areas advising that the police would be taking action against drivers who were not observing parking restrictions. The issue had also been discussed at the last PACT meeting.

(c) **Incidents in the vicinity of Pontyclun Station**

Councillor Thomas reported incidents of late night and early hours break-ins and vandalism in the vicinity of Pontyclun Station. Councillor Thomas believed that an improvement might be achieved if the CCTV camera located outside the Windsor Hotel could be trained on the streets surrounding the Station on a regular basis.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contact the CCTV manager for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to request that more effective use of the CCTV camera outside the Windsor Hotel to reduce and deter crime in the vicinity of Pontyclun Station.

(d) **CCTV advisory signs**

Councillor Lane advised that he had been told by staff of the Borough Council that the Community Council could be provided with signs for erection on lampposts to advise the public of the presence of CCTV cameras in the village. The only stipulation of

the Borough Council is that the signs were erected eight feet from the ground.

Comment was made that while the Community Council would certainly assist in the erection of the signs, erection of signs should have taken place at the same time the CCTV cameras were brought into use. Had this been done, the significant resources of Borough Council could have been utilised for the erection.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Lane provides the Clerk with the lamppost numbers where signs are required to be erected.

6. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Precept for 2007/08**

**RESOLVED:** That a decision on the Council's precept for 2007/08 be deferred to a single item agenda Special Meeting of the Council to be held in time to meet the deadline for notification to the Borough Council.

(b) **Proposed traffic waiting restrictions**

The Council discussed the proposed waiting restrictions to be applied in the lay bys on the A4119 in Ely Valley Road near Mwyndy Cross.

**RESOLVED:** That while the Community Council does not condone the practice of some second hand car dealers of using the lay bys to display cars for sale, it is felt that the lay bys do provide an useful facility for certain motorists who use the lay bys for the purpose of car sharing. The Council believes that before the facility for car sharing is removed alternative car sharing provision should be put in place.

(c) **Affordable Warmth Action Plan Development Workshop**

The Council received details of an Affordable Warmth Action Plan Development Workshop promoted by the Borough Council. The Community Council was asked if it wished to nominate representatives to attend the Workshop.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Council decline to be represented at the Workshop.

(d) **Spotlight on the Police meeting**

The Council received details of a "Spotlight on the Police" meeting being held by the South Wales Police Authority. The Community Council was asked if it wished to nominate representatives to attend the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Council decline to be represented at the meeting.

(e) **Application for financial assistance**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance from the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

**RESOLVED:** That no financial assistance be given.

(f) **Weekly Planning Notifications**

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

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

**Application No. 06/2164/10**

That the Council repeat the comments it made to the Planning Authority when this application first came before the Council.

**Application No. 06/2255/10**

That the Council believe that the proposed development is inappropriate in a residential area.

**Application No. 06/1540/10**

That while the Council has no objection to the proposal, appropriate safeguards should be put in place to ensure the safety of children walking through the adjacent lane to access the nearby Pontyclun Primary School.

**Application No. 06/2127/15**

That the Council support the removal of the conditions.

**Application No. 06/2141/10**

(Councillor Cale declared an interest in this application and vacated the Council chamber)

That the Council offer no comment on the application.

**Application No. 06/1990/10**

That the site chosen for the winter games area contained a number of voids as a result of earlier mining activity in the area. The Council advise that steps be taken to stabilise the site or, alternatively, that a new site be chosen for the development. Further, that any development should not compromise any existing footpath or public right of way

**Application No. 06/2037/13**

That the Council is opposed to the application because it constitutes development in a green wedge. Furthermore, if granted, the application would be the forerunner of many applications for residential development in the green wedge separating Brynsadler and Llanharry.

(g) **Payment of creditors**

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

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

**Potential sites for additional planters in the Community**

The Clerk reported that he had taken advice from the Council's Handyman on the suitability of the four potential sites for the siting of planters.

**RESOLVED:** That in the light of the Handyman's comments, potential sites for planters be pursued at:

- (i) The junction of Park Lane with Llantrisant Road, Groesfaen.
- (ii) Beechlea Close, Miskin

That a site for a potential flower bed be pursued at the junction of Llanharry Road and Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler.

That the possibility of planting a silver birch tree be pursued for the green in front of Llwynypennau Cottages, Groesfaen.



8. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Pedestrian crossing, Pontyclun**

The Council discussed a letter from the Borough Council which stated that when the lights on the pedestrian crossing were first installed they met the requirements of the existing code of practice for illumination of pedestrian crossings.

Eighteen months ago, higher wattage bulbs had been installed in the lanterns. Of late, the guards covering the lanterns had been removed. Illumination at the crossing was now much better and the lanterns could be seen from a greater distance.

**RESOLVED:** That the letter be noted.

(b) **Local Development Plan**

The Clerk advised the Council that while there was still no news on the proposed meeting between community councils and the Borough Council about the Local Development Plan he had, that day, received a bundle of documents on the Borough Council's Preferred Strategy in formulating its Plan. Documents from the bundle were examined by the Council.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Clerk pursue the promised meeting with community councils in the Borough.
  - (ii) That a sub group be established comprising Councillors Griffiths, Jenkins, Lane and Norman to consider the implications for the Community of the Borough Council's Preferred Strategy in formulating the Local Development Plan.
  - (iii) That to assist a meeting of the sub group, the Clerk obtain four further copies of the Local Development Plan's Spatial Strategy.

(c) **Petition for an additional pedestrian crossing in Pontyclun**

The Clerk read out a letter which had been received from the Borough Council in response to the petition from residents of Pontyclun for an additional pedestrian crossing in Pontyclun.

The reply stated that the petition had been noted and that the request would be considered as part of a highway survey for the area.

**RESOLVED:** That the letter be noted.

(d) **Council's photocopier**

The Clerk reported that an engineer specialising in Canon photocopiers had advised that the cost of repairing the Council's 12 year old photocopier would exceed the cost of buying a new photocopier. Acting on this advice, and after advising the Chairperson, the Clerk had scrapped the old copier and arranged the purchase of a new machine for the sum of £200.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk's action be approved.

9. The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

