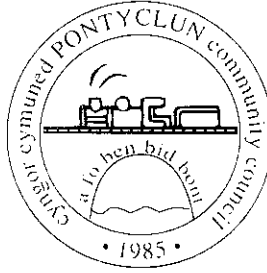


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

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Pontyclun Community Council

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Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held at the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 20 May, 2003.

PRESENT: Community Councillors Mrs V A Cale, C Davies, J G Davies, J R Dilworth, J V Huish, R G Norman, M Rea (Chairperson), S Rogers and Mrs P Thomas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Steve Keddle for part of the meeting

1. **Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Community Councillor C G Bendle.

2. **Declarations of interest**

Declarations of interest were invited from Members.

RESOLVED: That the disclosures be included in the Register of Disclosures

3. **Chairperson's/Leader's business**

The Chairperson reported that he attended the ecumenical service at the Pontyclun War Memorial organised by local churches on Good Friday. A large crowd enjoyed the service in warm sunshine.

The report was noted.

4. **Police matters**

(a) **Burglaries in Groesfaen**

P C Keddle reported that there had been some burglaries in Groesfaen since the last meeting of the Community Council. One

of the burglaries appeared to have been well planned since it occurred in an area where there was limited vehicular traffic, in daylight, and the thieves removed a safe from the house.

P C Keddle urged Council Members and members of the public to be vigilant on the possibility of burglary at all times.

(b) **Footpath parallel to Heol Miskin, Pontyclun**

P C Keddle referred to the long-standing concerns over the status of the footpath running parallel to Heol Miskin, Pontyclun.

P C Keddle said he was awaiting guidance from the Highway Authority in order that the police could be clear whether a breach of the law was taking place. To date the status of the footpath had been unclear and there had been local pressure for the issue to be resolved.

The Leader, Councillor Huish, stated that he had recently received an explanatory note from the Director of Environmental Services Group to say that the footpath was a footpath in law but there would be no objection to it being used by vehicles in an emergency or for dropping off passengers. A copy of the note was passed to the Clerk.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take a copy of the note for the Community Council's records, provide a copy to P C Keddle, and return the original note to Councillor Huish.

(c) **CCTV in Pontyclun**

A Member of the Council drew attention to the recent erection of notices on the CCTV poles in Pontyclun. The Member sought clarification on the operation of the system since some of the CCTV poles did not yet carry cameras.

The Clerk responded that there had been no formal correspondence from the Borough Council in the matter. However, he understood that the Borough Council was in the process of reviewing the staffing levels at its control room in Sardis House, Pontypridd, to take account of the significant expansion in CCTV provision within the Borough in recent years. The Clerk understood that staffing levels had not been reviewed since CCTV was introduced to cover the centre of Pontypridd by the former Taff Ely Borough Council. The Clerk further understood that the review would be completed in the coming weeks. When the review had been finalised it was likely that the CCTV system in Pontyclun would become fully operational.



The report was noted.

(d) **Motorised scooters**

P C Keddle referred to the report of motorised scooters using footways in the Community. He stated that further reports had been received by the police and wondered if any Members had any information on the ownership of the machines. One Member stated that he was aware of a maroon coloured scooter using a footway but had no information on the owner.

P C Keddle's comments were noted.

(e) **Burnt out vehicles**

Councillor Norman advised that concern had been expressed in recent months about the relative slowness of the Borough Council in removing burnt out vehicles in the Community.

Councillor Norman was pleased to be able to report that as a result of an initiative between the Borough Council and the DVLA in Swansea, the process of removal would, hopefully, be significantly speeded up in coming months.

(f) **Road fund tax**

P C Keddle asked for Members' help in reporting vehicles on public roads which did not have a displayed Road Fund Tax disk.

P C Keddle stated that any vehicles found not to be displaying a disc would be clamped by the police until the issue had been satisfactorily resolved.

The request was noted.

(g) **Polluted water**

A Member expressed concern that an inflatable boat had been used on the rivers Ely/Clun in the vicinity of the Ynysddu Estate. The Member pointed out that apart from the inherent danger of a drowning, the boat was being used in waters which were acknowledged to be polluted. There were no signs to indicate that the water was polluted.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make enquiries about who had responsibility to warn that the waters were polluted.

(h) **Stolen gates, Heol Miskin, Pontyclun**



A Member expressed concern that gates had been stolen from a house in Heol Miskin, Pontyclun on the evening of Friday 16 May, 2003. The Member asked if the theft could be investigated using evidence from a CCTV camera.

The matter was noted by P C Keddle.

(i) **Junction of Clun Avenue and Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun**

A Member of the Council sought an update on the dangerous situation caused by the parking of vehicles close to the junction of Clun Avenue and Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

The Leader, Councillor Huish, advised that a request had been made to the Highway Authority for a survey to be undertaken at the junction. The survey had not yet taken place.

The report was noted.

(j) **Speeding vehicles, Groesfaen**

The Chairperson, Councillor Rea, referred to the concerns he expressed at the last monthly meeting of the Community Council when he highlighted the need for monitoring the speed of vehicles entering Groesfaen from the west.

Councillor Rea was of the view that there was a major need to monitor the speed of vehicles on that stretch of Llantrisant Road to the west of the existing speed camera.

P C Keddle responded that he had progressed Councillor Rea's earlier request but had been told that there were no suitable monitoring sites to carry out effective monitoring.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the police drawing attention to the speed of traffic on the stretch of road to the west of the existing fixed camera and ask that monitoring of traffic speed takes place.

(k) **Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun**

Councillor Norman reported that following the success of Barretts, Housebuilders, in gaining planning consent for further residential development at Ynysddu Estate, Pontyclun, the company had been required to make a contribution of £25,000.00 towards the installation of a "puffin crossing" to improve road safety at the junction of the estate access road and Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. It was likely that the work would be completed in August, 2003.

The matter was noted.



(l) **Annual Leave**

P C Keddle informed the Community Council that he would not be attending the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 4 June, 2003. since he would be on annual leave.

The matter was noted.

5. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 3 April, 2003**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 3 April, 2003, be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Beating of the Bounds Ceremony, 2003**

RESOLVED: That the Chairperson of the Council, Councillor Rea, represent the Council at the Ceremony.

(b) **Highways issues**

Councillor Huish reported that he and Councillor ~~Chris Davies~~ ^{GRAHAM} held an useful meeting with the Divisional Director of Highways, Transportation and Development Control, Mr Dave Sherrard, and discussed a range of highways issues affecting the Community. Many of the issues raised would be the subject of further correspondence with the Community Council.

The matter was noted.

(c) **Ivor Park car park**

The Clerk reported that following receipt of further information from the resident who raised the complaint about the use of the car park he had provided additional information to the Borough Council.

The matter was noted.

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Audit of Accounts, 2001/02**

The Council received the External Auditor's Certificate and Opinion on the Community Council's accounts for 2001/02. The External Auditor had certified that on the basis of his review, in his opinion, the information contained in the Community Council's annual return is in accordance with the Audit Commission's

requirements and no matters had come to his attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

RESOLVED: That the certification of the External Auditor be noted.

(b) **Nomination to the Partnership Council**

The Council discussed the letter of 2 May, 2003, seeking nominations to the Partnership Council.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Rea be nominated by the Community Council and that the nomination be made through the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils.

(c) **Policy on Gifts and Hospitality**

The Council received the letter of 17 April, 2003, from the Borough Council's Legal and Democratic Services Officer in which it was stated that the Standards Committee and the Sub Committee dealing with community councils resolved to adopt the Borough Council's current policy in respect to gifts and hospitality. In effect, as a general policy, all gifts and hospitality offered to members and officers must be politely refused.

RESOLVED: That the above principle be adopted by the Pontyclun Community Council.

(d) **Possible further development at the former Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre, Talygarn**

The Council discussed the letter of 9 April, 2003, from Mr Paul Griffiths, former secretary of the Talygarn Cricket Club, in which he enclosed a copy of an earlier letter he had written to Mr Chris Nicholson of Cowbridge Developments.

Mr Griffiths had told Mr Nicholson that he felt that the cricket club was being used by Cowbridge Developments as a means of securing further planning consent for development at the former Rehabilitation Centre. Mr Griffiths stated that he believed certain people in the community understood that he had colluded in the granting of planning consent of an excessive scale and designed to exclude local people.

Mr Griffiths made it clear to Mr Nicholson that he was unwilling to be associated with an approach to development that appeared to local people to diminish the integrity and amenity of the former Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre.

The Council discussed the letter and expressed its sense of deep disappointment if cricket was to end in Talygarn during the Club's centenary year.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(e) **Litter in the vicinity of Pontyclun Station**

The Clerk reported that Network Rail had cleared a quantity of litter in the vicinity of Pontyclun railway station as promised earlier. Although the clear-up was welcomed, Members felt that there was need for regular removal of litter especially at the approaches to the station.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Network Rail expressing the Council's thanks for the reduction in litter at the station and asking if arrangements could be put in place for the regular removal of litter from the station.

(f) **Wales Association of Community and Town Councils**

The Council received the letter of 23 April, 2003, giving information on:

- (i) the four public seminars held in Wales to discuss the Role, Functions and Future Potential of community and town councils in Wales
- (ii) revised car allowances payable to clerks from 1 April, 2003
- (iii) the rally on Reviving Rural Communities in Wales to be held on 31 May, 2003.
- (iv) Planning Aid Wales

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(g) **Community Furniture Display**

The Council received information on the work of "too good to waste" formally known as Valleys Furniture Recycling and an invitation to attend one of the forthcoming roadshows.

RESOLVED: That any Member, or the Clerk, be authorised to attend one of the roadshows.

(h) **Planning applications contained in Weekly Notifications for Weeks Ending 21 & 28 March, 11 & 25 April and 2 May, 2003**



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

Application No. 03/0732/13

The Community Council is opposed to the application on the grounds that:

- (i) the proposal represents an over development of the plot of land
- (ii) the proposed rear access is unsatisfactory in that it will be below adoptable standards

Application No. 03/0736/16

The Community Council is opposed to the proposal on the grounds that:

- (i) the density of the proposed housing is too great
- (ii) the siting of the proposed houses is too close to existing woodland

(i) **Payment of creditors**

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

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

(a) **Rhondda & Taff Ely Crossroads**

The Council received an application for financial assistance from Rhondda & Taff Ely Crossroads.

RESOLVED: That the organisation be asked to produce a balance sheet in support of the application. If a balance sheet is received the application for financial assistance be considered at the Council's annual grants meeting.

(b) **Brofiscin Quarry**

The Council received a letter from the Borough Council asking for a nominee from the Community Council to sit on the Brofiscin Quarry Liaison Group.

RESOLVED: That the Chairperson, Councillor Rea be the Community Council's nominee.



(c) **Statement of Accounts**

The Clerk read out a letter from the Borough Council asking whether the Community Council would be prepared to forward a copy of its latest audited accounts. If the Community is agreeable to the request the Borough Council would also like to receive copies of the Community Council's accounts on an annual basis.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council accede to the request.

(d) **South Wales Police**

The Council received a letter from Inspector Hurley at the Talbot Green Police Station to say that she had been promoted to a post in Pontypridd and would be leaving the Talbot Green Station. Inspector Hurley wished to thank the Community Council for its assistance during her time in Talbot Green.

RESOLVED: That the Council thank Inspector Hurley for her letter and wish her every success in her new appointment.

9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Revised car allowances for employees**

RESOLVED: That the new provisions be noted and implemented.

(b) **Planning Aid Wales**

The Council received details of the expert assistance Planning Aid Wales could offer in making comments to planning authorities.

The information was noted.

(c) **Planning Appeal – 73 Dol y Llan, Miskin**

The Council noted the decision of the inspector who heard the appeal against the refusal of the Planning Authority to grant planning consent.

(d) **Planning Appeal – 28 Maes y Wennol, Miskin**

The Council noted the decision of the inspector who heard the appeal against the refusal of the Planning Authority to grant planning consent.

(e) **Llantrisant & District History Society**

The Council noted the programme of events planned by the Society for 2003/04.

(f) **A Better Life for Wildlife ?**

The Community Council noted that consultation is to take place between the Borough Council and the public on "A Better Life for Wildlife ?" The Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership would be seeking the public's ideas, experiences and views to contribute to the best possible Community Plan for wildlife and for the environment of Rhondda Cynon Taff.

Members of the public are invited to make a contribution between 9.30 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. on Friday, 6 June, 2003 at The Circles Gallery, The Muni, Pontypridd.

10. The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. G. E.', written in a cursive style.