

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held at the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, on Wednesday, 4 November, 1987, at 7.00p.m.

PRESENT: Community Councillors Professor I D Bowen, Mrs A Burton, Mrs I V Evans, Mr R C Kennard, Mr R G Norman (Chairman), Mrs O P Phillips and Mrs D Richards-Clarke

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors Mr T J Burton, Mr E Hopkin and Mr V P James.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Ian Guildford

1. Order of business

RESOLVED: That the order of business be revised and that item 3 on the Agenda be taken as the next item of business

2. Footpaths - Responsibilities of the County Council, District Council and Community Council

The Council was addressed by Mr David Pugh, Chief Assistant Engineer, and Mr Adrian Sander, Footpaths Officer, of the Highways and Transportation Department of the Mid Glamorgan County Council.

It was pointed out by the County Council Officers that footpaths, in law, were highways and, as such, were the responsibility of the highways authority. Under the Highways Act, 1980, provision existed for the delegation of footpaths responsibilities to district councils and to community councils.

Mr Pugh referred to the duties imposed in 1949 on County Councils and County Boroughs to produce a definitive map of rights of ways. The former Glamorgan County Council produced its definitive survey in 1954. Objections to the 1954 survey were still being heard but it was likely that within a few months the 1954 survey would be finalised. Mr Sander told the Council that while responsibility for the day to day running of the definitive survey lay with the County Council, community councils were seen as the County's "watchdogs" at local level. Mr Pugh advised the Council that the County Council's budget on footpaths for the current financial year was £80,000, of which, £12,000 was payable to the Taff Ely Borough Council. In turn, the Taff Ely Borough Council made an annual payment to the Pontyclun Community Council of approximately £600.00 for expenditure incurred of footpaths.

In response to questions from members Mr Pugh and Mr Sander advised that:-

- (i) responsibility for the maintenance of stiles and kissing gates lay with the respective landowners. Where a landowner carried out maintenance of stiles and kissing gates he was eligible for a grant of 75% of his costs.

*G.P. Phillips*

- (ii) where a landowner refused to maintain a stile or kissing gate the threat of the County Council carrying out the work and recharging the landowner with the costs was usually sufficient to get the landowner to carry out the work.
- (iii) responsibility for signposting of a footpath where that footpath terminated on a metalled highway lay with the County Council. Maintenance of the signposts also lay with the County Council. "Waymarking" could be carried out by a body other than the County Council.
- (iv) where obstruction of footpaths occurs the County Council would enter into discussion with all parties affected before resorting to legal action.
- (v) where a community council wished to get a regularly used footpath recognised as a right of way the County Council could issue "information sheets" which would assist in the process.

On behalf of the Community Council the Chairman thanked both Mr Pugh and Mr Sander for attending the meeting and giving the Council a most informative address.

3. Minutes of the Council's meeting of 7 October, 1987

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 7 October, 1987, be confirmed as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

(a) Overgrown trees in Miskin

The Council noted the reply from the Chief Environmental Health Officer of the Taff Ely Borough Council in which he informed the Council that the matter was not one which his department could become involved and suggesting that the respective parties contact their solicitors.

(b) Blasting at Hendy Quarry

The Council considered the reply of the Health and Safety Executive over complaints by residents in Miskin about the effects of blasting from the Hendy Quarry. The Council was perturbed that the Health and Safety Executive, as a third party, advised that residents should take up the matter of blasting with the Quarry. It was pointed out that residents had, on several occasions, complained direct to the quarry without success. As a result of residents lack of success the advice of a third party had been sought.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk refer the matter back to the Health and Safety Executive and also request the assistance of the Taff Ely Borough Council as it was believed that similar problems had been experienced by residents near the Craig-yr-Hesg Quarry.

(c) Further details of planning applications

(i) Application No 56/0776/87

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make further enquiries of the Taff Ely Borough Council to establish whether the proposed development for "research and development" purposes involved any environmental risk.

(ii) Application No 56/0807/87

It was noted that the proposal related to an area of woods which fell outside the Community's boundary.

(d) Back lane at the rear of Llwynfen Road, Pontyclun

In response to questions from members the Clerk reported that he had referred the dangerous condition of the lane to the Chief Environmental Health Officer and the Borough Engineer and Surveyor of the Borough Council. At the time of the meeting no replies had been received.

RESOLVED: (i) That in order to appraise local residents of the action taken by the Community Council the Clerk arrange for 12 copies of:-

- (a) the Council's minute of 7 October, 1987
- (b) the Council's letter to the Borough Engineer, Surveyor and Planning Officer
- (c) the Council's letter to the Chief Environmental Health Officer

to be made available to  
Councillor Mrs D Richards-Clarke

- (ii) That the matter be placed on the Agenda for the Council's meeting of 2 December, 1987.

5. Brackets for Hanging Baskets and Christmas Trees -  
Community Environment Programme

The Clerk referred to the earlier decision of the Council to participate, in conjunction with the Borough Council, in a scheme to provide multi purpose brackets capable of holding a hanging basket or Christmas tree. The Clerk reported that he had met with officers of the Borough Council who proposed carrying out a survey

of shopkeepers and traders in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, to determine the demand for the facility. It was likely that each bracket would cost a shopkeeper about £6.50 to erect and that a basket of flowers would cost a further £5.50. Although there were no costings available at that time for Christmas trees it was proposed to buy the trees, and lights, in bulk and pass on the savings to the shopkeepers. It was proposed that regular tending of plants in hanging baskets would be carried out by staff employed under the Taff Ely Borough Council Community Programme. The Clerk also reported that under the scheme it was also possible to erect single, large Christmas trees, and to carry out the planting of spring flowering bulbs in public places. The Clerk informed the Council that there was no conflict in the proposals with plans for the Community Council's own Community Programme Scheme under NACRO.

RESOLVED: (i) That approval be given to the proposals to carry out a survey of shopkeepers and traders in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, to determine the demand for multi purpose brackets.

(ii) That responsibility for the erection of a single large Christmas tree on the forecourt of the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun, be passed to the Taff Ely Borough Council CPS, subject to that organisation providing all labour free of charge.

(iii) That a feasibility study be carried out on the erection of a single large Christmas tree in Miskin, Brynsadler and Groesfaen.

(iv) That members of the Council be responsible for identifying sites within the Community for the large scale planting of spring flowering bulbs during the Autumn of 1988.

6. Proposed erection of bus shelter at Llanharry Road, Brynsadler

The Council noted that approval had been given by the Mid Glamorgan County Council for the erection of a bus shelter at Llanharry Road, Brynsadler.

7. Premises for Handyman

The Clerk reported that the District Valuer had notified him verbally that agreement had been reached with the owner of the Mission Hall off Merthyr Street, Pontyclun, for the lease of the Hall to the Community Council for a period of five years. The District Valuer had told the Clerk that he would report to the Council, formally, when negotiations with the owner had been finalised.

The matter was noted.

8. Landslip at Ivor Woods - Report of Consulting Engineers- Request for additional professional fees

The Clerk reported that following the Council's decision to offer a compromise solution to the dispute between the Council and the

Consulting Engineers over the latter's request for additional professional fees, he had secured the agreement of Ove Arup and Partners to the compromise.

The matter was noted.

9. Adoption of sewers in Rhyd-y-Nant, Pontyclun

The Clerk informed the Council of the difficulties which had been encountered in coordinating a joint meeting between representatives of the Council, the Welsh Water Authority, the Taff Ely Borough Council and residents of affected properties in Rhyd-y-Nant and the Maesyfelin Estate. The difficulties had been compounded by the limited availability of the Pontyclun Community Centre in the pre Christmas period.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk continue to progress the matter and in the event of the Pontyclun Community Centre being unavailable on the evening when all other parties are able to attend, arrangements be made for the meeting to be held at other premises in the locality.

10. Traffic sub committee

The Clerk referred to an earlier decision of the Council to convene a meeting of a traffic committee sub committee on receipt of a copy of the Local Plan and a copy of the Structure Plan. He reported that both documents had been received.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk make arrangements for a meeting of the sub committee.

(ii) That those members selected to sit on the committee be provided with the committee's terms of reference.

(iii) That an invitation to sit on the Committee be extended to the Community Policeman.

11. Payment of Creditors

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 5 to the Agenda.

12. Planning Notifications for Weeks 40, 41, 42 and 43

The planning applications contained in Notifications 40, 41, 42 and 43 were noted.

RESOLVED: That further details be sought on application 56/87/0830

13. Any other business of an urgent nature

(a) Sewage problems at Castell-y-Mwnws

Councillor Kennard reported that there had been further problems with the sewer connecting Castell-y-Mwnws to the nearby sewage station. Spillage of raw sewage had taken place over a distance of 200 yards and had rendered a footpath unusable. It appeared

that the Borough Council had unblocked the sewer but had taken no action to hose down the surrounding area.

- RESOLVED: (i) That the Taff Ely Borough Council be asked to state its plans to prevent the regular spillage of sewage at Castell-y-Mwnws.
- (ii) That the Taff Ely Borough Council be requested to replace the broken manhole cover at the Nant Felin Fach end of the sewer.
- (iii) That the Taff Ely Borough Council be requested to ensure that effective hosing down be practiced in any future incident.

(b) Bus shelter in Groesfaen

Councillor Kennard reported that the bus shelter at the western end of Groesfaen appeared to have suffered damage.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange for the Council's handyman to carry out remedial work.

(c) Condition of pavement from Heol Miskin into Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun

Councillor Phillips reported that the pavement from Heol Miskin into Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun, was in a poor state of repair and posed a hazard to some of the elderly residents regularly using the pavement.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman pursue the matter with the County Council.

(d) Damaged wayside seat outside St Paul's Church, Pontyclun

Councillor Phillips reported that the wayside seat outside St Paul's Church, Pontyclun had been considerably damaged in recent weeks. The Clerk advised the Council that the seat was due for replacement in the near future.

- RESOLVED: (i) That arrangements be made for the immediate disposal of the existing seat.
- (ii) That the Clerk contact the Council's supplier of wayside seats and notify him that if delivery of the replacement seat is not made by 31 December, 1987, the Council would cancel its order.

(e) Community Watch, Miskin

P C Guildford advised the Council that in cooperation with residents of Miskin a Community Watch had recently been established.

The matter was noted.

(f) Litter bins

Councillor Bowen reported that the replacement of the oil drum type litter bins in Pontyclun had been well received. He invited the Council to consider other suitable locations for the siting of litter bins in the Community.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk make enquiries with the Mid Glamorgan County Council about the possibility of siting a further litter bin outside the fish and chip shop in Cowbridge Road, outside the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, and outside the Indian restaurant in Cowbridge Road.

(ii) That the matter of litter bins be discussed further at the Council's meeting of 2 December, 1987.

(g) Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Llantrisant - Council's nominee to the Board of Governors

Councillor Bowen reported that the Council's nominee to the governing body of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Llantrisant, Dr S M Bowen, had attended a number of meetings of the governing body since her nomination.

RESOLVED: That an invitation to attend the Council's meeting of 2 December, 1987, be extended to Dr Bowen.

(h) Taff Ely Borough Council - Trade Waste Collection/Disposal

Councillor Bowen produced copies of a letter from the Borough Council to Mr Brynmor John, MP, in which an explanation was offered for the revised arrangements operating within the Borough for trade waste collection and disposal.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Borough Council advising that the Community Council would have been pleased to receive the information direct in order that members of the Council could communicate that information to local traders.

- (i) Illumination of footpath connecting Maelog Close with Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun

The Clerk referred to the reply which had been received from the Borough Council about the possibility of providing illumination on the footpath connecting Maelog Close with Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. It was stated that the illumination of a footway between two adopted roads was the responsibility of the County Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk pursue the matter with the County Council

- (j) Community Councillor E Hopkin

Members were pleased to hear that Councillor E Hopkin continued to make good progress after his recent hospitalisation.

RESOLVED: That the Council's best wishes be conveyed to Councillor Hopkin for his continued improvement and that the Council look forward, in due course, to receiving Councillor Hopkin's valued contribution to the work of the Council.

14. The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.

G.P. Phillips