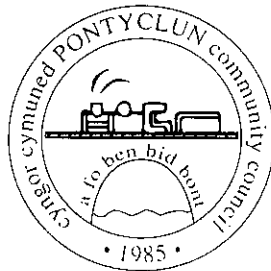


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

Clerc i'r Cyngor
 J.H.G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.
 "Mandalay"
 Heol Bontfaen
 Talygarn
 Pontyclun
 CF72 9BZ

Ffôn: 01443 227094
 Ffacs: 01443 238500



Pontyclun Community Council

Clerc to the Council
 J.H.G. Lewis, A.C.I.S., D.M.A.
 "Mandalay"
 Cowbridge Road
 Talygarn
 Pontyclun
 CF72 9BZ

Tel: 01443 227094
 Fax: 01443 238500

Minutes of the meeting of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday, 24 August, 2000

PRESENT: Community Councillors C G Bendle, V A Cale, C Davies, J G Davies, J R Dilworth, J V Huish, R G Norman, M Rea and P Thomas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Six members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor S Rogers

2. **Letters from Cooke and Arkwright and the N.H.S. Directorate of the National Assembly about Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre**

A full and frank discussion took place on the circumstances which gave rise to correspondence from the Chairman of the Community Council to the National Assembly and Cooke and Arkwright with an offer to purchase grounds in the vicinity of the former Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre. It emerged that the actions had been supported and seconded by Councillor Norman, but no wider consultation had taken place.

Overwhelmingly, the Council believed that the letter should not have been sent since:

- (i) The Council had not agreed to make an offer for the land.
- (ii) The statement that the Council had a business plan which it shared with partners for the maintenance of the land was incorrect.
- (iii) The statement that the Council was committed to providing a budget for the maintenance of the land was incorrect.

R G Norman

40/115

Members were told that the District Auditor had been consulted and had expressed the view that the offer made by the Chairman was ultra vires.

Members were also advised that the correspondence initiated by the Chairman had received widespread publicity and had raised public expectations.

Following further discussion concern was expressed that the reputation of the Community Council had been tarnished and brought into disrepute. The Chairman was asked if he would:

- (i) Apologise to the Council for his actions
- (ii) Apologise to the public for his actions
- (iii) Tender his resignation

In response, the Chairman stated that he had always acted in good faith and in the belief that he was acting in the interests of the Community following representations from a member of the public. He declined to offer any apologies or to offer his resignation.

RESOLVED: That a panel of 3 members be established to investigate the incident in detail with a view to making recommendations to the Council; the panel to comprise 2 members of the majority party and one member from the independent members of the Council.

(Note: during the course of the Council's discussion Councillor Bendle withdrew from the meeting stating that in his view the issue had become political)

3. Possibility of producing a business plan for the management of the grounds in the vicinity of Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre

The Chairman was asked whether he had carried out a costing exercise into the maintenance of the grounds at the former Rehabilitation Centre. The Chairman indicated that he had not. Reference was made to a capital grant of £75,000 which had been available some years earlier for the renovation of the bowling green. There was no indication that this grant would still be available or whether there would be any grant towards revenue expenditure for maintenance.

The Council was told that enquiries of the Area Health Authority had revealed that the cost of maintaining the grounds in the vicinity of the Rehabilitation Centre was in the region of £30,000 per annum with overall costs in the region of £200,000.

The Council was of the view that such costly maintenance was well beyond the means of the Community Council, even though there was a possibility of other bodies entering into a partnership to share costs. Furthermore, it had been established that if one, or more, of the proposed partners decided

to withdraw from the maintenance arrangements the entire maintenance cost could fall upon the Community Council.

The Community Council expressed its support for any realistic scheme that would save Talygarn and did not want to see the grounds of the former Rehabilitation Centre lost to the public but it was firmly of the view that the Council was not the proper vehicle for retaining the facility in the public sector. It was suggested that the Talygarn Forum may be a more appropriate vehicle for achieving the objective.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That no business plan be produced.
 - (ii) That the matter of a bid for the grounds in the vicinity of the former Rehabilitation Centre be referred to the Talygarn Forum.
 - (iii) That no further discussion be held on the remaining items on the agenda.

4. The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.