

Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun Community Council

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M I N U T E S

Minutes of the **July's monthly meeting** of Pontyclun Community Council held at Pontyclun Community Centre, Heol yr Orsaf, Pontyclun, at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, 8 July, 2014.

PRESENT: Community Councillors: Ann Bennett, Ken Forsdyke, Gwynn Griffith, Margaret Griffiths (Chair), Paul Griffiths, Janis Jones, Tony Lane, Gordon Norman, Huw Rees, Brendan O'Reilly and Bethan Theaker.
Councillor Paul Griffiths arrived at 7.10 pm having attended another meeting.

4 Members of the public were also present.

1. **Apologies for absence**

No apologise.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Janis Jones declared an interest for Item 6 Grant Applications.

Organiser of the Pontyclun Arts Festival

Councillor Janis Jones declared an interest for Item 9 (ii)

Member of the Community Trust

Councillor Paul Griffiths declared an interest for Item 9 (ii)

Member of the Community Trust

Councillor Margaret Griffiths declared an interest for Item 9 (ii)

Member of the Community Trust

Councillor Ann Bennett declared an interest for Item 9 (ii)

Member of the Community Trust

3. **Matters raised by residents/guest**

(i) Free School Transport

The Clerk reported that an e-mail had been received on the 3 July, 2014 from a parent who's child was not eligible for free school transport as the distance from home to school was under the 2 mile criteria set by Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. A copy of the e-mail had been sent with the meeting's papers and was also handed out at the meeting.

Three local residents from Clos Brenin addressed the Council on this matter and asked for their support. The Council agreed that the calculated distance method used by Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council as the criteria for eligibility for free school transport was not a fair method as children in the same street were being treated differently. The local residents gave an example of two children living in the same street; one child lived within 2 miles of their school and another further than 2 miles from their school. The child who lived within 2 miles of their school was not eligible for free transport yet a few doors away the child whose home was further than 2 miles from the school was entitled to free transport. The Council considered Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's Provision of Home to School/College Transport policy but had concerns over the alternative for those parents who are not eligible for free transport but can apply for a seat on the bus as this could not be guaranteed. The Council would request that Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council considers free transport for all children and young people living in the Brynsalder area travelling to Ysgol Llanhari.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be instructed to write to Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council requesting the Council to consider free school transport for all children and young people in the Brynsalder area. **A236**

(ii) Grant Application – Merched Y Wawr

A representative from Merched Y Wawr addressed the Council to confirm that members of the organisation live in the community of Pontyclun. A grant from the Community Council would help Merched y Wawr further extend their membership in the four wards of Pontyclun (Pontyclun, Miskin, Cefn yr Hendy and Groesfaen).

RESOLVED: That the Council awarded a grant of £100 to Merched Y Wawr. **A237**

4. Reports and presentations from others

Police report – appendix 1

Councillor Paul Griffiths reported that from the PACT meeting held on the 1 July, 2014 Alternative parking arrangements to alleviate the congestion of delivery lorries at the junction of Heol Y Ceredin had been discussed and ideas arising from the meeting were being taken forward.

RESOLVED: That the Council noted the report.

5. Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the Council's monthly meeting, 10 June, 2014 as an accurate record – appendix 2

Councillor T Lane noted that he had left the meeting after item 8 (ii)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the monthly meeting 10 June, 2014 shown in appendix 2 be approved as accurate subject to the addition of Councillor T Lane's departure before Item 8 (ii).

6. Grant Applications 2014 (Action 208)

To decide on awards for grant applications received

- (i) Appendix 3a Alheimers Society £3,200

After discussing the Alzheimer's Society grant application the Council agreed that in line with its policy to support local organisation this national organisation would not be eligible to receive a grant.

- (ii) Appendix 3b The Pontyclun and District Allotment Association (letter 26 June, 2014)

The Council agreed to award a grant of £150.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council does not award a community grant to the Alheimers Society
(ii) That the Council awards a grant of £150 to the Pontyclun and District Allotment Association. **A237**

7. Matters arising from previous meetings – Action Table appendix 4

iii Action 232 Pontyclun War Memorial – floodlights

The Clerk reported that following a site visit on the 16 May 2014 Centre Great had e-mailed an estimate for the installation of flood lights totalling £1,836.20 plus VAT. The Clerk also reported that she had not received any further communication from local residents following the official consultation process carried out May 2014. The Clerk will provide a report for the September meeting for Members to consider

RESOLVED: That the Clerk provide a report to the Council at the September meeting. **A232**

iv Action 221 – Governing Documents for Council

The Clerk has now distributed a copy of the Council's Governing Documents to all Members.

RESOLVED: That Members confirmed they had received the documents.

8. Report and recommendations from Working Groups

Report of the Administration Working Group on the provision of public conveniences – appendix 5

Councillor Paul Griffiths presented a report following the meeting on 19 May, 2014.

The Working Group had considered various options for providing public conveniences in Pontyclun and presented four options for the Council to discuss at this meeting. During the discussion Members considered a further option of demolishing the existing building and relocating the service to the former police room adjacent to the Day Centre. Members concluded to further pursue Option 3; to convert the old police room at the Day Centre to public conveniences and to convert the existing toilets to a business unit. If this was not possible, the second option preferred by Members was to leave the toilets as they are.

RESOLVED: That the Council agreed to investigate further the option to convert the old police room at the Day Centre to public conveniences and to convert the existing toilets to a business unit. A238

9. Report and recommendations from Clerk

- i To approve budget report - appendix 6

The Clerk reported that overspends have been incurred in the following budget headings

Training/Conferences – The Caretaker and Assistant Caretaker have now attended courses the following courses LANTRA Bushcutting/Strimming, Manual Handling, CIEH Risk Assessment, First Aid and BICS (British Institute of Cleaning Services). The Clerk has also attended a SLCC Wales conference in June. There is current overspend of £434.00.

Clothing/equipment for new employees – The estimated Personal Protective Equipment budget has not been sufficient to cover the actual costs of all the PPE requirements. There is currently an overspend of £113.

Machinery/Tools/Community Repairs – new machinery has been purchased and some replaced. There is now an overspend of £255.

VAT has been charged on all of these orders and the Council will be able to reclaim this. As the Council moves on further into the financial year the Clerk will request it to consider virements in order to balance the budget heads.

RESOLVED: That the Council noted the budget report.

- ii To approve the payment of creditors - appendix 7

RESOLVED: That the Council approve the payment of creditors as listed in Appendix 7.

- iii Report on Treatment of knotweed – appendix 8

Following discussions and subsequent site meetings on the 19 and 24 June Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council are contracting Landtech (UK) Ltd to spray the three areas of infestation

1. In Ivor Woods, land owned by the Community Council, along the river bank and adjacent to residential property.
2. On land along the river in Brynsadler owned by the Community Council and leased to the Community Trust.

3. Around the perimeter of Windsor Fields which is on land owned by RCT Council and leased to Pontyclun Rugby Club.
4. Pontyclun Community Council have been requested to pay £800 in the first year towards the costs of the first year's treatment. The contractor recommended that these areas are sprayed at the end of the growing period, normally August. At this time of year the spray will be drawn to the roots and the plant will be diminished. 90% of the infestation will be eliminated by the first year of spraying. The remaining 10% will be eliminated by successive spraying in two further years. Contributions in the two following years would be less than that in the first year. Permission would have to be sought from the landowner to access the knotweed growing on the land along the river in Brynsadler owned by the Community Council and leased to the Community Trust.

RESOLVED: That the Council agreed to draw £800 from its reserve as its contribution to the treatment of knotweed on council owned land in Pontyclun. **A239**

iv Report on future role of Community Councils

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

v Report on Pontyclun Railway Station

Councillor Ann Bennett presented the reported tabled as appendix 10. Arriva Trains were ready to fit the planters at the station. The shelters had also been steamed clean. A further meeting with Arriva Trains, Transport Police, PSCO D Jones and the Council was being arranged to discuss vandalism.

Recorded vote was requested

FOR: Councillors Bethan Theaker, Ken Forsdyke, Ann Bennett, Janis Jones, Huw Rees, Margaret Griffiths, Paul Griffiths and Gwynn Griffith.

AGAINST: Councillors Tony Lane, Brendan O'Reilly and Gordon Norman.

RESOLVED: That the Council agreed to

- (i) Commit a further £200 towards the purchase of troughs
- (ii) Ask its Caretaker to work with volunteers to landscape the land alongside the steps on the north side of the railway line
- (iii) Ask its Caretaker to take responsibility for planting the troughs and maintaining them including summer watering. **A240**

vi Report on the Day Centre

Councillor Bethan Theaker presented the Council with a £125.76 raised at the Fun Day and Councillor Janis Jones presented the Council with a cheque of £100 again raised from the proceeds of stalls at the Fun Day. The Council appreciated the kind donations for the Day Centre. The Council requested the Clerk to arrange a first meeting of a Management Review Group.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange a first meeting of a Management Review Group **A233**

viii Report on Clerks annual leave and TOIL accrued

The Council raised concerns as to the Clerks report and stressed the importance of the office being open to the public. The Clerk and Chair would further discuss office cover arrangements and the Clerk's leave. A meeting of the Administration Working Group was to be held on the 9 September, 2014 to review demands of workload and consider ways to ensure the office remains open throughout the year.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk and Chair meet to arrange when the office is to be closed over the summer period.
(ii) Administration Working Group meet on the 9 September, 2014 to discuss future staffing arrangements of the Council. **A241**

ix Welsh Government request for employment information on Community Councillor in readiness for the Elections in 2017

The Clerk reported the Welsh Government had requested a list of its Councillors. The Clerk has completed this request.

RESOLVED: That the Council noted the information.

Planning Applications

Applications were not discussed by Council at this meeting as time was approaching 10.00 pm

10 Motions tabled by Councillors

Councillor T Lane :- Re:-The Pontyclun Day Centre, Heol Yr Orsaf
That the Clerk be instructed to seek written advice from NALC / OVW / The Welsh Audit Office as to the propriety / legality per rules and regulations covering Pontyclun Community Council providing a monetary subsidy to cover running costs from it's precept and RCTCBC providing "premises & equipment " at a cost of £1 per annum against their own estimate rentable value of £5000 P .A premises only. Thus enabling a private commercial caterer to provide meals / food on community premises to make a profit by providing food & drink at the above Day centre. This means that the tax payers of the Pontyclun Ward of RCTCBC are subsidising all RCTCBC run daycentres via their council tax and the Pontyclun daycentre services subsidised by the PCC via their Community charge with no direct control by the PCC on who is availing themselves of this facility.

Standing Orders suspended at 10.00 pm in order to proceed with meeting

Councillor T Lane presented his motion and it was seconded by Councillor B O'Reilly.

The Clerk reported an e-mail received concerning this motion from a member of the public and distributed copies to Members.

Members discussed the motion and a recorded vote was requested.

FOR: Councillors Tony Lane, Gwynn Griffiths, Brendan O'Reilly, Gordon Norman.
AGAINST: Councillors Huw Rees, Janis Jones, Ann Bennett, Bethan Theaker,
Ken Forsdyke, Paul Griffiths, Margaret Griffiths.

11 Questions from Councillors

Notice of an application by Persimmon for a 'comprehensive development' at Junction 33 Councillor Gwynn Griffith raised serious concerns with Members over the proposed comprehensive development of land to the north of junction 33 of the M4 by Persimmon Homes. Such a large development will inevitably impact on not only the Groesfaen ward of Pontyclun but all three will be affected by the initial construction traffic followed by the increase in residential and business usage. The Council does not agree that sufficient consideration has been given by Cardiff City Council as to the transport links required for any new development and therefore oppose this application.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk registers an opposition to the proposed development application 14/00852/DCO **A242**

Meeting closed 10.20 pm

Next meeting is on Tuesday 16 September, 2014