

MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

Date : Wednesday 19th September 2018

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Matters Arising from Minutes of Working Group Meeting held 12.06.18.
3. Any update/comments following meeting with Ray Edwards.
4. Any update/comments following meeting with Richard Wistow.
5. Plastic Free Pontyclun.
6. River Rubbish.
7. Pontyclun Woods.
8. Trees on Riverside Walk/Millfield.
9. Pontyclun Environment Group – Any business to raise.
10. Pontyclun Community Garden – Any business to raise.
11. A.O.B

Present

Paul Griffiths; Anne Jackson; Gwyn Jackson; Neil Holley, Karan Lane
Pontyclun Environment Group (PEG) :- Sarah Jenkins;

1. Apologies
Mike Davies, Margaret Griffiths, Lisa Williams (Pontyclun Community Garden)
2. Matters Arising from Minutes of Working Group Meeting of 12.06.18

(i) Planter - Further to previous discussions concerning the Planter at the Rugby Club, KL advised that the Clerk has received confirmation that the Rugby Club have agreed the Council's preferred option for a replacement Planter (i.e.: to replace the planter with a horizontal plastic planter which would fit onto the posts of the Rugby Club sign). Estimated cost for this option is around £350. The Working Group agreed that this matter could now go back to the PCC meeting in October so spend on the new Planter could be approved.

Sarah suggested that once the new Planter is in place more 'natural planting' should be considered.

Action :- Council to agree approximate spend of £350 on the suggested replacement planter.

- (ii) Review of the Council's Green Space Management Policy

The matter of reviewing and updating the Policy is ongoing but the Working Group agreed that the revised Policy should cover the points of; (i) responsibility for large items of river rubbish, and (ii) dealing with graffiti, in co-operation with other community groups such as Pontyclun Environment Group. The Policy must also

make clear exactly what the Community Council is responsible for, and what issues must be reported to the Clerk for forwarding to RCT to deal with. KL aims to have progressed the matter of the Policy review by the next Working Group meeting.

(iii) Dog Litter Bins

RCT have provided a map of the location of dog bins and the Working Group discussed this issue further in light of the information received. It was agreed that RCT should be contacted to request an additional 2 dog bins but these are to be placed where responsibility for providing and emptying the bins will be the responsibility of RCT and not the Community Council.

Action:- KL will contact RCT to see if it is possible for RCT to provide and empty 2 extra dog bins.

3. Meeting with Ray Edwards

Following the meeting/evening walk attended by Ray Edwards (Landscape Architect – RCT); Anne & Gwyn Jackson & KL, KL advised that Mr Edwards had e-mailed information on Japanese Knotweed. Mr Edwards has confirmed that the seasonal spraying for Knotweed treatment has taken place in Pontyclun. Sarah queried the extent of the knotweed spraying that RCT have done along the Brynsadler Mill river walk.

Action :- (i) KL will forward the information received from Mr Edwards to all Working Group members & also to Sarah and Lisa. (ii) KL will ask Mr Edwards to confirm the extent of the spraying treatment undertaken along the Brynsadler Mill walk.

4. Meeting with Richard Wistow

Following on from the meeting/evening walk with Richard Wistow (RCT CBC Ecologist) attended by members of the Community Council, Pontyclun Environment Group, and the Pontyclun Community Garden, it was suggested that the Community Council could consider assisting with maintaining a couple of the natural areas in Pontyclun (e.g: the grassed area just over the motorway bridge in Talygarn; and the larger grassed area just before the motorway bridge at the top of Brynsadler hill). To assist the Community Council in considering what assistance it can offer, Sarah suggested that the “[Say no to Mow](#)” website could contain helpful information for the Community Council.

Action:- The Community Council to discuss the suggestion that the Community Council could assist with maintaining a couple of open grassed areas in Pontyclun.

5. Plastic Free Pontyclun

Margaret Griffiths took part in a Keep Wales Tidy assessment of YGGG Llantrisant as the school has applied for a top Eco School award. The pupils at the school are keen to get involved with the Community Council to encourage businesses to become plastic free; to re-cycle, and to become Fairtrade businesses. The School has invited

the Community Council to visit the school to receive a presentation on the harm of plastic. It is suggested that the visit takes place on a school day with perhaps 6 or 7 Councillors attending.

Action:- YGGG Llantrisant to be contacted to ask for proposed date(s) for the presentation, the suggested date(s) to be after the Community Council October meeting.

Action :- The Community Council to discuss which Councillors might be available to attend the presentation.

6. River Rubbish

Problems seem to be continuing. Following the June Working Group meeting Mike Davies notified that 3 trolleys had been dumped in the river by Y Pant.

Following discussion of this ongoing problem the Working Group made a couple of suggestions;

- . The Green Space Management Policy could contain information clarifying when river rubbish is the responsibility of the Community Council or RCT, and when removal of large items of rubbish should be the responsibility of the relevant landowner.

- . KL could meet with the Clerk to obtain details of land ownership along the river so landowners can be contacted.

Action – Council to approve spend of up to £50 towards the cost of searches

- . A link to RCT's Fly Tipping reporting form could be placed on the Community Council's website as such reporting might well cover certain situations (even if use of the form is not appropriate for the larger items of river rubbish).

7. Pontyclun Woods

Paul Griffiths had received an e-mail from a contact at Llais Y Goedwig (who are a Community Woodland Trust). Llais Y Goedwig are offering to help the Community Council and Pontyclun Environment Group to manage the local woodlands. They suggested meeting with the Community Council and PEG to discuss further.

Action :- Sarah agreed to contact Llais Y Goedwig to arrange a meeting.

8. Brynsadler Mill Riverside Walk

The Clerk has been in contact with Sarah (PEG) concerning 3 trees at the start of the Brynsadler Mill riverside walk which are in a dangerous condition and need removing. This has been raised with PEG as PEG are tenants of the land at Brynsadler Mill.

The Clerk has obtained 2 quotes for the tree works;

- . £880.00 plus Vat; and
- . £960.00 (No vat)

Prior to the Working Group meeting the Clerk also advised that there is an issue at Millfield with an overhanging tree. The Community Council Caretakers do not have the tools to deal with the necessary works. It will be possible to use the same Tree Surgeon for the tree removal works to undertake lopping of the overhanging tree and a cost estimate for the lopping work is £100.

The above matters were discussed between those Community Councillors present and Sarah, and Sarah kindly proposed that PEG would offer to contribute £440 being half the cost of the tree removal works. It was assumed that Vat could be claimed back.

It was agreed that the £100 approximate cost of lopping works should be put before the October Community Council meeting. The Working Group agreed that the Community Council should consider meeting the £100 lopping costs given Sarah's (PEG's) substantial offer of financial contribution towards the tree removal costs.

Action :- Community Council to consider meeting the £100 overhanging tree lopping cost.

9. Pontyclun Environment Group - Issues raised

- (i) Sarah raised the matter of the tenant's obligations contained within the lease between the Community Council and PEG (formerly Pontyclun Community Trust). There are some obligations which are manageable for PEG, but there are other obligations which are not manageable for PEG. Sarah proposed that the current lease be reviewed and updated so as to become far more "fit for purpose". The Working Group agreed that reviewing/revising the form of lease with PEG would be a valuable process.

Action :- Sarah will provide KL with a list of obligations which PEG can realistically meet as Tenants. This list can then be put before the Community Council for discussion/agreement so that a revised form of lease can be progressed.

- (ii) Sarah advised that PEG plan an 'Autumn Clun' the provisional date for which is **Saturday 10th November 2018**.
- (iii) Lastly, Sarah advised that PEG are planning a coppicing event in January 2019. Coppicing is a form of woodland management which encourages the capacity many species of trees have to put out new shoots from their stumps or roots if cut down, thereby encouraging tree growth.

10. Pontyclun Community Garden - Issues raised

KL has received an e-mail request from Lisa of the Community Garden group that the Working Group discuss the rubbish in the woods behind the garden, and to ask whether members of the Working Group could get involved in cleaning up this area.

Sarah confirmed that this area is targeted as an area for litter picking for the planned Autumn Clun which should help the situation.

11. A.O.B

None raised.

DATE OF NEXT WG MEETING: WEDNESDAY 24TH OCTOBER - 7PM