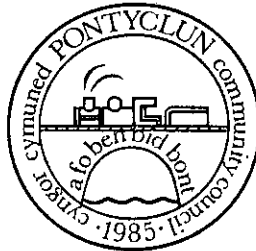


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 19 October, 1994

PRESENT: Community Councillors Mr C G Bendle (Chairperson), Professor I D Bowen, Mrs A Burton (for part of the meeting), Mr T J Burton (for part of the meeting), Mr J R Dilworth, Mr V P James, Mr G M Moir, Mr R G Norman and Mrs O P Phillips

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Five members of the public representing the Pontyclun Chamber of Trade and the Pontyclun Action Group

1. Apology for absence

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Community Councillor E V Griffith

2. Point of clarification

The Chairperson, Councillor Cyril Bendle, stated that he was aware that Community Councillor Tudor Burton was a member of the Pontyclun Action Group in addition to being a member of the Community Council. The Chairperson sought clarification from Councillor Tudor Burton on whether he was present as a Community Councillor or in his role as a member of the Pontyclun Action Group.

Councillor Burton replied that he was attending the meeting as a member of the Community Council and that he intended declaring his interest when the Community Council discussed matters affecting the Pontyclun Action Group.

3. Delegation from the Pontyclun Chamber of Trade and the Pontyclun Action Group

The Chairperson, Councillor Cyril Bendle, welcomed members of both groups. He advised the representatives that the Clerk had spoken and written to their joint secretary, Mr Trefor Rees, in advance of the meeting to establish the topics of discussion in order that the Community Council's records could be researched. Unfortunately, there had been no response. While it was true that a member of the Chamber of Trade had addressed an earlier Council meeting there had been no contact from the Pontyclun Action Group, although the Council was aware that criticisms had been levelled against its

members in a circular letter distributed in the Community. The circular had contained a number of errors and it was unfortunate that the Pontyclun Action Group had overlooked contacting the Community Council before going to press. The Chairperson pointed out that the Community Council regularly, and successfully, brought pressure on the Borough Council and the County Council for improvements in the Community and that its actions were minuted and available for inspection in the public library.

The Chairperson said that it was important for both groups to understand that the Community Council's direct powers to take action were very limited but that the Council had achieved significant successes in persuading the appropriate bodies with statutory authority to take action.

The Chairperson invited a spokesman from the groups to address the Council. Mr Keith Russell, Chairperson of the Pontyclun Action Group stated that there were four main areas of concern, that is, speeding vehicles, the shortage of pedestrian crossings, the shortage of parking places and the absence of informative street nameplates and direction signs.

Speeding Vehicles:

Mr Russell told the Council that there was much disquiet in Pontyclun about the number of vehicles which sped through the village. He believed that there was an urgent need to control the speed of vehicles, particularly heavy lorries on their journeys to and from the local quarries, before a fatality occurred.

Councillor Tudor Burton stated that he had attended the last meeting of the Taff Ely Police Liaison Committee and had voiced his concern on the matter. He had obtained an assurance that the police would consider the suggestion of the installation of cameras to monitor the speed of vehicles.

The Chairperson advised Mr Russell that the issue of speeding vehicles in Pontyclun had been one of deep concern to the Community Council over many months. He told Mr Russell that the Community Council had been particularly active in bringing residents' concerns to the attention of the police. The Chairperson understood that the police had monitored the speed of vehicles through Pontyclun and that action had been taken against offending motorists. Additionally, the Community Council had complained of the excessive speed of motorists in Brynsadler, Misikin and Groesfaen. The Community Council's actions had been instrumental in the police radar team carrying out random checks.

Shortage of pedestrian crossings:

Mr Russell said that linked with the first point was the shortage of pedestrian crossings in Pontyclun. The only crossing in the village was poorly sited to meet residents' needs. There was an urgent need for a second crossing to the north of the existing crossing. Furthermore, the crossings should be of the modern pelican type. A recent petition seeking an additional crossing for Pontyclun had been supported by over 2,000 signatories.

Councillor Delme Bowen responded that in 1993 he had requested the County Council to install an additional pedestrian crossing in Pontyclun. Councillor Bowen stated that his efforts in 1993 had proven to be unsuccessful because the County Council had maintained that there was insufficient demand. Councillor Bowen advised that as the County Council member for Pontyclun he was in the best position to raise the matter again - especially if it could be demonstrated that there had been considerable changes in volumes of traffic and in the patterns of residents crossing the A4222. Councillor Bowen said that he was totally committed to promoting the case for Pontyclun but to carry out his duties to best effect it was essential that action groups involved him in matters concerning the County Council.

Shortage of parking places:

Mr Russell told the Council that there was a dire need to improve parking facilities in Pontyclun. Mr Russell was supported by Mr Bartle who said that the Taff Ely Borough Council agreed that there was a shortage of parking facilities in Pontyclun. A site meeting had been arranged with Borough Council members for November to explore ways of overcoming the shortage.

The Chairperson responded that he was very pleased to hear that the Borough Council was looking for ways to provide still more parking places in Pontyclun. Councillor Bowen reminded the groups that the Community Council had played an important part in bringing additional parking places to the whole of the Community during the previous ten years. He quoted the additional 60 places at the new Community Centre, the Community Council sponsored car park at the Ivor Field which took players' and spectators' cars off the Cowbridge Road, the numerous on street parking places on the Cefn yr Hendy Estate, Lewis Street, School Street, and at Llwynypenna in Groesfaen. Furthermore, when the final phase of development at the Pontyclun railway station was completed there would be an extra 20 places in the centre of Pontyclun. While the spaces at the railway station development were intended primarily for rail users they would reduce the pressure on other parking places in the village. Councillor Bowen doubted if any other community council in the UK had succeeded in gaining so many parking places in a relatively short space of time.



Absence of informative street nameplates and direction signs

Mr Russell told the Council that the Pontyclun Action Group's last area of concern was the lack of informative street nameplates in the Community. Whilst most streets had nameplates very few contained any indication of the other nearby streets which could be accessed. As a rare example of what the Action Group wished to see Mr Russell quoted the example of Merthyr Street in Pontyclun where the recently erected new street nameplate now read "Merthyr Street leading to Maelog Close"

At this point in the meeting Councillor Tudor Burton indicated that he wished to make a contribution to the debate. However the Chairperson ruled that as Councillor Burton was a member of the Pontyclun Action Group and had already stated his intention of declaring an interest when Pontyclun Action Group matters were discussed, it was inappropriate for Councillor Burton to make his comment. Councillor Tudor Burton protested that the ruling was unfair and left the meeting in protest. Councillor Burton was accompanied by Councillor Mrs Burton.

Councillor Norman agreed the point being made by Mr Russell and said that the Borough Council had, in fact, already embarked on a programme to update street nameplates in the Community. Councillor Norman gave a list of the streets in Pontyclun which would benefit from new street nameplates incorporating the words "leading to" in the following months.

Mr Russell also drew the Council's attention to the need to ensure that articulated lorries did not enter Pontyclun needlessly when seeking the Coedcae Lane Industrial Estate. It was clear that better signposting in Talbot Green would assist lorry drivers and reduce the frustration felt by many local residents.

In response, the Council advised Mr Russell that the issue had already been taken up with the County Council. The County Council had subsequently erected signs indicating the route to Coedcae Lane Industrial Estate. In the Community Council's view the signs had not been positioned in prominent positions with the result the many vehicles still entered Pontyclun. Councillor Delme Bowen agreed to pursue the matter again with the County Council.

Finally, Mr Russell said that the Action Group aimed to get better access to Pontyclun for residents of Tylagarw. The existing pedestrian access was in a poor condition and pedestrians often had to cross the bailey bridge alongside lorries accessing the industrial estate in the vicinity of Pontyclun Joinery.

The Council agreed wholeheartedly that improvements were long overdue. In recognition of the overwhelming need to make improvements the Community Council had urged the Borough Council

to make application to the Welsh Office for grant aid under the Strategic Development Scheme. The Council was heartened to note that its suggestions appeared to have been well received by the Borough Council since it was known that the improvements sought had been incorporated into the Borough Council's Strategic Development Scheme bid for the Llanharry Ward of the Borough.

The Chairperson summed up and said that the aims of the Chamber of Trade, the Pontyclun Action Group and the Pontyclun Community Council were very similar. Indeed, it was clear that the majority of matters which had been raised that evening were matters on which the Community Council had already taken positive action. The Chairperson strongly urged both groups to work in conjunction with the Community Council. The Chairperson believed that by working in cooperation there was a greater likelihood of success. As a means of promoting cooperation the Chairman offered to set up a sub committee which would meet on a regular basis with the two groups where issues of local concern could be discussed. The groups responded that whilst they could see the benefits of such a vehicle of communication they did not wish to take up the Chairperson's offer at that moment.

4. The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.

