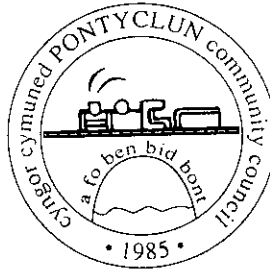


Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun

Clerc i'r Cyngor
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APPENDIX No. 5
Pontyclun Community Council

Clerk to the Council
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Minutes of the special meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 19 September, 2001.

PRESENT: Community Councillors C G Bendle, Mrs V A Cale, C Davies, J G Davies, J R Dilworth, J V Huish, M Rea and S Rogers

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Two members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors R G Norman and P Thomas

2. **Terms of Reference for the Commission on Local Government Electoral Arrangements in Wales.**

The Council received a copy of the letter dated 9 July, 2001, from the Commission on Local Government Electoral Arrangements in Wales and discussed the Commission's proposed Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made:

- (i) The Community Council agrees that forms of management are required to be efficient, transparent and accountable with clear delegations of responsibility for decision making and with efficient arrangements for security and accountability.
- (ii) The Community Council agrees that there is a need to have regard for the diversity of geographical circumstances of councils in Wales: diversity in the size and dispersion of populations served, the relationship between electoral areas and natural communities. The

Community Council is of the view that current arrangements for recognising change are not sufficiently responsive to meet the pace of local changes.

- (iii) The Community Council agrees that it remains appropriate to take account of tradition in some parts of Wales which results in members being elected who are independent of political parties.
- (iv) The Community Council believes that the period of time for which a councillor should be elected is five years.
- (v) The Community Council believes that a whole council should be elected at one time.
- (vi) The Community Council believes that electoral procedures should be amended to ensure that:

only local elections are held on a given day. It is has become common in recent years to hold a combination of elections on election day. In the view of the Community Council this practice causes confusion in the minds of the electorate

polling stations are made as accessible as possible to the public. Consideration should be given to locating polling stations in supermarkets, post offices and libraries as well as frequently used public buildings. Where there are no suitable buildings, increased use should be made of portable polling stations

increased use is made of postal voting. It is recognised that this will require careful planning by returning officers to avoid some of the problems that have arisen in recent elections

use is made of developments in new technology. Here again the Community Council recognises the need to plan, manage and thoroughly test new methods of voting well in advance of their introduction.

- (vii) The Community Council is not convinced that there is a need for significant change in the number of elected members on any or all local authorities in Wales. Furthermore, the Council would urge caution in any proposals to reduce numbers since the concept of local democracy is likely to be undermined.



- (viii) The Community Council believes that there is a strong need to find a system of election which achieves democracy but is simple enough to be understood.

3. **Planning application to develop land at the former Talygarn Rehabilitation Centre**

(Councillor S Rogers declared an interest in this item of business and took no part in the Council's deliberations.)

In its consideration of the planning application by Cowbridge Developments the Council made reference to the undertakings given by a representative of the development company at an earlier special meeting.

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made to the Borough Council:

- (a) The Council is concerned to find that residential development is proposed at several Greenfield sites within the Talygarn Conservation Area. This is contrary to the impression given by the representative of the developer who told the Community Council that residential development would only take place on the sites of buildings of inferior quality which were due for demolition. The Council believes that if consent is awarded for this additional residential development it will set a precedent for further residential development within the Talygarn Conservation Area and in adjacent open countryside.
- (b) All development within the Talygarn Conservation Area which provides a public benefit should be the subject of a Section 106 agreement between the developer and the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. A Section 106 agreement would enable external funding to be attracted to provide public facilities.
- (c) All residential development within the Talygarn Conservation Area should be in character and materials which complement Talygarn House.
- (d) All development designated as "enabling development" should be kept at the lowest possible level.
- (e) The developer should be required to provide bridle paths within the Talygarn Conservation Area.
- (f) The developer's plans for the future of Talygarn Lake are unclear. If the Lake is not included in the developer's

plans any “enabling development” should be correspondingly less.

- (g) Due to the magnitude of the developer’s proposals in the Talygarn Conservation Area, the planning authority should consult in detail with residents living in the vicinity of the Conservation Area.

4. The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.