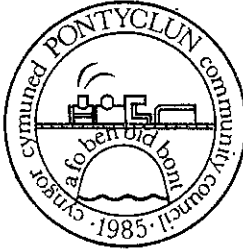


CYNGOR CYMUNED PONTYCLUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
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"Mandalay"
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 Mid Glamorgan CF7 9BZ

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 2 September, 1992

PRESENT: Community Councillors Mr C G Bendle, Professor I D Bowen, Mr T J Burton (Chairperson), Mrs A Burton, Mr J R Dilworth, Mr E V Griffith, Mr V P James, Mr R G Norman and Mrs O P Phillips

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C Steve Kettle and two members of the public

1. Apology for absence

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Community Councillor Mr G Moir

2. Chairperson's business

There were no items of Chairman's business

3. Minutes of the Council's meeting of 1 July, 1992

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 1 July, 1992 be approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

(a) Safety aspects in the construction of the new Pontyclun railway station

The Council discussed the letter of 7 July from Chief Inspector Hullin of the British Transport Police about safety presentations in schools to educate children in the dangers of trespassing or misbehaving on the railway. It was noted that in readiness for the opening of the new train service from Maesteg to Cardiff, schools in Pencoed, Tondu and Maesteg were being visited and given the presentation. The Council also noted the invitation extended by Inspector Hullin to attend the two monthly meetings on railway safety.

RESOLVED: (i) That Inspector Hullin be thanked for the information and that he be asked if the schools' presentation could be given to schools within the Pontyclun area.

(ii) That Mr Alan Gregory be nominated to represented at the two monthly safety meetings.

(iii) That the Clerk make enquiries about the possibility of making travelling expenses payments to Mr Gregory for his attendance at the two monthly meetings.

(b) (i) Seminar on the proposed restructure of local government in Wales

Councillor Dilworth gave a verbal report on the seminar he had organised on 22 August in his capacity as Secretary to the East Glamorgan and Gwent Area Committee of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils. The seminar had been a major success with representatives of the Assembly of Welsh Counties, the Council of Welsh Districts, the Association of Community and Town Councils, Mid Glamorgan County Council and Rhymney Valley District Council and several community and town councils in attendance. There was a consensus of opinion that the seminar had achieved its objectives by making a significant contribution to the on-going debate on the role of community and town councils in Wales as part of the restructure of local government. It was hoped that the two observers from the Welsh Office present at the seminar would convey feedback to the Secretary of State at the Welsh Office and that the White Paper expected in the Autumn would be influenced by what had been said at the seminar.

A vote of thanks was extended to Councillor Dilworth for the considerable work he had undertaken in organising the seminar for the Association.

(b) (ii) The Taff Ely Borough Council's response to the Secretary of State's proposals of 3 March, 1992, for the future of local government in Wales

The Community Council discussed the response of the Borough Council to the Secretary of State's proposals of 3 March, 1992. The Community Council believed that the Borough Council had presented a very logical and well reasoned case for unitary status.

RESOLVED: The the Clerk write to the Secretary of State for Wales expressing the support of the Community Council for unitary status for the Taff Ely Borough Council.

(c) The Welsh Language in Taff Ely

RESOLVED: That consideration of the document be deferred to the Council's meeting of 7 October, 1992.

(d) Proposed acquisition of a Council Office

Councillor Professor Bowen raised the possibility of the Community Council acquiring premises for a Community Office. He believed that it was unlikely that the premises for sale in Clun Avenue would be suitable for the Community Council's sole use but wondered whether there was a prospect of a joint project with the Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the matter be placed on the agenda for the Community Council's meeting of 7 October, 1992.

5. Minutes of the Council's meeting of 8 July, 1992

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 8 July, 1992 be approved as an accurate record.

6. Matters arising

(a) Audit of Accounts 1991/92

The Clerk read out a letter which he had received from the District Auditor on 30 August. The letter had been received too late for inclusion with agenda papers for the Council's 2 September meeting. The Auditor had reversed the advice he had given in 1989 to the Council on contributions to Members telephone expenses and gave guidance on the amended powers to make grants to local organisations. The Auditor had requested that a copy of his letter be handed to the Chairman of the Council.

RESOLVED: (i) That the decision of the Council of 8 July 1992, (when the advice of the District Auditor had been reported verbally) not to make any further contributions to members telephone expenses be re-affirmed.

(ii) That no further action be taken to make payment of the grants allocated at the Council's meeting of 8 July, 1992, until further guidance had been received from the District Auditor on how the amended grant provisions could be practically achieved.



(iii) That an invitation be extended to the District Auditor to attend a Council meeting for the guidance sought in (ii) above.

(iv) That a copy of the District Auditor's letter be handed to the Chairman of the Council.

(b) Application from SPLASH for financial assistance

RESOLVED: That the application be deferred pending the advice of the District Auditor.

(c) Late applications for grant

RESOLVED: That the applications be deferred pending the advice of the District Auditor.

(d) Application for planning consent for further residential development at Maesvfeilin

The Council discussed the letter from the from the Planning Division of the Welsh Office in response to the Community Council's request that the application for consent for further residential development at Maesvfeilin be "called in". The Council had pointed out that there were issues at stake of national concern following the flood disaster at Towyn and possible parallels at Maesvfeilin.

The view repeated by the Welsh Office was that the proposals for development did not raise planning matters of more than local importance and it was not proposed to intervene.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Welsh Office letter be noted

(ii) That a copy of the Welsh Office letter be sent to Mr S Baugh, 7 Maes-yr -Afon, Pontyclun for his information.

7. Minutes of the sub committee's meeting of 5 August, 1992

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the sub committee which met on 5 August, 1992 be approved as an accurate record.

8. Matters arising

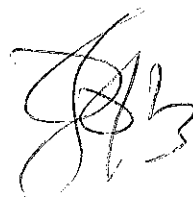
There were no matters arising

9. Welsh Office's Consultative Document on the
role of Community and Town Councils in Wales

The Council discussed the contents of the Welsh Office's Consultative Document on the role of Community and Town Councils in Wales. It also discussed the comments of the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils on the Document.

RESOLVED: That the following comments on the Document be made to the Secretary of State for Wales at the Welsh Office:

1. The Council is disappointed that the Secretary of State no longer proposes to extend local councils' statutory powers.
2. The Council regrets that the Secretary of State has rejected the suggestion of giving local councils agency powers to be used on behalf of principal authorities.
3. The Council is disappointed that the Secretary of State has rejected the suggestion of giving local councils the statutory right to be consulted by principal councils. The Council believes that there should be statutory consultation and that principal councils should notify local councils of decisions taken relating to a matter on which they were consulted and be given reasons for decisions contrary to local council views.
4. The Council regrets that the Secretary of State has not taken the opportunity to fund local councils directly. It is difficult to accept that a simple formula for direct funding could not be found.
5. The Council is deeply disappointed that the Secretary of State does not appear to have accepted the argument for deleting the legislation relating to the abolition of a Welsh local council on a community meeting vote. The justification for this appears to be that the Secretary of State believes that the power to abolish is one of "true" democracy. The concept of abolition of a statutory body at the whims of a small group of people is foreign to the British Constitution. The principle is also inconsistent with the legislative provisions for local councils in England.



10. Proposed exhibition in Pontyclun

The Council received the letter from the Curator of the Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans, in which he stated that, following investigations, it had been concluded that it would not be possible to hold an exhibition in Pontyclun at the proposed venue. It was noted that a copy of the Curator's letter had been sent to the Reverend Martin Reynolds for his information.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

11. Request to sell land at the rear of "The Lodge", Miskin

The Council discussed the letter from solicitors acting on behalf of Mr M A Penman of "The Lodge", Miskin, enquiring whether the Council would be prepared to sell their client the freehold reversion of land at the rear of the "The Lodge", Miskin.

The Clerk informed the Council that he had sent a statement of the facts to the Wales Association of Community and Town Councils for legal advice on the Council's position. The advice sought had not been received at the date of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the matter be deferred until legal advice on the Council's position had been received.

12. Letter of thanks - Reverend E R Osborne

The Council received the letter from the Reverend E Ritchie Osborne in which he thanked the Community Council for its kind regards on taking up his position as Minister to Hope Presbyterian Church, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

13. Licensing

(a) Application for a Protection Order and Full Transfer of a Justices Licence - Bute Arms, Pontyclun

The Council discussed the applications for a Protection Order and Full Transfer of a Justices Licence for the Bute Arms, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Clerk to the Licensing Justices drawing his attention to the problems caused in recent months in the vicinity of the Bute Arms by under age consumption of alcohol. The Council felt strongly that there was potential for more problems in the vicinity.

(b) Application for Transfer of Justices'
Licence - The Windsor Hotel, Pontyclun

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Clerk to the Licensing Justices drawing his attention to the problems caused in recent months in the vicinity of the Windsor Hotel by under age consumption of alcohol. The Council felt strongly that there was potential for more problems in the vicinity.

14. Overgrown land at the junction of
the A4222 and Llanharry Road, Brynsadler

The Council noted the correspondence which Councillor Dilworth had entered into following a complaint by a resident of Brynsadler about overgrown land at the junction of the A4222 and the Llanharry Road. Councillor Dilworth had been successful in getting the County Council to reduce the height of the hedge at the junction and obtain a commitment for regular cutting. There remained a further section of overgrown hedge which was believed to be in the ownership of the Welsh Office. Councillor Dilworth was pressing the Welsh Office for clarification of responsibilities for this outstanding section.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

15. Planning

(a) Appeal against the refusal of planning consent
at the site of the former Bethel Church, Pontyclun

The Council discussed the findings of the Welsh Office Inspector into the refusal by the Taff Ely Borough Council to award planning consent on the site of the former Bethel Church in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. The Council noted the Inspector's findings in which his reason for refusing the appeal was the inadequate provision for on site parking places.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk establish from the Borough Council's Chief Planning Officer whether a simple amendment to the original application to provide one additional on-site parking space would be sufficient to gain planning consent or whether a new application would need to be submitted.

(ii) That a copy of the letter be sent to the Planning Division of the Welsh Office.

(b) Planning Notifications for Weeks Ending
3, 10, 17 and 24 July and 7 August, 1992

The Council discussed details of planning applications contained in weekly notifications for weeks ending 3, 10, 17, and 24 July and 7 August, 1992.

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

Application No. 92/0558/10

The Community Council is unhappy with the proposal and request a site meeting with the Borough Council.

Application No. 92/0595/10

The Council is opposed to the application on the following grounds:

- (a) The proposed development would be inappropriate in a residential area.
- (b) That the proposed development would aggravate an existing shortage of parking facilities in the vicinity. (The Council believed that the comment on behalf of the applicant that there were adequate parking facilities in the vicinity to be ill informed and misleading)
- (c) The premises proposed for development are located at the site of a busy bus stop. If consent for development were granted it is likely that members of the public using the bus service would be placed in danger because of the necessity to board and alight from buses in the highway as a result of the bus stop being obstructed by vehicles of customers using the premises.
- (d) The proposed development would result in delivery vehicles using the rear lane. The lane is one of the main access routes to the Pontyclun Infants' and Junior Schools.

- (e) The proposal would lead to a worsening of the litter problem.
- (f) There is already an adequate number of properties serving hot and cold foods in the vicinity.

Application No. 92/0612/10

The Community Council is not opposed to the application but feels that conditions should be placed on the on any consent granted to ensure that the development is in keeping with the surroundings.

Application No. 92/0614/01

The Council is opposed to the application. It felt that an advertisement adjacent to the very busy A4119 would prove a distraction to motorists and would result in avoidable accidents.

16. Payment of creditors

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 20 to the Agenda.

17. Reports from Members

(a) Cefn-yr-Hendy garages

The Council discussed at length the behavioural problems of some of the younger residents on the Cefn-yr-Hendy Estate, with particular reference to the wanton damage and alleged illicit activities at the garages on the Estate. Members spoke of the fire service and the police having been called out on a number of occasions to attend to disturbances. Members were aware that garages had been a source of problems for several years and that the Community Council had tried, unsuccessfully, on a number of occasions to act as a catalyst in resolving matters.

The Council felt that at least part of the blame for the situation lay with the former administration at the Borough Council since it was understood that garage tenancy records were incomplete. Additionally, little money was available for garage repairs. The result was that garages were left in a dilapidated state for several months giving the impression that they had been



abandoned. While many verbal complaints had been received by the Borough Council and the police about anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the garages, no written complaints had been made. As a consequence the Borough Council and the police were severely hampered in dealing with the problems.

It was now understood that the Borough Council had taken a decision to demolish the garages. However, it would not be possible to arrange for demolition immediately since some of the rents had been paid in advance and there was a legal requirement to serve notice on the occupiers.

RESOLVED: That further discussion on the problems be deferred and that the matter be placed on the Agenda for the Council's October monthly meeting.

(b) Community Centre Management Committee

Councillor Viv James reported that the Borough Council were in the process of drawing up new arrangements for the management of Borough Council owned community centres. He stated that the Chief Leisure Services Officer would shortly be convening a meeting where the community would be asked to form a management committee. The Pontyclun Community Centre would be one of the community centres affected by the new arrangements.

The report was noted.

(c) Pontyclun Horticultural Show Society

Councillor Gordon Norman was pleased to be able to report a highly successful 51st Annual Show. The standard of exhibit was extremely high and there was a strong feeling that the Show was the best ever. The Community Allotments Competition had been judged by Mr Lloyd of the National Allotments Association.

The report was noted.

(d) Children's play area, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that the Borough Council's plans for upgrading the children's play area in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, were well advanced. It was expected that work would commence shortly into the new school term.

The report was noted.

(e) Child barrier, Groesfaen

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that had convinced the the County Council of the need to erect a barrier on the pavement in Groesfaen, parallel to the highway, at the point where Footpath No.299 joined the pavement. The barrier would prevent children running down the footpath from falling into the busy highway. Councillor Norman was disappointed that work to install the barrier had not started.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Delme Bowen pursue the matter with the County Council's Area Surveyor in Talbot Green.

(f) Borough Council owned garages

Councillor Gordon Norman referred to the earlier discussion of the Community Council on the problems being experienced at the Cefn-yr Hendy garages and said that in his capacity as Chairman of the Borough Council's Housing Committee he, together with officers of the Borough Council, had visited all the Borough Council owned garages in the Borough. Following the visit a programme had been drawn up for dealing with garages in a poor state of repair.

The report was noted.

(g) Abandoned vehicles

Councillor Gordon Norman reported that action had recently been taken by the Borough Council to remove two abandoned cars on the Hendy Estate. One of the difficulties in arranging for the removal of abandoned vehicles was the requirement to attach a notice on the vehicle for a period of seven days before any removal took place. During that time attempts to contact the owner were also made.

The report was noted.

(h) Traffic problems - School Street and Lewis Street

Councillor Delme Bowen reported on the site meeting which had taken place in School Street and Lewis Street, Pontyclun, with County Council representatives to discuss traffic problems. Generally the representations made were well received and the meeting concluded with the County



Council officers being requested to look at the whole area, to include School Street, Lewis Street, Merthyr Street and Llantrisant Road with a view to making proposals for improvement.

The report was noted.

(i) Vision - Junction of High Street and Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler

Councillor Delme Bowen reported on the recent meeting with County Council representatives at the junction of High Street and Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler. The meeting had been called to establish the current situation on the agreed scheme to improve vision for motorists emerging from High Street. The former owner of the property on the corner High Street and Cowbridge Road had sold the property and the responsibility for the improvement now lay with the unsuspecting new owner. In the unusual circumstances the County Council representatives agreed that the County Council would carry out the improvement works.

The report was noted.

(j) Taff Ely Police Consultative Committee

Mr Alan Gregory, the Community Council's representative on the Taff Ely Police Consultative Committee, highlighted two matters of interest to the Council which were discussed at the last meeting of the Committee:

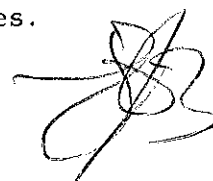
(i) Heavy vehicles, Miskin

A letter had been received from a resident of Miskin drawing attention to the heavy vehicles passing through Miskin which regularly broke the speed restriction. The police intended carrying out a survey in the area in the next few weeks to establish the extent of the problem.

(ii) Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

The Committee recommended the inauguration of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes as a self help measure in reducing the number of burglaries. The police would be prepared to advise residents in setting up schemes.

The reports were noted.



(k) Parking of lorries on the Maesyfelin Estate

Councillor Eric Griffith expressed his concern about the three lorries which were parking regularly on the Maesyfelin Estate.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make enquiries with the police to establish whether any action could be taken to prevent lorries parking in a residential area.

18. Any other business of an urgent nature

Next issue of "CLUN"

Councillor Delme Bowen reminded Members that the deadline for the receipt of articles for the next edition of the Community Council's magazine "CLUN" was fast approaching. Councillor Bowen said he was hopeful that every Member of the Council would produce an article. Articles should be passed to himself, or the Clerk, as soon as possible.

The matter was noted.

19. The meeting ended at 10.25 p.m.