

Minutes of the April monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 13 April, 2010.

PRESENT: Community Councillors P Griffiths, M Rea, S Rogers and C Willis

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Three members of the public together with Acting Inspector Lee Porter and P C Mike Perry of the South Wales Constabulary for part of the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors V A Cale, D Clayton-Jones, J G Davies, S Jenkins, R G Norman and S Rogers

2. **Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were made:

Councillor P Griffiths for agenda item 7(b) – “I am a member of the Pontyclun Rugby Football Club”

Councillor M Rea for agenda item 7 (h) - “I am a member of the Borough Council’s Planning Committee “

3. **Residents’ concerns**

No concerns were raised.

4. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

Acting Inspector Lee Porter and PC Mike Perry reported verbally on the crimes statistics for the previous month. Discussion took place on a number of items contained in the statistics.

The police representatives reviewed the crimes within their sector for the previous year and were pleased to be able to report that detections were at a record level. They attributed the improvement to closer working relationships with the community and the joint working procedures which had been developed with the Borough Council. The thriving youth club at Bethel Baptist Church had also played a significant part.

During the previous year there had been a shift in patterns of behaviour. Anti-social behaviour was on the increase and large numbers of youths and children were now being attracted into Pontyclun during the evenings.

The reports were noted.

(b) **Reports from Members**

In response to a question from a Member about the activities of a small group of youths in the upper car park near the Pontyclun RFC, PC Mike Perry responded that regular patrols were carried out and that if any vehicles were found in the area they were moved on.

The report was noted.

5. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 9 March, 2010**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 9 March, 2010, be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Request for the erection of bollards**

The Council discussed the varying views of the residents of Merthyr Street and Maelog Close to the suggestion that bollards should be erected on the grass verges in Merthyr Street to discourage motorists from parking their vehicles on the grass verges.

RESOLVED: That as there was no consensus of opinion on the subject that the matter be raised with the highways representative at his imminent meeting with Members.

(b) **Review of Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment**

The Clerk advised the Council that due to other commitments he been unable carry out a review and make suggestions to the Councils. The Clerk was hopeful that he would be able to carry out the review and make suggestions in time for the next Community Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(c) **Proposed meeting to discuss a site for a bus shelter in Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler**

In response to a question from a Member the Clerk stated that he had not been informed of a date when the joint meeting with the police, highway authority representatives and the Community Council would be held.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk remind the Borough Council that a date for the meeting was awaited.

(d) **Surplus bus shelters at Aberaman council depot**

In response to a question from a Member the Clerk confirmed that he, together with Councillor Rea, had carried out an inspection of the surplus bus shelters at the Borough Council's Aberaman depot.

Councillor Rea and he were both of the opinion that the surplus bus shelters, which were in a dismantled state and in very poor condition, would not be suitable for use in the Community of Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(e) **Youth provision in Pontyclun**

In response to a question from a Member the Clerk advised the Council that there had been no further contact from Mrs Caroline Wool since her presentation to the Council at its previous meeting.

RESOLVED: That Mrs Wool be contacted to establish what progress had been made since her presentation to the Council on 9 March, 2010

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Council's External Auditors**

The Council discussed the letter from its external auditors, Mazars, with particular reference to whether any Members may have a conflict of interest which might affect the external auditors' independence.

Of the four Members of the Council present at the meeting none had any potential conflict of interest.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the remaining six Members to establish whether any of them had any potential conflict of interest.

(b) **Proposal to erect a gate**

(Councillor Griffiths declared an interest in this item of business but exercised his right to remain in the meeting without taking part in the Council's deliberations)

The Council discussed a letter from the Pontyclun Rugby Football Club which proposed the erection of a gate to prevent access by vehicles to the top end of the car park outside the Pontyclun RFC. It was understood that the car park was being used in the evenings for anti-social behaviour. The letter suggested that representatives of the Community Council could meet with representatives of the Pontyclun RFC to discuss funding for the erection of a gate.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk liaise with the Pontyclun RFC to arrange a date when Councillors Willis and Griffiths could meet with representatives of the Club.

(c) **Sea and rescue services from RAF Chivenor**

The Council discussed a letter and enclosure from Councillor Sean Aspey of the Porthcawl Town Council who sought the Pontyclun Community Council's support in opposing the plans to reduce the current 24 hour sea and rescue service operating from RAF Chivenor in North Devon.

RESOLVED: That the Council give its support to the campaign to oppose the down-grade in the level of service from RAF Chivenor.

(d) **Wales Sustainability Week**

The Council discussed the letter from the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing at the Welsh Assembly inviting the Council to participate in Wales Sustainability Week.

RESOLVED: That in the event of the Council receiving a positive response under its Safer Routes in Communities bid, the Council use the features in the bid to promote the scheme.

(e) **St David's Buses and Top Kat Coaches**

The Council discussed the letter received from the Managing Director of the company containing details of its business model. It was believed that the business model would result in greater social inclusion in the area by providing door to door direct bus connections for a wide range of transportation needs.

RESOLVED: That the Council request further details of the proposed new bus services.

(f) **One Voice Wales**

The Council discussed the invitation from One Voice Wales to renew its membership of the association for the 2010/11 year.

RESOLVED: That the Council renew its subscription.

(g) **Bridgend Samaritans**

The Council received an invitation to attend the organisation's Thank You reception evening in recognition of the Community Council's continued support.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be nominated to attend the evening on behalf of the Council.

(h) **Planning applications**

(Councillor Rea declared an interest in this item of business but exercised his right to remain in the meeting without taking part in the Council's deliberations)

The Council discussed planning applications affecting the Community contained in the latest Weekly Lists.

RESOLVED: That on this occasion no comment on the applications be offered to the Borough Council.

(i) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 9 to the Council's agenda.

8. **Urgent matters reported for decision since the despatch of agendas**

The Chairperson advised the Council that she had received a letter from the Pontyclun Trefoil Guild outlining the Guild's wish to arrange a flower display at some prominent point in the Community.

The Council had been asked to become involved in identifying a suitable site in the Community.

RESOLVED: That a sub committee of Members, comprising Councillors Cale, Rea and Willis be formed to identify a suitable site and to liaise with the Pontyclun Trefoil Guild.

9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Correspondence in connection with the car park adjacent to the Pontyclun Community and Day Centres**

The Council discussed the letter from the Secretary of the Pontyclun Community Centre, Mr Rhodri Powell, and the reply from the Clerk.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council endorse the reply given to Mr Powell.
(ii) That the Council do everything within its power to conclude its negotiations with the Borough Council as soon as possible.

(b) **Proposed meeting on highways issues**

The Clerk reported that arrangements were on the point of being finalised for a highways engineer from the Borough Council to address Members on highways issues in the Community during April.

A list of the Community Council's highways concerns in recent years had been forwarded to the officer who would be attending the meeting together with a copy of the Council's bid for improvements under the Safer Routes in Communities Scheme.

Provisionally, the meeting had been arranged for the 28th or 29th April.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(c) **Determination of planning applications**

The Council received details, at Appendices 11, 12 and 13 to the agenda, of certain planning applications which had been discussed in detail at recent meetings of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the details be noted.

(d) **River Walk Footpath**

The Council discussed a copy of a letter from Mrs Beryl Smith about the muddy state of the public footpath along the river Ely from the Ivor Woods. The Council also received the reply to Mrs Smith sent by the Clerk.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Council endorse the reply given to Mrs Smith.
- (ii) That special attention be given to this footpath in times of heavy rain in an attempt to reduce pooling of water.
- (iii) That the Council's Handyman be requested to provide feedback to the Clerk in the event of failure to keep the footpath in a reasonable underfoot condition in times of heavy rain.

(e) **Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council - Local Development Plan 2011-2026**

The Council received an update to the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council's Development Plan for 2011-2026.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

10. **Further matters for decision**

(a) **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED: That members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting for item 10 (b), an item of confidential business, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

(b) **Possibility of the purchase of the car park adjacent to the Pontyclun Community and Day Centres**

The Clerk distributed copies of the District Valuer's report to the Members present at the meeting. A discussion ensued.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That to facilitate confidentiality all copies of the District Valuer's report be returned to the Clerk.
 - (ii) That the Clerk arrange a meeting with representatives of the Borough Council to discuss a possible sale of the car park.

(c) **Community Council owned land in Brynsadler**

The Clerk advised the Council that despite the requests for legal advice from the Council's solicitors no further correspondence had been received.

A verbal report was received from the Chairperson following her attendance, and that of Councillor Dan Clayton Jones, at the last meeting of the group interested in forming a charity to lease the land from the Community Council.

The Council also discussed the amendments made to the draft constitution produced by the group.

The Council was of the view that the amendments to the draft constitution originally submitted were useful. Some concerns remained, in particular, the power of the charity trustees to remove its members and, secondly, the definition of a "member".

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Borough Council be asked for a legal view on the issues of concern in the draft constitution.
 - (ii) That the Council decline the offer to nominate a trustee to the charity.
 - (iii) That no Community Councillor should be a member of the trust in their capacity of Community Councillor.
 - (iv) That the Clerk arrange for copies of the legal advice given by Brodie Smith and Mahoney to be included on the Council's next agenda.

11. The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.