

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Committee Room of the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 14 April, 2009.

**PRESENT:** Community Councillors V A Cale, D Clayton-Jones, J G Davies, P Griffiths, S Jenkins, R G Norman, M Rea, and S Rogers

**Also in attendance:** Five members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors J V Huish and C Willis.

2. **Declarations of interest**

None were made.

3. **Chairperson**

In the absence of Councillor Willis, the Chair was occupied by Councillor Rea, the Vice Chairperson.

4. **Residents' concerns**

(a) **Council Website**

A resident addressed the Council and asked that the Council's website be updated to reflect the new pattern of Council meeting dates and differing venues. The Clerk advised the Council that he had drawn up a list of meeting dates for the next 18 months based on meeting dates being held on the second Tuesday of

each month. The venues for the meetings, at four separate locations, had yet to be agreed. When they were agreed details would be provided to Members and placed on the website.

**RESOLVED:** That the matter be noted.

(b) **Community Centre Car Park**

A resident referred to the proposal of the Borough Council to introduce parking charges at the Community Council car park. The resident asked that checks be made on the deeds transferring ownership of the land to the Borough Council since he believed that there was a possibility that the use of the land was intended specifically for users of the Community Centre and the people of Pontyclun.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk pursue the matter with the Director of Legal Services at the Borough Council.

(c) **Tonyrefail Community Centre Car Park**

A resident referred to the proposal of the Borough Council to introduce parking charges at the Community Centre car park. He asked whether parking charges were also to be introduced for the car park at the Tonyrefail Community Centre.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk obtain clarification on the issue from the Borough Council.

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

A resident referred to the agricultural right of way on the land adjacent to the Community Council owned land in Brynsadler. He stated that the width of the right of way was 2 metres indicating that the right of way was intended as a pedestrian right of way rather than an agricultural right of way.

**RESOLVED:** That the resident's comments be noted.

5. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

**RESOLVED:** That as no representative from the police was in attendance this item of business be deferred to the next Council meeting.

(b) **Reports from Members**

Councillor Rea reported a break-in at a house in Groesfaen.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

6. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 10 March, 2009**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of 10 March, 2009, be approved as an accurate record subject to:

- (i) a reference to Councillor Rea having declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in item 7(h)
- (ii) the inclusion of a final sentence in paragraph 4 of item 3 stating "A Member commented that once consent had been granted by the Welsh Assembly Government it was not possible for the Borough Council to revoke that consent"
- (iii) an amendment to minute 6 (b) (iii) to reflect that the Community Council was pleased that there was an objective in the Deposit Draft LDP to both the restoration of the railway line from Pontyclun to Beddau and the creation of cycle way along the same route. The view of the Community Council was that the creation of a cycle way should not be dependent on the restoration of the railway, which will require substantial funding and the agreement of the rail operating company, and should be implemented as soon as possible and in advance of the restored railway line.

7. **Matters arising**

(a) **Land at Brynsadler Mill**

The Council received correspondence from a Member and two residents of Millfield who were concerned about the possibility that the Community Council may decide to sell the land. The Council noted that no reply had yet been received from Gaskell & Walker, solicitors, on the issues referred to them by the Council at its meeting on 10 March, 2009

**RESOLVED:** That the Council await the reply from Gaskell & Walker before discussing the matter further.

(b) **Erosion of river bank – Footpath No.341**

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Footpaths Officer of the Borough Council to establish whether a fence had been erected and whether the Footpaths Officer had any news from the Environment Agency about the placing of blockstone to

prevent further erosion of the riverbank. No reply had been received.

**RESOLVED:** That the matter be deferred to the next meeting.

(c) **Dates and venues for Community Council meetings**

The Clerk reported that following the Community Council's decision to revise its meeting dates and vary its venues it had not been possible to compile a comprehensive list of dates and venues for the next 18 months as confirmation of the availability of premises was still awaited.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk produce a revised list of meeting dates and venues for the next meeting of the Council.

(d) **Pontyclun Community Centre car park**

The Council discussed correspondence which had taken place about the Borough Council's proposals to introduce parking charges in the car park adjacent to the Pontyclun Community and Day Centre. It was noted that since the proposals were first made, and before the introduction of any charges, the Borough Council had decided to hold a period of consultation. The period of consultation was due to end on 28 April, 2009.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the Borough Council's attention be drawn to what the Council believed was an agreement between the former owners of the land on which the car park had been constructed and the former Taff Ely Borough Council providing that the car park was only for the benefit of Centre users and the residents of Pontyclun.

(ii) That the Borough Council be reminded that the recent planning application to develop a Tesco convenience store in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, placed considerable emphasis on the availability of a free car park conveniently located at the rear of the new store. Without this facility increased pressure would be placed on limited existing parking spaces.

(iii) That before the end of the consultation period, the Borough Council be asked to arrange for an officer to attend a meeting of the Council to explain the proposals to introduce parking charges.

- (iv) That the Council support the actions being taken by many local organisations opposing the introduction of parking charges.

8. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Audit of accounts for 2008/09**

The Council received copies of the Annual Return and accompanying documentation for 2008/09 from Mazars, the Council's external auditors.

The Council noted that in addition to the request for a completed Annual Return, Income & Expenditure Account, bank reconciliation details and an explanation of variances in income and expenditure during the year, the Council had also been selected as one of the 5% of councils who would also be subject to a spot check audit.

The Clerk advised the Council that while meeting the requirement of the spot check did not present any undue difficulties, it was inevitable that the additional information being sought would involve significant research resulting in more of the Clerk's time being devoted to apparently non-productive issues. It was also possible that the Council would need to meet to review its risk assessments, standing orders and financial regulations.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the auditor's letter and documentation together with the Clerk's comments be noted.

- (ii) That the Clerk be authorised to convene any additional meetings of the Council as he considers fit.

(b) **Potential conflicts of interest**

Contained in the external auditor's letter was a reference to potential conflicts of interest which might affect their independence. Examples were given where Mazars possibly provide personal accountancy or tax advice to one of the Council's members or where one of Mazars' staff is a Council member.

The Clerk asked if any members had potential conflicts of interests with the Council's external auditors.

No members had any potential conflicts of interest to declare.

(c) **Boundary Commission's Review of the Communities of Pontyclun, Llantrisant and Llanharry**

Following the implementation by the Welsh Assembly Government of the proposals for the alterations to community boundaries, the Borough Council had drafted a letter to residents of the three communities on the impact of the alterations on their Council Tax demands.

A copy of the draft letter had been sent to the Community Council for comment.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council notes the draft letter which the Borough Council intends sending to affected residents in the three communities.
  - (ii) That as the Community Council had already set its precept for 2009/10 before receipt of the Borough Council's draft letter, the Borough Council be asked to clarify the Band D equivalent charge and the Council Tax base for the Community of Pontyclun for 2009/10.

(d) **Boundary Commission – Review of Electoral Arrangements for Welsh Principal Areas**

The Council received an invitation from the Director of Legal and Democratic Services in the Borough Council for clerks and community councillors in Rhondda Cynon Taf to attend a presentation from the Deputy Chairman and Officers of the Boundary Commission for Wales in order to explain the scope and process of the electoral review as it affects Rhondda Cynon Taf.

- RESOLVED:** That the Chairperson and Clerk be nominated to attend the meeting.

(e) **Boundary Commission - Review of Electoral Arrangements in Rhondda Cynon Taf**

The Council also considered the invitation from the Secretary of the Boundary Commission to submit comments on the proposal to review electoral arrangements in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

- RESOLVED:** That the Commission be advised that the Council was of the view that there should be three members to represent the electoral

division of Pontyclun and that each member should represent a single ward within the electoral division.

(f) **National Assembly for Wales**

The Council received an invitation to nominate representatives of the Council for a tour of the National Assembly building in Cardiff Bay.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk be nominated together with any other member who wished to attend.

(g) **Weekly Planning Notifications**

(Councillor Rea declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in this item of business. Councillor Rea vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Councillor Norman)

(Councillor Clayton-Jones declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in application No. 09/0207/10)

The Council discussed planning applications contained in the latest Weekly Notifications.

**RESOLVED:** That the following comments be made to the planning authority:

**Application No. 09/0207/10**

That the Council is opposed to the application because:

- (i) it is an over-development of the plot of land
- (ii) the proposed development does not provide any off-road parking
- (iii) there is already an insufficient number of parking places in Stuart Street bearing in mind the needs of residents and the commercial needs of tenants and visitors to the refurbished Tabernacle Church.

**Application No. 09/0230/10**

While the Council is not opposed to the proposed development, it would question whether there is sufficient car parking space to cater for the needs of a residential development and visitors to the premises.

(h) **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 14.

(Councillor Griffiths referred to the payment to the Borough Council for election recharges for 2008 and asked that the charge be queried with the Borough Council)

9. **Matters reported for decision since the despatch of agendas**

None were reported,

10. **Matters reported for information**

**Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales**

The Council received the first newsletter of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales entitled "A Line in the Sand".

**RESOLVED:** That the contents of the newsletter be noted.

11. The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.