

Minutes of the May monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the vestry of the Babel Chapel, Groesfaen, Pontyclun, at 7.15 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 May, 2009.

PRESENT: Community Councillors Ms V A Cale, P Griffiths (for part of meeting), J V Huish, R G Norman, M Rea, S Rogers (for part of meeting) and Ms C Willis

Also in attendance: No members of the public or police were in attendance

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors J G Davies and Ms S Jenkins

2. **Declarations of interest**

None were made.

3. **Residents' concerns**

No residents were present.

4. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

No representative of the police was present.

The Clerk advised the Council of a conversation he had with Sergeant Mike Perry at Talbot Green Police Station

approximately a week earlier. Sergeant Perry advised that he had responsibility for all the Police Community Support Officers working out of the Station. He confirmed that PCSO Jitka Tomkova had been transferred to the Llantwit Fardre area and that her replacement, PCSO Jade Lewis, was currently on sick leave.

Sergeant Perry also stated that he could not guarantee police presence at every Community Council meeting but would attend personally if there was an item which the Community Council specifically wanted to discuss with the police. If there were items which the Community Council wished to report this could be done either by e-mail or over the telephone.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **Reports from Members**

No reports were made.

5. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 14 April, 2009**

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Land at Brynsadler Mill**

The Clerk reported that in accordance with the Council's earlier decision the Council's solicitors, Gaskell and Walker, had written to the solicitors acting on behalf of Mr Geoffrey Barrington Williams. The Council's solicitors had asked whether the offer by Mr Geoffrey Barrington Williams to purchase the Council's land in Brynsadler remained on the table.

At the Council's request the Clerk had also asked Gaskell and Walker for a legal view on whether the Community Council had acted properly in purchasing the land in Brynsadler without carrying out a risk assessment and for clarification on who is responsible for the maintenance of the boundary fence from points E to F to G on the map accompanying the purchase agreement.

A response from the son of Mr Geoffrey Barrington Williams had been delivered to the Clerk. The Clerk had immediately forwarded the response to the Council's solicitors and kept a copy for the Community Council's records. At the request of the Council the Clerk read out the reply from the son of Mr Geoffrey Barrington Williams in which it was confirmed that Mr Geoffrey Barrington Williams was still interested in purchasing the land.

He was prepared to pay the Council £15,000 with no conditions for an immediate sale proceeding straight to contract. In addition, Mr Geoffrey Barrington Williams would be prepared to pay the Council's solicitors' fair and reasonable costs in relation to the proposed sale.

The Clerk also read out a letter from the Council's solicitors, dated 11 May, 2009, and received on 12 May, 2009, in which they apologised for the delay in replying and stating that they had been carrying out some further investigations and should be in a position to report to the Council within the next two weeks.

The Council discussed the offer to purchase the land. Councillor Norman stated that he had failed to see the purpose of the original decision to purchase the land. Another view was that the Council should sell the land while there was still a prospective buyer. Councillor Norman proposed, and Councillor Cale seconded, a motion that the land be sold in line with the offer received.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That, in principle the land be sold for £15,000 to Mr Geoffrey Barrington Williams subject to appropriate advice being taken on whether it would be necessary to test the market to establish if a higher price could be obtained.
- (ii) That the Community Council use the proceeds of the sale to fund essential work in the Community.

After the discussion on the Council owned land in Brynsadler, Councillor Griffiths joined the meeting.

(b) **Community Council meeting dates and venues**

The Clerk referred to Appendix 2 to the Council's agenda. He was pleased to be able to report that the dates and venues for future Community Council meetings had now been confirmed.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted

(c) **Pontyclun Community Centre – proposed car parking charges**

The Clerk confirmed that since the Council's last meeting he had been told that it would not be possible for an officer of the Borough Council to address the Community Council on the proposed introduction of parking charges.

The Clerk reported that despite widespread opposition throughout the Borough to the introduction of car parking charges, an Order had been made and charges would become effective in identified car parks from 26 May, 2009.

The Community Council was deeply disappointed that the Borough Council had decided to proceed with the introduction of parking charges. It was felt that the decision had been made without any consideration of the effects charges would have on local residents and businesses. Nevertheless, representations would continue at Borough Council level in an attempt to get concessions for parents dropping off children to the local primary school. Representations would also continue to get Resident Only Parking in streets near to the car park.

RESOLVED: (i) That the introduction of car parking charges by the Borough Council from 26 May, 2009 be noted.

(ii) That the Community Council support the efforts being made by Councillors Huish and Rea to get concessions for parents dropping off their children to the primary school and Residents Only Parking for residents living in streets close to the car park.

(d) **Election charges**

The Clerk reported that he had queried with the Borough Council the election re-charges for 2008 against the election re-charges for 2004. A breakdown of election re-charges for 2008 had been provided and attached as Appendices 4 & 5 to the Council's agenda.

The initial response from the Borough Council was that in 2004 there had been three elections – Borough, Community and European. Some of the Borough Council's and community councils' costs may have been absorbed into the cost of the European elections thus reflecting in a lower cost for both Borough and community council elections. The Borough Council had agreed to carry out further investigations into the re-charges for the 2004 elections.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Community Council await the results of the Borough Council's further enquiries.

(ii) That until such time as the result of the Borough Council's further enquiries were known, appropriate adjustment be made to

the Community Council's budget for elections provision.

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Electoral arrangements in Rhondda Cynon Taf**

The Clerk reminded the Council that it had made preliminary comments on revisions to electoral arrangements in Rhondda Cynon Taf at its last meeting.

Following the Council's last meeting invitations to attend a presentation by Boundary Commission representatives had been accepted by the Chairperson and Clerk. Copies of the notes of guidance handed out at the presentation were attached to the Council's agenda at Appendix 6.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Council note the opportunity for further comments on the revision of electoral arrangements.
- (ii) That following the recent boundary alterations to the Community of Pontyclun a letter of welcome be sent to residents of Ynysddu Estate and Clos Brenin; the letter to contain brief details of Community Council functions, addresses of Community Council Members and a schedule of meeting dates and venues.
- (iii) That the letter at (ii) above also contain the thanks of the Community Council to residents for making their views known which brought about the change in boundaries

(b) **Community Action for Climate Change Network**

The Council received details of a number of regional networks for community and Third sector groups wanting to contribute to efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. The networks were facilitated by the Welsh Assembly Government in collaboration with Science Shops Wales and supported by key partners.

RESOLVED: That the details be noted.

(c) **Weekly Planning Notifications**

(Councillors Huish and Rea declared personal but not prejudicial interests in this item of business)

The Council discussed applications for planning consent contained in the latest notifications.

RESOLVED: That no comments be offered to the Planning Authority for this month.

(d) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 8 to the Council's agenda.

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

Improvement in a Cold Climate

The Council received details of a conference organised by the Wales Audit Office called "Improvement in a Cold Climate". An invitation had been extended to the Community Council to nominate representatives to attend the conference.

RESOLVED: That the Council decline the offer to be represented.

9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Local Government pay award 2008/09**

The Council received the letter from the National Employers' Organisation for Local Government Services about the results of the arbitration award for employees' pay for 2008/09.

The Clerk reminded the Council that the pay award for 2008 had been protracted and an Interim Award of 2.45% had been agreed in October, 2008, with any balance the subject of arbitration. The arbitration award had been announced at the end of March, 2009, and provided for an additional 0.3%.

RESOLVED: That payment of the award be made to the employees of the Community Council.

(b) **One Voice Wales Area Committee**

The Clerk reported on his attendance at the last meeting of the One Voice Wales Area Committee held in Maesycwmmmer on 22 April, 2009.

The Clerk had attended the meeting because it had been promoted as being of particular interest to clerks of community councils since there was to be a presentation by a representative of the Wales Audit Office.

The presentation covered the history of audit, regulations for the “lighter touch” audits and current contractual arrangements for external audit of accounts. The presenter entertained the audience with interesting anecdotes on audit practices and experiences..

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(c) **Pontyclun Rugby Football Club**

Councillor Griffiths reported that the Pontyclun Rugby Football Club had enjoyed a very successful season in 2008/09 in which the senior team became champions of Division Five South East and the youth team were still competing for the championship title.

RESOLVED: That the Council congratulate the Pontyclun Rugby Football Club on a very successful season.

10. The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.