

Minutes of the May monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun at 7.25 p.m. on Wednesday, 14 May, 2008.

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO J Tomkova and one member of the public for part of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:**

There were no apologies

2. **Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest were received from Members.

3. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 2 April, 2008**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 2 April, 2008, be approved as an accurate record.

4. **Matter arising**

(a) **Community Council's Strategy document**

The Council discussed the contents of its Strategy Document detailing the progress and current status of its key objectives.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the document be noted.

(b) **Plastic bag free Pontyclun**

Councillor Jenkins reported on an initiative by Sustainable Wales to reduce the number of plastic bags in use. There was deep concern over the number of free plastic which were being given out freely and, shortly after, being discarded. Discarded plastic bags contributed to a major litter problem across the UK.

Councillor Jenkins believed that there was significant support from shopkeepers and the public for dispensing with plastic bags and replacing them with canvas bags which could be re-used. Councillor Jenkins volunteered to approach to Sustainable Wales to obtain a speaker with a view to holding a public meeting in Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Jenkins be authorised to contact Sustainable Wales and with a view to holding a public meeting in Pontyclun.

(c) **Traffic Management in Pontyclun**

Following discussion at the meeting of 2 April, 2008, the Clerk read out a list of the traffic management issues which the Community Council had been pursuing in recent years.

It was reported that many of the issues pursued with the Highway Authority had also been separately pursued by Borough Councillors Huish and Rea.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's list of items be circulated to each Member of the Community Council with an invitation for Members to add any highways issues of concern to the list for discussion by the Council.

(d) **Pontyclun Girl Guides –offer of assistance**

It was reported that a Clun River project was due to commence at the end of May and that the girl guides might be able to offer some assistance. Mr Ben Williams had already been in touch to outline some of the aims of the project.

RESOLVED: That the offer of assistance be co-ordinated through the Chairperson.

5. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

(i) **Crime figures**

PCSO Tomkova reported in the monthly crime statistics for the area. She advised that there were no serious crimes reported in the period. The reported crime figures for the Talbot Green sector were 29% down and 2% down for the Rhondda and Merthyr areas.

(ii) **Horses near the highway in Groesfaen**

PCSO Tomkova advised that there had been reports of vehicles speeding through Groesfaen and frightening horses. She asked whether it would be possible to erect signs warning of the presence of horses. Councillor Rea agreed to pursue the matter at Borough Council.

(iii) **Latest PACT meeting**

PCSO Tomkova reported that the two main concerns expressed by the public at the last PACT meeting were over the parking of vehicles on the pavement outside "Spice" and the speed of vehicles through Cowbridge Road and Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. Action was planned to alleviate the problems.

PCSO Tomkova advised that as a result of the retirement of some Members of the Community Council she was looking for a representative of the Council to attend future PACT meetings. The Council undertook to be represented at PACT meetings whenever possible and to continue to advertise PACT meetings.

PCSO Tomkova stated that she would encourage members of the public to contact her by mobile phone. Her number is 07805301054.

(b) **Reports from Members**

(i) **Possible arson**

Councillor Jenkins reported a possible case of arson in The Hollies, Brynsadler. She advised that the officers from scenes of crime were awaited to investigate the incident.

(ii) **Deliveries to shops in Pontyclun**

Councillor Davies reported on the frequent traffic congestion in Pontyclun as the result of heavy goods vehicles making deliveries to local shops. He asked whether the police had any powers to force deliveries to be made before 8.00 a.m.

PCSO Tomkova sympathised with the request but said it would be extremely difficult to force delivery companies to deliver goods to shops before 8.00 a.m.

(iii) **Cyclist hit by vehicle**

Councillor Jenkins reported that a cyclist had been knocked off his bicycle in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, the previous Saturday morning.

While initially the cyclist's injuries had appeared to be serious, it was pleasing to report that after treatment the cyclist had recovered quickly and had only suffered minor bruises and abrasions.

6 Matters reported for decision

(a) **Code of Conduct**

RESOLVED: That the Council adopt the new model Code of Conduct issued by the Welsh Assembly Government under The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct)(Wales) Order, 2008.

Signed declarations to observe the new Code of Conduct were received from all 10 Members of the Council.

(b) **Training under the new Code of Conduct**

RESOLVED: (i) That Councillors Cale, Davies, Rogers and Willis attend the training course being organised by the Monitoring Officer in Church Village on 28 May, 2008.

(ii) That Councillors Huish and Rea would attend the training course being provided by the Monitoring Officer for Borough Council Members.

(c) **Exclusion of press and public**

RESOLVED: That members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the next item of business on the grounds that it involves a term or terms proposed by or to the Council in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property, goods or services.

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

The Clerk reported that following the latest letter from the adjacent landowner's solicitors he had asked the Council's surveyor to suspend work pending clarification from the Council's solicitor.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk's actions be approved.
- (ii) That the Clerk make arrangements with the Wales Audit Commission for an independent view on whether the process followed by the Council in purchasing the land had been a proper process.

(e) **Weekly Planning Notifications**

(Councillors Huish and Rea, who are both Borough Councillors, declared an interest in this item of business and vacated the Council chamber)

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made to the Planning Authority:

Application No. 08/0043/10

That while the Council is not opposed to the application, it is concerned that the proposal will generate a need for a significant number of additional off street parking spaces yet no additional parking spaces have been proposed.

Application No. 08/0518/10

The Council considers that as this application lies within a conservation area any materials used in the development should be consistent with similar materials in the conservation area.

Application No. 080651/10

The Council considers that the developer should be required to take steps to mitigate noise and the environmental impact of the proposal for residents living in the vicinity.

(f) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 7 to the Council's agenda.

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

The Clerk reported an invitation to attend a conference being held to discuss sustainability issues at the Bryngarw House, Bridgend on 28 May, 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Council not be represented at the conference.

8. **Matters reported for information**

No matters were reported.

9. The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.