

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 13 June, 2007.

PRESENT: Councillors Ms V. A. Cale, C Davies, Ms D. Hayes, Ms S. Jenkins, A. R. Lane and R G Norman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO Jitka Tomkova, for part of the meeting, and two members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors D Clayton-Jones, P.Griffiths, M Rea and Ms P Thomas

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

3. **Minutes of the Council's Annual Meeting of 2 May, 2007**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's Annual Meeting of 2 May, 2007, be approved as an accurate record.

4. **Matters arising**

The Clerk advised the Council that following Age Concern Taff Ely's decision to vacate premises in Church Village he had failed to establish the current address of the organisation to notify the Community Council's nominees.

RESOLVED: That enquiries be made of Age Concern, Glamorgan.

5. **Minutes of the Community Council's monthly meeting of 2 May, 2007**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Council's monthly meeting of 2 May, 2007 be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Application for planning consent for retail development, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

The Clerk referred to the discussion and decision taken at the May meeting of the Borough Council's Taff Ely Planning Committee.

At its meeting, the Committee had been informed that the applicant, Beckerly Holdings had, earlier that day, appealed to the Planning Inspectorate against the failure of the Planning Authority to determine the planning application within the statutory period.

At that time it was unclear to the officers dealing with the case whether the appeal was valid. In the event that the appeal may not have been valid, the Planning Committee decided to proceed and refuse the application. It had later become clear that the appeal was valid. As a valid appeal had been submitted before the Planning Committee had taken a decision, this had the effect of taking away the Planning Committee's powers to determine the application. The Planning Inspectorate was now required to determine upon the Planning Authority's failure to determine the application within the statutory period.

The Community Council had subsequently been informed that the appeal of Beckerly Holdings would be dealt with by way of a public inquiry. The Community Council had also been told that any views it had on the proposal could be expressed either by attending or by writing to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Community Council received a copy of a letter sent to the Planning Inspectorate by Dr Brendan O'Reilly of Brynsadler, opposing the application.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the two letters written by the Community Council to the Planning Authority opposing the application be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate.
- (ii) That notice be given to the Planning Inspectorate that the Chairperson of the Community Council, Councillor Sarah

Jenkins, wishes to speak against the application at the public inquiry.

- (iii) That the letter sent to the Planning Inspectorate by Dr Brendan O'Reilly be noted.

(b) **Membership of One Voice Wales**

The Clerk reminded the Council that it had agreed to receive a presentation from Mr Simon White and Mr Lyn Llewellyn following the decision of the Council not to renew its membership of One Voice Wales. Two possible dates for the presentation had been offered but no reply had been received.

RESOLVED: That the position be noted.

(c) **Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council's Local Development Plan**

Councillor Norman reported on his attendance at a recent workshop organised by the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council as part of the process in developing that Council's Local Development Plan for 2011 to 2026.

Central to the development of the LDP is a sustainability appraisal. The process identifies the extent to which the Plan will achieve environmental, social and economic objectives consistent with sustainability principles. The sustainability appraisal had been carried out by Hyder plc.

The purpose of the workshop was to share information on LDP strategy options, invite views on various strategy options, influence the Council's preferred strategy and to answer delegates' questions.

Councillor Norman reported that most of the development envisaged under the options centred around the Barry and Penarth areas but there was likely to be some impact on Junction 33 of the M4 motorway. There was also a possibility of some impact on the Mwyndy area in the Community of Pontyclun.

The officers of the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council stated that they would keep all interested parties informed as the LDP developed.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(d) **“Have Your Say Day”**

The Council was informed that it had been necessary to put back the date of “Have Your Say Day” by one week. The event would now be held on Saturday, 14 July, 2007, in the Bethel Baptist Church Centre.

The Chairperson advised that an order for fliers to advertise the event had been placed with Impressions, printers, and arrangements made for delivery. An order for a number of posters had also been placed. These would be displayed in shop windows in Pontyclun and in Community Council noticeboards.

The Council agreed that it would be helpful if representatives of various public bodies could be present at the event.

RESOLVED: That invitations to attend the Day be sent to Borough Councillors J V Huish and M Rea, Mr Richard Wistow, the Borough Council’s Ecologist, Mr David Hart or Mr David Jones from the Borough Council’s Environmental Health Division, Mr Martin Cadogan from the Environment Agency, in addition to representatives of Pontyclun Primary School, the new bi-lingual school at Cefn yr Hendy and Y Pant Comprehensive School.

7. **Police matters**

(a) **Vehicle loaded with scrap metal**

PCSO Tomkova advised the Council that the police had no powers to remove the vehicle on private land. If there were any concerns for public safety they should be followed up with the Environmental Services Department of the Borough Council.

The report was noted.

(b) **CCTV**

PCSO Tomkova reported that all CCTV cameras in Pontyclun are working. The cameras are focused on areas where there is likely to be most crime. Within the shifts of CCTV operators at the control room there were occasional movement of cameras. PCSO Tomkova said that she would place a request for the cameras to be moved at weekends.

The report was noted.

(c) **Ivor Woods**

PCSO Tomkova advised the Council that, following complaints of vandalism to the picnic area in the Ivor Woods, she had visited the Woods. There was nobody at the picnic area although there was a gathering of youths on higher ground. PCSO Tomkova asked the youths to take their litter away with them and not to cause damage in the Woods. All the older youths in the group were known to the police. Further spot checks would be carried out by the police.

The report was noted.

(d) **Unruly behaviour by youths**

PCSO Tomkova reported that the police had received a number of complaints from residents about door bell ringing and the overturning of refuse bins. The complaints had come from several parts of Pontyclun. Police enquiries were continuing.

The report was noted.

(e) **Nuisance caused by scrambler motorbikes**

PCSO Tomkova advised that there had been a number of complaints from residents of Rhyd y Nant and Heol y Coed, Pontyclun, about noise being caused by the riding of scramblers in the vicinity. It was pointed out that it was not generally known that scrambler motorbikes could be confiscated by the police. A dedicated site for use by the riders of scrambler motorbikes was being opened in Ynysybwll and a further site was planned for Aberdare. PCSO Tomkova asked that any residents complaining about nuisance caused by scrambler motorbikes should be directed to the police.

The report was noted.

(e) **Thefts and vandalism at allotment sites**

Councillor Norman drew the Council's attention to a series of thefts from allotments sites in Pontyclun. A number of thefts had occurred at the Clun Avenue sites and quantities of canes had been broken and tools had been stolen. The police and the Borough Council had been informed and visited the sites. PCSO Tomkova said that she would arrange for night patrols to be undertaken.

The report was noted.

(f) **Speeding vehicles on the A4119 in Groesfaen**

PCSO Tomkova advised the Council that she had received a request from Councillor Rea to monitor the speed of traffic on the A4119 in Groesfaen, west of the speed camera. It was possible that hand held speed monitors could be used to check the speed of vehicles along this stretch of road.

The report was noted.

(g) **Parking – letters purporting to be sent by the police**

PCSO Tomkova reported that there had been instances of letters, “warning” about the infringement of parking regulations, being placed on the windscreens of parked cars in Pontyclun. The letter headings had been photocopied from bona fide police correspondence. Police enquiries were being made to identify the culprits.

The report was noted.

(h) **Powers of Police Community Support Officers**

PCSO Tomkova advised that there had been a recent increase in the powers of police community support officers. In future, officers would have similar powers to traffic wardens in the control of traffic. Officers would also be able to issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling and dropping litter.

The report was noted.

(i) **Caravans parked on highways**

Councillor Lane sought clarification of the law from PCSO Tomkova over the parking of caravans on the highway.

PCSO Tomkova agreed to make enquiries and report back to the Council.

(j) **Dog litter bins**

Several Members referred to the apparent lack of dog litter bins in the Community. A particular need for a dog litter bin existed outside the new bi-lingual school on Cefn yr Hendy.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk take the matter up with the Borough Council.

(k) **Next PACT meeting**

PCSO Tomkova advised that the next PACT meeting would take place in the Pontyclun Community Centre at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 4 July, 2007. She advised that she was hoping for a better attendance than at the previous PACT meeting. It was planned that no item would receive priority on the next PACT agenda.

The report was noted.

8. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Council Tax Base 2007/08**

The Council received the reply of the Borough Council to the query raised earlier in the year about the Borough Council's calculation of the Council Tax Base for the Community of Pontyclun for 2007/08.

A detailed explanation was provided on the calculation of the Council Tax Base for the Community for 2007/08 and an offer was made to investigate whether individual properties had been included in the Tax Base provided specific information was provided to the Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

(b) **Pontyclun public conveniences**

The Council discussed the provision of public conveniences in Pontyclun.

Councillor Lane expressed the view that the public of Pontyclun was paying twice for running the conveniences. He claimed that a part of the Council Tax payable to the Borough Council contained a sum for running the Pontyclun conveniences. This charge in the Council Tax was in addition to the amount paid by the Community Council to run the conveniences and contained in the precept.

The Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins, referred to a survey on the provision of public conveniences carried out by Conwy Borough Council. Councillor Jenkins suggested that the survey may be of assistance to the Council in its discussions.

Councillor Lane wished to give notice that he intended raising the legality of the Pontyclun Community Council running public conveniences.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk obtain confirmation from the Borough Council that, apart from the Community Council's precept, no amounts were charged to the Council Tax payers of the Community of Pontyclun to run the public conveniences in Pontyclun.
- (ii) That the intentions of Councillor Lane to challenge the legality of the Community Council running public conveniences be noted.

Councillor Ms Dawn Hayes left the meeting at this point

(c) **2007 Pontyclun Allotments Competition**

Councillor Norman advised that plans for holding the 2007 Pontyclun Allotments Competition were well advanced. Councillor Norman updated the Council on progress to date. He believed that Council's current financial contribution to the event was sufficient.

The report was noted.

(d) **Planning**

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

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

Application No. 07/0598/10

That while the Community Council is not opposed to the application, it is mindful of existing traffic congestion in Pontyclun and the likelihood of additional traffic being generated by the type of development proposed.

Application No. 07/0719/10

That while the Community Council is not opposed to the development, it is conscious of the close proximity of existing residential properties. The Council would urge the Planning Authority to place a condition on any further residential development to single storey development thus reducing the likelihood of existing premises being overlooked.

Application No. 07/0576/10

That the Council is opposed to the application since it constitutes development in the countryside, is outside the Local Plan and, if granted, is likely to be the forerunner of several more applications for development.

Application No. 07/0869/10

That the Council is opposed to the development since it is likely to result in an unwelcome increase in the use of a rear lane by traffic.

Application No. 07/0657/10

While the Community Council is not opposed to the application, consideration should be given to whether the development will affect the use of the nearby bus stop.

Application No. 07/0792/10

The Community Council is opposed to this application since it will involve considerable amount of tipping to raise levels, tipping will divert floodwater in the river Ely, the development will involve felling mature trees covered by a tree preservation order and the development is inappropriate in a residential area.

Application No. 07/0196/10

The Community Council is opposed to the removal of conditions since it is believed that the conditions were properly imposed at the time consent was granted.

Application No. 07/0821/10

The Community Council is opposed to the proposed development since it constitutes an over-development of the plot.

Application No. 07/927/10

The Community Council is opposed to the application since the developer has not fulfilled his obligations under an earlier consent.

(e) **Ty Gwyn, Talbot Green**

Councillor Norman told the Council that he had been approached and asked if the Pontyclun Community Council could assist in the creation of a garden at Ty Gwyn, near the law courts in Talbot Green. The Council was sympathetic to the request.

RESOLVED: That an application form for a grant be sent to the matron, Mrs Margaret Edwards.

(f) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 6 to the Council's agenda.

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

(a) **Environment Act, 1985**

The Community Council received a letter from the Borough Council offering the opportunity to comment upon the 3rd Stage Detailed Assessment of Nitrogen Dioxide in the air in the Community. Details were provided for accessing the Borough Council's website for making comments.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(b) **Local Development Plan : Preferred Strategy Consultation**

The Community Council received a letter from the Borough Council thanking it for taking part in the recent consultation on the Preferred Strategy for the Local Development Plan. A questionnaire was also provided to enable the Community Council to comment on how the Borough Council could continue to improve on the way it consults.

RESOLVED: That the Community Council repeat the comments it offered some months earlier on the consultation process.

(c) **Andrew R T Davies, AM**

The Council received a letter from Andrew R T Davies, AM, Welsh Conservative Member for South Wales Central area of the National Assembly for Wales.

Mr Davies stated that he is keen to become highly involved in local communities and would like to arrange surgeries where constituents can approach him with problems and issues. He stated that he would be happy to meet the Community Council

to discuss issues. He also asked that a poster enclosed with his letter be displayed on a Community Council noticeboard.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That Mr Davies be thanked for contacting the Community Council.
- (ii) That Mr Davies be advised of the name and address of the secretary to the Management Committee of the Pontyclun Community Centre in the event the he may wish to use the Community Centre to hold a surgery.

(d) **Bus service to Cardiff, Service 122**

The Council received representations from Mr E Gale of 4 River's Edge, Pontyclun, about alterations to the bus service to Cardiff, route 122.

Mr Gale stated that the terminus for the service has moved from Cardiff Central Station to Greyfriars Road. Considerable inconvenience was now being experienced by passengers having to carry heavy suitcases across central Cardiff to the railway and bus stations.

RESOLVED: That the Council object to the alterations by writing to Barclay Davies at "Bus Users UK", Stagecoach, Wales, and SEWTA.

(e) **Flower Festival**

Councillor Lane drew the Community Council's attention to a flower festival which was due to take place in Miskin Church in about a fortnight's time.

The report was noted.

(g) **Annual Grants meeting**

The Council discussed the timing of the Council's annual grants meeting. The Council felt that the meeting would be better held in September or October in each year instead of July.

RESOLVED: That the proposal be discussed at the next annual meeting of the Council.

(h) **Boundary fence at the Community Centre's car park**

Mr E Gale drew the Council's attention to problems with the positioning of the boundary fence between the Community

Council car park and his bungalow in River's Edge, Pontyclun. Mr Gale asked if the boundary fence could be re-aligned to prevent youths from scaling a tree and causing nuisance.

It was explained that the boundary fence to the car park was the responsibility of the Borough Council and that the Community Council did not have authority to carry out work to the fence. Mr Gale was advised to contact Mr Colin Lee of the Community Services Group.

The matter was noted.

10. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Annual Grants Meeting**

The Clerk reminded Members that the Council's Annual Grants meeting would be held on Wednesday, 18 July, 2007. Grant forms would be sent out in the next few days to local organisations which received grants in 2006 and notices inviting applications from local voluntary bodies would be displayed in Community Council noticeboards.

The matter was noted.

(b) **Hanging baskets**

Councillor Ms Cale complimented the Community Council on the quality of this year's hanging baskets. Councillor Cale said she was impressed with the displays and was sure that they would be appreciated by the public.

Councillor Cale's comments were noted.

11. **Exclusion of press and public**

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the next item of business on the grounds that it involves legal proceeding or contemplated legal proceeding.

12. **Land at Brynsadler Mill**

RESOLVED: (i) That the letter written by Edward T Davies & Son, Solicitors, be noted.

(ii) That the verbal report given by the Clerk following the site meeting on 11 June, 2007 be noted.

- (iii) That the Clerk be authorised to contact a surveyor to draw a plan for access to Council owned land.
- (iv) That the Clerk make enquiries of the Borough Council to establish ownership of the stone wall adjoining the bridge carrying the A4222 over the river Ely.

13. The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.