

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 14 November, 2007.

PRESENT: Community Councillors Ms V A Cale, D. Clayton-Jones, P Griffiths, Ms S Jenkins, A R Lane, and R G Norman,

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: P C S O Jitka Tomkova and two members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received on Community Councillors C Davies, Ms D Hayes, M Rea and P Thomas

2. **Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest were received from Members.

3. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 10 October, 2007**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 10 October, 2007 be approved as an accurate record.

4. **Matters arising**

(a) **Applications for planning consent by Beckerly Holdings**

The Clerk reported that he had checked the position on both applications. A decision on the first application was awaited from the Welsh Assembly Inspector who had conducted the local inquiry. The second application was held in abeyance by the Borough Council pending the decision on the first application.

The Clerk also reported that he had heard from Andrew R T Davies, AM, that the First Minister had refused to allow the first application to be “called in” since he was of the view that the application was of no more than local importance.

RESOLVED: That the reports be noted.

(b) **Cowbridge Developments**

The Council discussed the letter from the Borough Council on the obligations of the developer under a Section 106 agreement to provide facilities at his Talygarn development.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council note that the trigger point for the developer to fulfil his obligations is the occupation of the forty fifth dwelling. Currently, forty two dwellings were occupied.
- (ii) That the Council contact the developer about the possibility of transferring the ownership of the playing fields at Talygarn into the ownership of the Pontyclun Community Council.

(c) **Land east and west of the A4119 at Mwyndy**

The Council discussed the notes of the pre-inquiry meeting which was held on 9 October, 2007. The meeting had been convened to plan the format of the inquiry.

RESOLVED: That the format of the inquiry be noted.

(d) **Council's objectives**

The Council reviewed the list of objectives it had set during its first year of office.

In general, the Council was pleased with its achievements. However, there were some significant areas where progress had not been as good as the Council would have wished. In particular, the Council was disappointed that it had been unable to persuade the Borough Council to introduce residents only parking in Station Terrace, Pontyclun. Progress had also been limited in forming a community group to improve the appearance of river banks in the Community.

The Council believed that it should continue to make the public of the Community aware of its achievements and its role in

giving prominence to the numerous voluntary groups in the area. Councillor Jenkins advised that she had a database which she proposed incorporating into the Council's website. Transferring the details from the database on to the website would pose a challenge.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Chairperson be authorised to approach Impressions to find out if there was an inexpensive solution in transferring data on to the Council's website.
 - (ii) That in future years the Council's grant application form be amended to include a section authorising the Community Council to publish details of the voluntary organisation where a grant had been made by the Council.
 - (iii) That the possibility of advertising be considered to reduce costs to the Council.

(e) **Ivor Woods**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had received further representations from residents of The Hollies about the anti-social behaviour of youths in the Ivor Woods in the evenings.

While it was not possible to take action against any section of the public legitimately using the Woods, signs were being prepared asking the public for their cooperation in respecting the facilities in the Woods placed at public expense. The public's cooperation would also be sought in not lighting fires and respecting the flora and fauna.

Contact had also been made with the police. It had been agreed that random checks would be made by the police to ensure that no criminal activity was taking place. Residents had been provided with the mobile telephone number of a police officer in an attempt to prevent problems occurring at an early stage.

Replies had been sent to residents of The Hollies to inform of the action being taken by the Council. Residents had also been encouraged to attend PACT meetings to talk to the police about their concerns.

- RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

Councillor Lane informed the Chairperson that he had to leave the Council meeting.

(f) **Bus service 122 to Cardiff**

The Council was addressed by Mr Eddie Gale, a resident of River's Edge, Pontyclun. Mr Gale asked whether the Council had received any response to his concerns that the Pontyclun to Cardiff bus service no longer terminated at the Cardiff Bus Station.

The Clerk responded that the Council had written to Stagecoach expressing its concerns but had not received a reply.

RESOLVED: That a further letter be sent to Stagecoach and that the issue be pursued with the Borough Council.

5. **Police matters**

(a) **Ivor Woods**

PCSO Tomkova referred to the earlier report by the Clerk on anti-social behaviour in the Ivor Woods. She re-affirmed the commitment to carry out random checks to the Woods and, together with Councillor Jenkins, to maintain a dialogue with residents in The Hollies.

(b) **Break-ins to shops**

PCSO advised the Council that there had been a spate of break-ins to shop premises in Pontyclun in recent weeks. She was disappointed that none of the shopkeepers had come along to the PACT meeting. Nevertheless, she would make a point of visiting all the shops in Pontyclun to offer crime prevention advice.

(c) **Parking in Pontyclun**

PCSO Tomkova reported that while parking in Pontyclun had been a priority item during the preceding month there had only been limited progress. The issue would again be a priority for the coming month.

(d) **Scouts' Bonfire Night in Miskin**

Councillor Jenkins complimented the police on their handling of the traffic at the recent Scouts' Bonfire Night. The event had been attended by several hundred people and despite limited parking being available at the scouts' field and in Miskin village, residents had commented on the excellent way the crowds and vehicles had been handled.

RESOLVED: That the reports be noted.

6. **Concerns of residents of High Street, Brynsadler**

Ms Nadine Austin addressed the Council on behalf of residents of High Street, Brynsadler.

Residents were worried about the recent submission of plans for building at the site of the former welding shop in High Street. An examination of the plans showed that it was proposed to erect two storey premises at the site in addition to single storey premises. While the site would ostensibly remain a commercial site it was difficult to imagine why two storey premises were needed. Previous assurances by the new owner of the site had led residents to believe that his intention was to use the buildings as office accommodation for himself to run his business. The recent appearance in High Street of several high topped vans and a number of smaller vans gave residents reason to believe that the site would be used more extensively than they had been led to believe.

Residents were concerned that the narrowness of High Street did not lend itself to the regular comings and goings of commercial traffic. Further, that the junction of High Street with Cowbridge Road, where the narrowness was coupled with a very poor vision display, would inevitably result in road accidents.

- RESOLVED:**
- (a) That the Council oppose the construction of two storey premises at the site since:
 - (i) neighbouring properties would suffer a significant loss of privacy.
 - (ii) the narrowness of High Street was not conducive to the expansion of business activities.
 - (iii) the access to and egress from High Street, Brynsadler was significantly below current acceptable highway standards.
 - (b) That the Borough Council's attention be drawn to the fact that the applicant for planning consent had submitted a location map in support of his proposals which showed the junction of High Street and Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler in a misleading way.
 - (c) That the Borough Council be asked to replace the winter grit bin which was formerly positioned

near the gable end of the cottage at the junction of High Street and Cowbridge Road, Brynsadler.

7. **Relationship Building – Charters for Unitary authorities and community councils**

The Council discussed the document published by the Welsh Assembly Government inviting community councils to give their comments on ways of building relationships with their unitary authorities. The Society of Local Council Clerks had urged all community councils to put forward their suggestions.

RESOLVED: That Members study the document and notify the Clerk by 30 November, 2007, of their comments for building relationships with their unitary authority.

8. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Access to Council owned land in Brynsadler**

The Clerk reported that all Members of the Council had been provided with copies of the proposed access to the Council owned land in Brynsadler.

The Clerk stated that it the construction of the access was a technical matter and that he recommended that the Council engage a professional surveyor to advise on a specification of work, likely costs, invite tenders from competent builders and carry out on site checks to ensure that standards were being observed.

RESOLVED: That the Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins, contact Councillor Lane to identify a suitable local surveyor who could undertake the work.

(b) **Trees near Millfield, Pontyclun**

The Council received a request from residents of Millfield, Pontyclun, to reduce the height of trees which the resident believed were in Community Council ownership.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk convene a site meeting in order Members can get a better appreciation of the problem and form a view on whether the trees are in Community Council ownership

(c) **Llantrisant Post Office**

The Council received a letter from Mr Andrew R T Davies inviting the Council to join with other parties in opposing the

closure of Llantrisant Post Office and keeping a vital service open in the locality.

RESOLVED: That the Council lend its support to the campaign to keep the post office open.

(d) **Rhondda Taff Citizens' Advice Bureau**

An invitation was received by the Council to nominate a Member to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Rhondda Taff Citizens' Advice Bureau.

RESOLVED: That the Council nominate Councillor Norman to attend the meeting and that the Clerk pass the necessary details to Councillor Norman.

(e) **Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru**

The Council received an application for financial assistance from Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru.

RESOLVED: That the Council make a donation of £100.00.

(f) **The Bridgend Samaritans**

The Council received an application for financial assistance from The Bridgend Samaritans.

RESOLVED: That the Council make a donation of £100.00.

(g) **Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf's charity Auction**

The Council received a request from the Borough Council to make a donation to the Mayor's Charity Auction.

RESOLVED: That the Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins, be authorised to make a purchase from the newly opened art gallery in Pontyclun, and for the purchase to be donated to the Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf's Charity Auction.

(h) **Weekly Planning Notifications**

The Council discussed planning applications contained in the latest Weekly Notifications received from the local Planning Authority.

RESOLVED: That the following comment be made:

Application No. 07/1755/10

While the Council is not opposed to the proposal in principle, it believes that there should be additional road access to cater for the number of dwellings proposed.

(i) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 12 to the Council's agenda.

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

The Clerk reported that since the Council came into existence in April, 1985, the work of the Council had increased significantly. The Clerk advised Members that he was always looking for ways to streamline the workings of the Council to make it more efficient. The Clerk informed the Council that he had become aware of a financial software package, which was claimed to be tailor-made for community and town councils, which would convert the Receipts and Payments Account into an Income and Expenditure Account, produce a Balance Sheet and complete the Annual Return for external audit.

The Clerk told Members that he had been invited to a demonstration of the package on 4 December, 2007, together with another interested community council. The Clerk sought the Council's approval to attend the demonstration and evaluate its effectiveness for the Community Council. The Clerk had been told that the package would cost approximately £300.00 plus another £50 per annum as a maintenance charge.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to attend the demonstration and be authorised to buy the package if he was of the opinion that use of the package would result in greater efficiencies in the preparation of the Council's accounts.

10. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Improving access to Cardiff International Airport**

The Clerk advised the Council that an exhibition would be held in the Wenvoe Community Centre and Cowbridge Community Centre on 30 November and 1 December, respectively, to show plans for improved access to Cardiff International Airport.

The Community Council had been asked to advertise the exhibitions and copies of posters had been displayed in all Community Council noticeboards.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **DIAL Llantrisant – cessation of service**

It was with regret that the Council learned that the service offered by DIAL Llantrisant, a charitable organisation which provided a service to people with a disability in the surrounding area, and which the Council had made donations in support for many years, would be ceasing operations on 31 December, 2007.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

11. The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.