

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the vestry of Babel Chapel, Groesfaen, at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 10 February, 2009.

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

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

1. **Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor G Davies.

2. **Declarations of interest**

Councillor Jenkins declared an interest in item 6(a) on the agenda as the Chairperson of 1st Miskin Mill Scouts.

3. **Residents concerns**

No representations were received.

4. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

In the absence of police officers there was no discussion.

(b) **Reports from Members**

(i) **Break-in allotment sheds**

Councillor Norman reported that there had been a further break-in at a shed on the Clun Avenue allotments site. On this occasion intruders had broken in to a shed containing chemicals and two machetes had been stolen. The incident had been reported to the police.

The report was noted.

(ii) **Burglaries**

Councillor Huish reported that over the last weekend there had been four separate burglaries in Miskin. The incidents had been reported to the police.

The report was noted.

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

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

6. **Matters arising**

(a) **Miskin Scout Hall**

(Councillor Jenkins declared a personal but not a prejudicial interest in this item of business in her capacity as Chairperson of 1st Miskin Mill Scouts. Councillor Jenkins remained in the Council chamber but did not take part in the Council's discussions.)

The Council received a presentation from Ms Shelley Spiller in connection with the appeal by Miskin Scouts to the community for financial assistance to meet the cost of urgent building work necessary to the Scout Hall in Miskin.

Ms Spiller estimated that the amount to be raised was in the region of £18,000 to £20,000 although a detailed costing would be undertaken shortly after trial holes had been dug. Ms Spiller drew attention to the wide age groups of children using the Hall on a regular basis, the facilities offered, and the strong links existing between the Scout Hall, the community, and nearby villages.

Ms Spiller informed the Council that the work at the Scout Hall would not qualify for substantial grants from other sources with a maximum contribution of approximately £5,000. Once a total cost had been established fund raising in earnest would commence.

RESOLVED: (i) That Ms Spiller be requested to notify the

Clerk of the fundraising target as soon as it was known.

- (ii) That the Council make a press release stating its support for the fundraising initiative.
- (iii) That the Clerk establish the position on the plans for the development of St Paul's Church Hall in Pontyclun.

(b) **Land at Brynsadler Mill, Pontyclun**

The Clerk advised the Council that, despite having a written assurance from the Council's solicitors that they would be in a position to let the Council have a reply to its latest letter by the time of the Council's meeting, no reply had been received.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk send a reminder letter to the solicitors and place the item on the agenda for the Council's March meeting.

(c) **Mwyndy planning application**

The Council received the correspondence which has taken place between the Clerk, Mr Fred Pembridge and the local education authority since the last meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

(d) **Prioritisation of actions to be taken by the Community Council**

The Clerk reported that he had received one written response and a number of verbal responses to the request by the Council for Members to submit their list of issues to be prioritised by the Council.

A discussion followed and it emerged that several Members were in the process of compiling lists for submission to the Clerk.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That lists of all Members' prioritisation issues be submitted to the Clerk within 2 weeks.
 - (ii) That, in advance of the Council's next meeting, the Clerk circulate a list of all Members' priorities in order that decisions can be taken at the Council's March meeting.

(e) **Draft Local Development Plan**

The Clerk referred to the previous meeting of the Council where lists of sites for proposed development in the Community had been received. Members but had had difficulty in identifying the location of the sites and their extent.

Councillor Rea had subsequently made enquiries with the Borough Council. The clarification offered by the Borough Council was discussed. It was noted that the Draft Local Development Plan was open for public consultation from 5 February to 19 March, 2009, and that roadshows explaining the Draft Plan would be held at key centres in the Borough during the public consultation period.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk arrange for the comments made by the Community Council on plans for large scale development in the Community to be placed on the Council's next agenda.

(ii) That in view of the shortage of time available for comment, the Clerk place a notice on the Council's noticeboards drawing attention to the facility for the public to view the Plan on the Borough Council's website and make comments. Additionally that a roadshows were being held to explain the proposals.

(iii) That the Clerk write to the editor of the Llantrisant & Pontypridd Observer stating that the Community Council was opposed to the plans for development in the lower part of the Borough since they would lead to even greater congestion of the existing highway system. Additionally that the public be urged to make their views known to the Borough Council.

(iv) That the Clerk be authorised to purchase a laptop computer and screen on behalf of the Community Council to enable the Council to view any DVDs produced by the Borough Council.

(f) **Calendar of Community Council meetings to April, 2010**

The Clerk reported that he had drawn up a calendar of meeting dates and venues for Community Council meetings to April, 2010. The proposed dates for each venue had been forwarded

to YGG Llantrisant, Babel Chapel and Bethel Baptist Church. To date, only Babel Chapel had confirmed the allocated dates. The Clerk was hopeful that he would be able to finalise the calendar in time for the next meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(g) **Reading Competitions at local schools**

Councillor Rea advised the Council that he had made enquiries about the possibility of reinstating reading competitions to mark World Book Day at both local primary schools. Both schools had welcomed the initiative.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the competitions be reinstated.
- (ii) That prizes be awarded of £15, £10 and £5 for each of the 4 year groups within each primary school.
- (iii) That the prizes be made in the form of book tokens.

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Precept for 2009/10**

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Borough Council advising that the Council Tax Base for the Community for 2009/10 had reduced by £50.95 since the previous year. The effect of this would necessitate an increase in the precept level of 1.65% to secure the same level of funding as in 2008/09.

The Council considered its budget for 2008/09, its expenditure to 31 January, 2009, its expenditure to 31 March, 2009, and projected expenditure for 2009/10.

RESOLVED: That the Council increase its precept by 4.9% for the 2009/10 financial year.

(b) **Enforcement Warden**

The Council discussed a letter from the Borough Council offering the services of an Enforcement Warden for between 1 and 5 days a week to carry out enforcement duties in the Community. The duties of the warden would be to enforce legislation in relation to litter – including smoke related waste, dog fouling, fly tipping, fly posting, graffiti and refuse bins. The annual cost for a warden employed for one day per week would be £4,438.

RESOLVED: That the Council decline the Borough Council's offer.

(c) **Weekly planning notifications**

(Councillors Huish and Rea declared personal but not prejudicial interests in this item of business. They remained in the Council chamber but did not take part in the Council's discussions)

The Council discussed the latest Weekly Notifications list received from the Planning Authority.

RESOLVED: That no comments on the applications be made to the Planning Authority.

(d) **Payment of creditors**

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

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

(a) **Invitation to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace**

The Clerk read out a circular letter to community and town councils in membership of One Voice Wales asking if they wished to nominate the chairperson to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace during July, 2009.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council decline the invitation.
(ii) That One Voice Wales be advised that in the view of the Council invitations to attend Buckingham Palace garden parties should not be by nomination of chairpersons but rather by selection of worthy individuals in communities.

(c) **Proposed loading bay, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

The Clerk read out a letter from the Highway Authority inviting the Council to make comments on the proposal to create a loading bay at the site of the existing bus stop adjacent to No. Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Council offer the following comments:

(i) vehicles emerging from Heol yr Orsaf, Pontyclun, would have difficulty in seeing

traffic travelling from the direction of Brynsadler

- (ii) as a result of the existing bus stop being moved out into the highway, the safety of passengers would be compromised
- (iii) the proposal will result in more congestion in the village particularly when deliveries coincide with buses stopping in the highway.

9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Footpath No.341 – Ivor Woods to Nant Dyfrgi**

The Council received copies of correspondence which had taken place between Mr Long of Ottersbrook Lodge, Brynsadler, and the Clerk about erosion to the river bank alongside Footpath No. 341. The Clerk also advised the Council that he had received an e-mail from a resident of The Hollies, Brynsadler, who was also concerned about the erosion of the river bank.

RESOLVED:

- (i) to note that the matter had been referred to the Highway Authority for guidance.
- (ii) that the Highway Authority be asked if it had information on the ownership of the land.

(b) **Bus stop at Castell y Mwnws**

The Clerk reported that a resident of Castell y Mwnws had expressed concern at the recent siting of the bus stop on the east bound carriageway at Castell y Mwnws.

Enquiries of the Highway Authority had shown that it had not been possible to site the bus stop opposite the bus stop on the west bound carriageway due to the probability of congestion from buses stopping on opposite sides of the highway. A more appropriate site had been agreed with the police some distance away on the east bound carriageway.

RESOLVED: That the matter be taken up with the Highway Authority by Borough Councillors Huish and Rea.

(c) **Tree in the Ivor Woods**

The Clerk reported that in January he had received a telephone call from a resident of The Hollies, Brynsadler, who was concerned about the proximity of a tree to the rear of his boundary wall with the Ivor Woods. The resident believed that the tree might be diseased its roots may have been responsible for the cracks in the boundary wall.

The Clerk advised that he had arranged a site visit with the Borough Council's Arboriculturist, the resident and himself. The Arboriculturist advised the resident that the tree in question was healthy and did not pose a threat to the resident's premises. Further, that the cracks in the resident's boundary wall were caused by settlement and not by any tree roots.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(d) **Interim Audit of Accounts 2008/09**

The Clerk reminded the Council that under current arrangements it was necessary to carry out an interim audit of the Community Council's accounts during the financial year.

The interim audit of Community Council accounts for 2008/09 had been carried out by Ms Helen Embling and her report was attached to the Council's agenda at Appendix 15.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(e) **Community Boundary Changes**

The Clerk reported that regulations had been signed at the Welsh Assembly giving effect to the boundary changes for the Community proposed by the Boundary Commission.

Substantially the changes would come into effect on 1 April, 2009, although elections to the enlarged Community would not be held until 2012. At the elections in 2012 the number of members on the Community Council would be increased from 10 to 11 reflecting 5 members for the Cefn yr Hendy Ward, 4 members for the Maesyfelin Ward and one member each for the Miskin and Groesfaen Wards.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(f) **The "Free Two Pence"**

The Council received the letter of 30 January, 2009, from the Welsh Assembly Government which advised that as a result of a

5% increase in the retail prices index the formula for the calculation of the appropriate sum under Section 137 (3) of the Local Government Act, 1972, was increased from £5.86 per elector to £6.15 per elector with effect from 1 April, 2009.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(g) **Borrowing by Community Councils in 2009/10**

The Council received details from the Welsh Assembly Government of the procedure to be followed in 2009/10 for borrowing approval.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

10. The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.