

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 14 January, 2009.

PRESENT: Community Councillors, D Clayton-Jones, J G Davies, P Griffiths, R G Norman, and M Rea

Also in attendance: P. S. Kath Wide

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors V A Cale, J V Huish, S Jenkins, S Rogers and C Willis

2. **Declarations of interest**

None were made.

3. **Residents concerns**

No representations were received.

4. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

(i) **Crime**

PS Wide reported that there had been few incidences of crime to report following the burglaries of November/December. However, plans were being made for another plain clothes operation and this was likely to take place towards the end of January or the beginning of February.

The report was noted.

(ii) **Automatic vehicle recognition**

PS Wide also reported that operations were planned for the A4119, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun and Llanharry Road involving the use of automatic vehicle recognition equipment. The equipment had been found to be very useful in other areas in detecting a host of driving irregularities.

The report was noted.

(iii) **Speed Cameras**

PS Wride advised that the police would be carrying out surveillance to detect speeding vehicles in Miskin. Following a request from a Member, PS Wide agreed that speed checks would also be carried out in Llantrisant Road, Groesfaen.

The report was noted.

(iv) **Parking in the vicinity of primary schools**

PS Wide advised that at the end of January/beginning of February the police intended to carry out checks on motorists who parked their vehicles illegally at busy periods around the primary schools in the Community.

The report was noted.

(b) **Reports from Members**

(i) **Sale of alcohol**

A Member enquired of PS Wide whether there was any further news on the possible prosecution of a shopkeeper in the Community for selling alcohol to under age youths.

PS Wide responded that she was unaware of the case but would make enquiries.

(ii) **Dumping of household refuse**

A Member reported that following complaints about the dumping of refuse within the curtilage of No. 56 Heol y Coed, Pontyclun, the matter had now been resolved.

The report was noted.

(iii) **Overgrown hedge**

A Member reported that a hedge on the boundary of a property in Heol-y-Coed, Pontyclun, had overgrown into the adjacent lane and was impeding the passage of pedestrians using the lane. Following a complaint by the Clerk to the housing association owning the property, the hedge had now been cut back.

The report was noted.

(iv) **Condition of pavements in Pontyclun**

A Member reported that a number of pavements in Pontyclun were in need of repair. He asked that a meeting be convened with a Borough Council Highways Officer to view the problems and discuss repair works.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Rea arrange a site meeting with a Highways Officer to inspect pavements in Pontyclun and notify the Member of the arrangements.

5. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 2 December, 2008**

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

6. **Matters arising**

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

The Clerk reported that a site meeting was held before Christmas to acquaint Members with the land purchased by the Community Council and to discuss the intentions for creating an access to the land from Brynsadler bridge. The possibility of creating a separate exit from the land was also discussed.

Following the site meeting a further letter had been sent to the solicitors acting for the Council for clarification on whether the Community Council is responsible for the maintenance of the boundary fence along the grass verge in Millfield. The solicitors' views were also sought on whether the Community Council had acted properly in purchasing the land without the benefit of a risk assessment. A reply on both points was awaited.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **Calendar of meetings, 2008/09**

The Clerk reported that confirmation had now been received that four venues would be available in the Community to hold Community Council meetings. A schedule of meetings and venues would be presented to the Council at its next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk bring a calendar of meetings covering the remainder of 2008/09 and the year 2009/10 to the next meeting of the Council.

(c) **Miskin Scouts**

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by Shelley Spiller of the Miskin Scouts to say that she would not be able to make a presentation at that evening's meeting. Instead, she would be able to make the presentation to the Council's February meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(d) **Mwyndy planning decision**

The Clerk advised that he had conveyed the Council's decision taken at its meeting on 2 December, 2008, to Mr Fred Pembridge of Cross Inn, Llantrisant.

The Community Council's letter had led to an exchange of correspondence with Mr Pembridge. The exchange of correspondence was contained at Appendices to the Council's agenda.

RESOLVED: (i) That copies of minutes and correspondence on the Community Council's initial response on the Mwyndy planning application be provided to Councillors Clayton-Jones and Rea.

(ii) That a copy of Mr Pembridge's letter highlighting the need for new schools to serve the Pontyclun/Llantrisant/Beddau areas be forwarded to the Director of Education at the Borough Council for comment.

(iii) That Mr Pembridge be encouraged to involve the Llantrisant Community Council in any further representations on his suggestions to build new schools at Mwyndy.

(e) **Talygarn Manor residential development**

The Council discussed the comments of the planning officer responsible for the development.

Despite the optimistic vein in the comments that the developer was addressing his responsibilities under the Section 106 Agreement attaching to the consent, the Council was concerned that a significant amount of work had yet to be carried out. Members highlighted that nothing had been done to restore the cricket pavilion and the features of the bridge across the lake. Concern was also expressed about the poor state of the bowling green and pavilion.

Members commented that the conditions attaching to the consent for development were intended to preserve the features of a heritage property. There was a risk that a developer, having constructed 40 properties, could walk away from his responsibilities without having taken steps to preserve the unique features of this important property. The Council was aware that in other planning authorities the responsibility for restoring important features was related to the completion of a much lower number of residential units.

RESOLVED: That the Borough Council be asked for a list of the developer's obligations under the Section 106 Agreement with a progress report on the achievement of those obligations.

(f) **Consideration of planning appeals**

The Council discussed a draft letter to the minister responsible for planning matters at the Welsh Assembly Government expressing the concerns of the Community Council at a weakness in the planning system whereby an applicant for planning consent is able to submit substantial changes to a planning application before an appeal hearing. In the view of the Community Council such changes should require the applicant to submit a new planning application for determination by the planning authority.

RESOLVED: That the draft letter be sent to Ms Jane Davidson at the Welsh Assembly Government.

(g) **Painting competitions in Pontyclun schools**

It was reported that the Christmas painting competitions at the two primary schools in the Community had been well received

by teachers, parents and children. Presentations had been made to the winning entrants.

RESOLVED: That Christmas painting competitions at Pontyclun primary schools become an annual event.

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Prioritisation of actions to be undertaken by the Community Council**

The Clerk reported that only one list of priorities had been provided to him by a Member in advance of the meeting.

A number of priorities were given verbally by Members at the meeting and it was reported that other Members not present had priorities which were in the course of preparation.

RESOLVED: That the determination of the Community Council's priorities be deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

(b) **Welsh Language Act, 1993 – Public Consultation on the Draft Welsh Education Scheme**

The Clerk reported that the Council had received an invitation to comment upon the Borough Council's Draft Welsh Education Scheme. Comments on the draft scheme were also invited from members of the public.

The draft document is available for viewing on the Borough Council's website or a free copy is available from Keith Davies, PMI Unit, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon. Any comments need be made by 13 February, 2009.

The Clerk advised the Council that posters inviting comments from the public had been displayed in all Community Council noticeboards.

RESOLVED: That any Member having comments on the Draft Scheme should forward them to the Clerk for onward transmission or comment directly via the Borough Council's website.

(c) **Welsh Assembly Government - Members Pay and Allowances – Call for evidence**

The Council received a letter from the Clerk to the Independent Panel on Members' Pay and Allowances.

The Panel's aim is to review Assembly Members' pay and allowances to ensure that the system is fair, transparent and recognises and rewards AMs' skills while providing value for money. The Community Council was invited to submit comments or constructive ideas about the financial support AMs' receive.

RESOLVED: That the Council note the invitation.

(d) **Application for financial assistance**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance from the Llangollen International Eisteddfod.

RESOLVED: That no grant be made.

(e) **Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council – Consultation Draft: Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Guidance**

The Council received a letter from the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council containing a Consultation Draft Planning Obligations Supplementary Guidance. The Community Council was invited to comment on the document.

RESOLVED: That the Consultation Draft be noted.

(f) **Weekly Planning Notifications**

(Councillor Rea declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in this item of business. He elected to remain in the Council chamber but did not participate in any discussion under this item. For the period when Councillor Rea did not participate in discussions the Chair was occupied by Councillor Norman)

The Council reviewed the latest Weekly Notifications received from the Borough Council.

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

Application No. 08/1791/10

- (i) That the developer be required not to render the façade of the premises facing Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun.
- (ii) That the developer be required to replace the doors at the front of the premises in timber rather than glass.

(f) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 13 to the Council's agenda.

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

(a) **Draft Local Development Plan**

The Clerk reported receipt of a copy of the Draft Local Development Plan which was being discussed at a meeting of the Borough Council that evening.

The report covered over 200 pages and it had not been possible to produce a full copy of the report for every Member of the Community Council in the time available. Instead, the Clerk had produced lists of sites in the Community which officers were recommending that they should be included in the Draft Local Development Plan. Copies of the lists were distributed to Members.

Members discussed the lists but had difficulty in identifying the location of similarly described sites and the extent of sites which could be identified.

RESOLVED: (i) That Councillor Rea make enquiries of the Borough Council to obtain detailed information on how the proposals will affect the Community of Pontyclun.

(iii) That it be noted that after the draft proposals had been accepted by the Borough Council there would be a further period of public consultation in which comments could be made to the Planning Authority.

(b) **Council Tax Base for the Community of Pontyclun 2009/10**

The Clerk reported receipt of the notification from the Borough Council giving the Council Tax Base for the Community for 2009/10.

RESOLVED: That the information be brought back to the February meeting of the Community Council to assist in the calculation of the Council's precept for 2009/10.

9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Certificate of Audit – 2007/08 Annual Return**

The Clerk reported receipt of the external auditor's certificate and opinion on the Community Council's accounts for 2007/08. The auditor reported that "On the basis of our review, in our opinion, the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with the Auditor General for Wales' requirements and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met."

RESOLVED: That the external auditor's report be noted.

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

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting of the Council he had received representations from Mr Morris of Castell y Mwnws about the absence of a pole indicating a bus stop on the east bound carriageway at Castell y Mwnws. Due to the absence of an indication a bus driver had refused to stop at Castell y Mwnws and instead stopped his bus in Brynsadler. This had necessitated a half mile walk back to Castell y Mwnws.

The Clerk advised that he had reported the incident to the Borough Council and that a Transportation Officer had requested a bus company to erect a bus stop pole on the east bound carriageway at Castell y Mwnws.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(c) **Lane to the rear of Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun**

Councillor Rea informed the Council that following representations by residents for speed humps in the lane to the rear of Palalwyf Avenue, he would be meeting with officers of the Borough Council. Following the meeting an estimate for the cost of the work would be sent to the Community Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(d) **Repairs to allotment fences**

Councillor Rea reported that he had arranged with officers of the Borough Council for repair works to be carried out to the boundary fences of allotments in Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

(e) **Former Tabernacle Church, Pontyclun**

Councillor Rea told the Council that following complaints that external walls at the former Tabernacle Church, Pontyclun, had been rendered, he had pursued the matter with officers at the Borough Council. It had been agreed that it was in order for the exterior walls to be rendered provided the façade facing Cowbridge Road was left un-rendered.

The report was noted.

10. The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.