

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Minor Hall of the Bethel Baptist Church, Heol Miskin, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 2 December, 2008.

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

Also in attendance: PCSO Jitka Tomkova for part of the meeting

1. **Apology for absence**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Community Councillor J V Huish

2. **Declarations of interest**

None were made.

3. **Residents concerns**

No representations were received.

4. **Minutes of the Community Council's meeting of 11 November, 2008**

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved as an accurate record subject to minute 8 (b) being amended to read:

- (i) That the Council commit to buying its own Christmas lights for Christmas, 2009, and
- (ii) that further consideration be given to attending the annual fair on Christmas illuminations held in the West Country in the summer of 2009.

5. **Matters arising**

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

The Clerk reminded the Council that he had earlier requested the Council's solicitors, Spicketts Battrick, to provide the Council with the second legal opinion in time for the meeting of 2 December. The report had arrived at 4.25 p.m. that day. Copies of the second opinion were distributed to Members. It was noted that the second legal opinion mirrored the advice given in September from Gaskell and Walker, solicitors, Cowbridge.

A discussion took place on the contents of the letter and proposals for a way forward. Some Members felt at a disadvantage in discussing a way forward since they had not viewed the land.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That proposals on a way forward be deferred pending a site visit by Members.
 - (ii) That the Council's solicitors be asked for a view on whether the Council had acted properly in deciding to purchase the land without the benefit of a risk assessment.

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

The Clerk reported that there were now three venues which could be available for Community Council meetings. He was optimistic that a fourth venue, the Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Gymraeg, Llantrisant, would also be available but arrangements had not yet been finalised. As soon as arrangements had been completed the Clerk would prepare a calendar of meetings for the coming year.

The report was noted.

(c) **Delivery of agendas to Members**

The Clerk advised Members that, due to other pressing Community Council work, he had not been able to deliver agendas to Members on the Thursday prior to this evening's meeting. He would do his best to ensure that the Thursday delivery day was met for future meetings.

The report was noted.

(d) **Miskin Scouts - invitation to attend meeting**

The Clerk advised that by arrangement with Shelley Spiller, the representative of Miskin Scouts, she would now be attending the January meeting of the Community Council.

The report was noted.

6. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

(i) **Crimes**

PCSO Tomkova reported that there had been 17 reported crimes in the previous month, most of which had been solved. Some of the more serious crimes included a burglary in Groesfaen, several thefts from vehicles, shoplifting at Leekes and an attempted break-in.

The report was noted.

(ii) **PACT boxes**

PCSO Tomkova reported on the installation of PACT boxes around Pontyclun. The facility would enable members of the public to drop cards into the boxes to advise of concerns. PCSO Tomkova also advised on a PACT e-mail facility.

The report was noted.

(iii) **Anti-bullying week in schools**

PCSO Tomkova advised of police involvement on a weeklong anti-bullying initiative in local schools.

The report was noted.

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

PCSO Tomkova also advised the Council of a police initiative to discourage dangerous parking in the vicinity of local schools. The initiative would involve the erection of posters and speaking to certain drivers.

The report was noted.

(v) **Proposed visit to police Headquarters**

PCSO Tomkova advised of a proposal for children from local schools to visit police headquarters at Bridgend to gain a better understanding of the work of the police.

The report was noted.

(vi) **Sale of alcohol**

PCSO Tomkova reported that police investigations were continuing into allegations that the proprietor of a local store had sold alcohol to children. Investigations were well advanced and it was likely that the case would be brought to court in the near future.

The report was noted.

(b) **Reports from Members**

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

Councillor Graham Davies reported that he had spoken to residents of Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun, about the possibility of the installation of either a locked gate or speed humps to control the number of vehicles using the lane as a short cut. The preference of residents was for the installation of speed humps.

The Clerk advised the Council that within the last three months he had written to the Borough Council asking for the installation of speed humps in the lane. The request had been declined for immediate action but had been placed on a list of projects for future consideration.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Borough Council be approached again with an offer to share the cost of the installation of speed humps with the Borough Council.

(ii) That the approach to the Borough Council be made by Borough Councillor Rea.

(ii) **Allotment sites in Pontyclun**

Councillor Norman reported that break-ins had occurred at plot-holders' sheds at the allotment sites on Clun Avenue, Pontyclun. The incidents had been reported to the police and PCSO Tomkova had arranged for the police evening shifts to pay particular attention to the allotment sites.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(iii) **Letter of appreciation**

RESOLVED: That in recognition of the service given by PCSO Tomkova to the Community, a letter of thanks be sent to the Superintendent of Police for the diligence shown and contribution made to village life by PCSO Tomkova.

7. **Matters for decision**

(a) **Prioritisation of issues raised with the Borough Council**

Members discussed the large number of issues which had been raised with the Borough Council in recent years where little or no progress had been made. There was a feeling that some of the issues could be progressed if the Community Council was in a position to make a financial contribution to the cost of the work requested.

RESOLVED: That each Member brings their priorities to the January, 2009, meeting of the Community Council for discussion. Those Members on e-mail were asked to e-mail their priorities to the Clerk by 1 January, 2009.

(b) **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)

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

RESOLVED: That on this occasion no comment be made to the Borough Council on any of the applications.

(c) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 4 to the Council's agenda.

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

(a) **Mwyndy Planning Decision**

The Clerk distributed to each Member a copy of a letter received from Mr Pembridge, a planning consultant living in Cross Inn, following the decision of the Welsh Assembly Government appointed inspector to allow the planning application for development on both sides of the A4119 at Mwyndy, Pontyclun.

The letter invited the Community Council to join in making representations to the Borough Council for the inclusion of the Mwyndy site in the draft Local Plan for construction of new primary and secondary schools.

The Council discussed Mr Pembridge's proposals at length but felt that it could not support the proposals.

RESOLVED: That Mr Pembridge be advised that the Community Council believed that there were two good schools in the heart of the Community and that it had reservations about placing schools away from centres of population. For these reasons the Council felt unable to support Mr Pembridge's proposals.

(b) **"A History of Brynsadler and its People"**

The Clerk reminded the Council that the previous year it had made a grant to Mr Edgeley Thomas, a resident of Brynsadler, towards the cost of researching and publication of his book "A History of Brynsadler and its People".

In appreciation of the Council's grant, Mr Thomas had provided the Community Council with a complimentary copy of his book.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Mr Thomas be congratulated on his work and thanked for his kind gesture.
- (iii) That the book be made available for loan to Members by arrangement with the Clerk.

(c) **Talygarn Manor residential development**

It was reported that a condition in the planning consent for development required the developer to provide certain amenities for residents once 40 properties had been occupied.

It appeared that new estate agents had been employed to sell properties at the development and that the number of occupied properties now exceeded 40.

It also appeared that the original developer, Cowbridge Developments, had sold its interest in the development and that

a dispute had arisen about who should be responsible for installing the agreed amenities for residents.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(d) **Police Matters**

RESOLVED: That for future meetings of the Council Police Matters be included on agendas after Residents' Concerns.

9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Insurance claim**

The Clerk reported receipt of a claim against the Council for paint stained clothing. The matter was being referred to the Council's insurers.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **Guidance on the Declaration of Interest by Members**

A flowchart outlining the procedure for the Declaration of Interest at Council meetings was provided to Members.

RESOLVED: That the flowchart be noted.

(c) **Consideration of planning appeals**

The Council discussed correspondence on planning appeals which had taken place between the Leader of the Borough Council and the First Minister for Wales at the Welsh Assembly Government.

The Borough Council believed that there had been recent instances where substantial changes had been made by developers to planning applications before an appeal. In the Borough Council's views these changes required the developer to submit a new planning application for determination by the Planning Authority. Instead, the appeal procedure had been allowed to take place.

In its reply, the First Minister acknowledged that the definition of "substantial" changes was key to the issue and that the responsibility for deciding this lay with the inspector holding the appeal. The First Minister concluded by saying that if the Borough Council felt that an appeal was inappropriate the Borough Council had the right to request judicial review of the decision.

Councillor Griffiths expressed similar concerns to those of the Borough Council and felt that the concerns should be expressed to the Welsh Assembly Government.

RESOLVED: That a draft of a letter expressing the Community Council's concerns be brought to the next meeting of the Council.

(d) **Refusal of planning consent for development in Talygarn**

The Council received a copy of the Borough Council's decision to refuse planning consent for the conversion of existing double garage and workshop to residential dwelling, insertion of dormer windows, and erection of detached garage at Talygarn.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

(e) **The Adjudication Panel for Wales - Annual Report 2007/2008**

The Council received the Annual Report for 2007/08.

RESOLVED: (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That any Member wishing to see the report contacts the Clerk.

(f) **Erection of Christmas Trees and Illuminations**

The Clerk reported that erection of Christmas trees and illuminations had started in Pontyclun that day. To ensure the safety of the Council's Handyman while climbing the ladder, the Clerk had arranged for the employment of a person to foot the ladder.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(g) **Painting Competitions**

Councillor Rea advised the Council that arrangements for Christmas painting competitions had been made with two local primary schools. Presentations of book tokens would be made to the winners before Christmas.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

10. The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.