

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 2 September, 2008.

**PRESENT:** Community Councillors Ms V A Cale, J G Davies, J V Huish, D Clayton-Jones, S Jenkins, R G Norman, M Rea, and S Rogers

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** PCSO Jitka Tomkova for part of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors P Griffiths and C Willis

2. **Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest were received from Members.

3. **Chair**

In the absence of Councillor Willis, the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, Councillor Rea occupied the Chair.

4. **Minutes of the Annual Grants Meeting of 22 July, 2008**

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

5. **Matters arising**

(a) **Purchase of land in Brynsadler – Independent Review**

The Clerk reported that he had approached the Wales Audit Office and the Council's former Internal Auditor and asked

whether they would be prepared to carry out a review of the process followed by the Council in purchasing the land. Both had declined. The Clerk has subsequently approached One Voice Wales. The organisation had agreed to carry out the review. The Council's documentation was handed over on 26 August. The Clerk had emphasised to One Voice Wales that should it become necessary to interview any Members of the Council, that the Clerk be advised of this in advance in order that copies of the documentation could be made available to Members to refresh their memories of events.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk's report be noted.

(b) **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 14 May, 2008 and the exclusion of the press**

The Clerk confirmed with Members that they had received their copy of the reply which had been sent to Dr O'Reilly.

6. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports form the police**

(i) **Crime figures**

PCSO Tomkova reported the crime figures for the Community for July and August. Of particular concern was the rise in the number of burglaries. A number of stolen items had been recovered and the police were optimistic about obtaining leads from DNA. The police also planned a number of operations by plain clothed staff involving surveillance on larger houses.

The report was noted.

(ii) **Incident at public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun**

PCSO Tomkova advised the Council that some weeks earlier it had been reported to the police that an assault had taken place at the public conveniences in . It appeared that a member of the public had been offended by the behaviour of another person using the conveniences and had struck the person causing offence. The person causing offence had run away.

A discussion took place and Members considered if there were any measures which could be taken to avoid the possibility of a further incident. There was agreement that an improvement in the design of the premises would help and

the refurbished conveniences in Carmarthenshire were given as examples of good practice.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council pursue the erection Of notices in the conveniences advising users that CCTV surveillance of the premises is in operation.
  - (ii) That the Council approach the Borough Council to establish whether any funds could be made available to upgrade the conveniences.
  - (iii) That enquiries be made about the design of the public conveniences in Carmarthenshire
  - (iv) That the Council give consideration to any other options which may be available.

(iii) **PCSO Stacey Fry**

PCSO Tomkova reported that PCSO Stacey Fry had been transferred from duties in the Pontyclun area to Merthyr Tydfil. A new officer would be redeployed to the Pontyclun area.

The report was noted.

(iv) **Next PACT meeting**

PCSO Tomkova referred to the next PACT meeting scheduled for the following evening. She asked whether any Members of the Council would be in attendance. PCSO Tomkova was advised that Councillor Cale may be able to attend the meeting.

The matter was noted.

(v) **Speed controls**

PCSO Tomkova advised that the police had been contacted by the Highway Authority and asked to provide details from speed surveys. The details would assist the Highway Authority in planning for speed controls in the Borough. PCSO Tomkova asked Members to pass on to her any complaints received from Members of the public about speeding vehicles.

**RESOLVED:** That Members pass information on speeding hotspots in their wards to PCSO Tomkova.

(b) **Reports from Members**

There were no reports from Members for this month.

6. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Request for the erection of a bus shelter**

The Council discussed a request for the erection of a bus shelter at the site of the existing bus stop serving the new Cefn yr Hendy Estate. The request was received from a resident of the new estate.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the Council agree in principle to the erection of a bus shelter at the site.
  - (ii) That before taking any action the Council Ask the Borough Council whether it would be prepared to make a financial contribution to the work.

(b) **Annual Conference of One Voice Wales**

The Council discussed an invitation from One Voice Wales to attend their Annual Conference on 11 October, 2008.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Rea and the Clerk be nominated to attend the Conference on behalf of the Council.

(c) **Application for financial assistance**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance from the Wales Air Ambulance.

**RESOLVED:** That a donation of £100.00 be made to the service.

(d) **Planning applications**

The Council discussed planning applications affecting the Community contained in the latest Weekly Notifications from the Borough Council.

Councillors Huish and Rea declared personal, but not prejudicial, interests in this item of business. They elected to remain in the Council Chamber but did not participate in the Council's discussions.

**RESOLVED:** That no comments be offered to the Borough Council this month.

(e) **Exclusion of the press and public**

**RESOLVED:** That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings, Act, 1960, for the next item of business.

(f) **Late applications for grant**

Before deciding the applications the Council took into account the guidance offered by the former District Auditor:

- (a) whether payment was of direct benefit
- (b) whether benefit is in proportion to the payment made
- (c) whether the organisation's own resources are sufficient and other potential income considered including other local councils'
- (d) whether the money was being used to circumvent any limitation on specific powers
- (e) whether the award of grants would result in a precedent leading to applications from other groups.

**RESOLVED:** That the following grants be made:

Treatment & Education Drug Services - £100.00  
Over 50s Young at Heart Tuesday Club - £75.00  
The Samaritans - £100.00

(g) **Exclusion of the press and public**

**RESOLVED:** That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings, Act, 1960, for the next item of business.

(h) **Land at Brynsadler Mill**

The Council discussed the legal advice received from Gaskell and Walker, solicitors.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the Clerk be asked to obtain a second legal view.  
(ii) That the Clerk provide a list of local solicitors to Members from whom a second view could be sought.

(i) **Payment of creditors**

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

(j) **National Energy and Efficiency Savings Plan stakeholder workshops**

The Council received an invitation to nominate representatives to attend the National Energy and Efficiency stakeholder workshops.

**RESOLVED:** That individual Members decide for themselves whether they wish to attend the workshops.

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

No matters were reported.

8. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Lane at the rear of Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun**

The Council noted that Mr Saunders had written to thank the Council for raising the need for traffic controls in the lane to the rear of Palalwyf Avenue with the Highway Authority.

(b) **Shape-it.org**

The Council received a letter from the Shap-it.org Team at the Borough Council in which it was stated that permanent ownership of personal computers and printers provided to organisations and groups under the earlier scheme free of charge would now pass to those organisations and groups.

As a result of the change of ownership, the Community Council would now become responsible for the maintenance of the items received under the scheme.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

(c) **Community council representation on the Borough Council's Standards Committee**

The Council received a letter from the Borough Council saying that the vacancy for a community council representative on the Standards Committee had been filled with the appointment of Councillor Margaret Walters of 90 Maes Cynon, Hirwaun. Councillor Walters' term of office would last to the next General Election.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

(d) **Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan (2006-2015)**

The Council received a revised timetable for the production of the Local Development Plan (2006-2015)

**RESOLVED:** That the contents of the revised timetable be noted.

(e) **Withdrawn planning application**

The Clerk reported that he had received a number of queries from members of the public who appeared to be confused by the construction of the new Tesco store in Pontyclun. Many residents believed that the application for planning consent for the site had been withdrawn.

The Clerk advised the Council that agents acting for Tesco Stores had submitted two planning applications for the same site. The first application, following refusal by the planning authority, had been allowed by an inspector appointed by the Welsh Assembly Government to hear an appeal against the refusal. Building work on site had commenced.

The second application, which was now superfluous, had been withdrawn.

The report was noted.

(f) **Localised landslip**

The Council discussed correspondence which had been received from the Borough Council about a localised landslip on the railway embankment adjacent to the car park to the rear of the public conveniences in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun.

Remedial work was being undertaken by contractors of Network Rail and this would result in part of the car park being cordoned off as a temporary measure.

The report was noted.

(g) **Draft Regional Transport Plan Consultation**

The Clerk advised the Council that it had been invited to comment on the Draft Regional Plan drawn up by the South East Wales Transport Association (SEWTA) and other Regional Transport Consortia.

The Draft Plan covered all aspects of transportation in South Wales and covered several hundred pages. No copies of the Plan had been provided and interested parties were invited to view copies at offices of the Borough Council or over the SEWTA website. For the Community Council's information, the Clerk had attached extracts from the Draft Plan covering the methodology statement, , Proposed Walking and Cycling Projects, Rail Projects, associated rail projects, bus services and proposed road improvements.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

9. The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.