

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Bethel Baptist Church, Heol Miskin, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 7 October, 2008.

PRESENT: Community Councillors Ms V A Cale, P Griffiths, J V Huish, M Rea, and C Willis

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Emma Pengelly of the Llantrisant Observer and PCSO Jitka Tomkova who was present for part of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors D Clayton-Jones, J G Davies, S Jenkins, R G Norman and S Rogers

2. **Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest were received from Members.

3. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 2 September, 2008**

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

4. **Matters arising**

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

The Clerk confirmed that he had circulated a list of solicitors' firms from whom a second legal opinion could be obtained. No objections to any of the firms had been received. Arrangements for a second legal view had subsequently been made with

Spicketts & Battrick, solicitors. An appointment had been made for the Clerk to attend the solicitors' offices in Pontypridd on 9 October, 2008.

The Clerk reported that when the agenda for that evening's meeting of the Community Council was published, on 1 October, 2008, nothing had been heard on the independent review being carried out by One Voice Wales. A report on the review was subsequently received on Saturday, 4th October, 2008. The Clerk read out the report.

A lengthy discussion ensued with some Members querying whether the Council had acted ultra vires in its purchase of the land given that no risk assessment had been carried out prior to purchase and the Internal Auditor had subsequently expressed concern that the Council had entered into the purchase without specific provision in the budget. One Member felt that he had been excluded from the exchange of e-mails between Members prior to the Council deciding to purchase. The Clerk assured the Council that all Members had received copies of all correspondence which had been sent to him before the decision to purchase was taken.

- RESOLVED:** (i) that in addition to the second legal opinion being sought from Spicketts and Battrick, the solicitors be also asked whether, in their view, the Council had acted ultra vires in its purchase of the land.
- (ii) that when the documentation from the independent review has been returned from One Voice Wales copies be provided to Councillors Huish, Rea and Willis.

(b) **Highways Issues**

Councillor Griffiths referred to the recently circulated list of highways related issues which had been raised with the Highways Authority in recent years. He suggested that the list be brought back to the Council in order that the items be prioritised.

RESOLVED: That the list to be included on a future agenda for prioritisation by the Council.

5. **Minutes of the Community Council's
Special Meeting on 29 September, 2008**

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

6. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

7. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

PCSO Tomkova was pleased to be able to report a relatively quiet month for crime although a burglary at a house in Talygarn was a cause for concern and was being investigated.

Fading highways directions

PCSO Tomkova reported that throughout the Community there were numerous instances of fading paintwork on highways. A request had been submitted from the police for the paintwork to be renewed.

The report was noted.

Car parking around Pontyclun Primary School

PCSO Tomkova reported that car parking by parents conveying pupils to and from the school remained a problem.

The police continued to liaise with the school. In a move to make children more aware of the potential dangers arising from parked vehicles teachers and police had been encouraging children to draw pictures illustrating hazardous situations. The best drawing would be selected and publicised.

RESOLVED: (i) That the initiative be welcomed.
(ii) That the Chairperson, Councillor Willis, be invited to select the best drawing.

Absence of warning signs

Concern was expressed about the absence of traffic warning signs outside the recently constructed Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg School at Cefn yr Hendy, Miskin.

RESOLVED: That the Council write to the Borough Council asking for the erection of appropriate traffic warning signs in the vicinity of the School.

New Police Community Support Officer

PCSO Tomkova was pleased to be able to report that following the recent transfer of an officer to the Merthyr Tydfil area a

replacement officer, Nigel Pearce, would shortly be commencing duties in the Community.

The report was noted.

(b) **Reports from Members**

There were no reports from Members for this month.

8. **Matters reported for decision**

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

The Clerk reported receipt of a request for the erection of a further bus shelter at Castell-y-Mwnws, Brynsadler. The proposed bus shelter would be on the opposite site of the road to the existing bus shelter and would serve bus passengers wishing to travel in the direction of Pontyclun.

The Council discussed the request in detail.

RESOLVED: (i) That the proposal for the erection of a further bus shelter at Castell-y-Mwnws be placed on a forward plan of work to be undertaken.

(ii) That a letter be sent to the resident making the request advising of the Council's intentions.

(b) **Thank You Reception**

The Council received a letter from the Bridgend Samaritans acknowledging receipt of the Council's recent donation and asking whether the Council would wish to nominate a representative to attend its Thank You Reception.

RESOLVED: That approval be given for any Member to attend.

(c) **National Health Service – Organ Donor Scheme**

The Council discussed a letter from Chris Franks, AM, drawing attention to the National Health Service Organ Donor register. Chris Franks urged Members to sign up to the initiative.

RESOLVED: That Chris Franks be thanked for his letter and asked if he would forward posters on the scheme to enable the Community Council to advertise the register on its noticeboards.

(d) **Exclusion of press and public**

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of information for a service provided by the Council.

(e) **Late applications for grants**

Before discussing the applications the Council considered the guidance given to community councils by the former District Auditor on the award of grants. In particular:

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

- RESOLVED:** (a) That a grant of £100.00 be made to the Bethel Baptist Church 11- 14s
(b) That the Council decline to make a grant to the Ty Gwyn Primary Education Centre, Talbot Green.

(f) **Planning**

(Councillors Huish and Rea declared personal but not prejudicial interests in this item of business. Both Members elected to remain in the Council Chamber but did not participate in any discussions)

The Council discussed planning applications contained in the latest weekly notifications from the Planning Authority.

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

Application No. 08/1245/10

That the Council is opposed to the development on the grounds that the proposal is an over-development of the plot.

Note: The Council agreed that it would place a notice in its noticeboards drawing the public's attention to the facility

to comment on planning applications either through the Community Council or direct to the Planning Authority.

(g) **Payment of creditors**

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

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

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Citizens' Advice Bureau at the Trerhondda Chapel in Ferndale at 6.00 p.m. on 24 October, 2008.

RESOLVED: That approval be given for any Member to attend the meeting.

10. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Refused planning application**

The Council received details of a planning application in Talygarn which had been refused by the Planning Authority.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(b) **British Telecom**

The Council received a list of BT public call boxes in the Borough where the Borough Council had objected to their removal. Two were located in the Community.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

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

The Council received a list of motions for debate at the Annual Conference of One Voice Wales.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(d) **Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act**

The Clerk reported receipt of the document Guidance for Community and Town Councils in Wales on Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(e) **November monthly meeting of the Community Council**

The Clerk advised that he planned to take annual leave from Saturday, 25 October to Saturday 1 November. As a result, it would be necessary to postpone the November monthly meeting of the Community Council by one week. The revised date for the November monthly meeting would be Tuesday, 11 November, 2008.

RESOLVED: (i) That the information be noted.
(ii) That the Clerk explore the possibility of holding the November monthly meeting in Babel C.M. Church, Groesfaen.

11. The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.