

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 1 July, 2008.

**PRESENT:** Community Councillors Ms V A Cale, J G Davies, D Clayton-Jones, R G Norman, S Rogers and Ms C Willis

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Seven members of the public for part of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors J V Huish, S Jenkins and M Rea

2. **Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest were received from Members.

3. **Minutes of the Council's Meeting of 10 June, 2008**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 10 June, 2008, be approved as an accurate record.

4. **Matters arising**

(a) **Model Code of Conduct - Training**

The Clerk reminded Members that training for the new Model Code of Conduct by the Borough Council's Monitoring Officer had originally been planned for 28 May, 2008. The training course had been cancelled at short notice due to sickness.

It was hoped that the Monitoring Officer would be able to provide a training course for Members of the Pontyclun Community

Council at the Pontyclun Community Centre. This had not been possible.

The Monitoring Officer had subsequently written to say that training courses would be held in the Borough Council's offices in Clydach Vale on 25 June and 7 July. All Members were welcome to attend.

A discussion took place and it emerged that the revised dates were not convenient to Members.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk ask the Monitoring Officer whether a training course could be arranged on a future occasion.

(b) **Purchase of land – Independent review**

The Clerk advised the Council that several weeks earlier he had contacted the Wales Audit Office in Cardiff to establish whether that Office would be prepared to carry out the independent review of the purchase of land at Brynsadler which had been requested by the Council.

The Clerk had been told that the officer handling the enquiry was on leave and that the matter would be brought to his attention on his return.

Subsequently, the officer had rung to say that he was unsure whether the Wales Audit Office was the right body to conduct a review. The officer would make further enquiries and report back to the Clerk.

Earlier that day the Clerk had rung the Wales Audit Office to find out if any progress had been made. The Clerk had been unable to speak to the officer handling the matter since he was at a meeting.

A discussion took place by the Council. The consensus of opinion was that the Wales Audit Office was the right body to carry out the independent review.

**RESOLVED:** That in the event of the Wales Audit Office failing to respond or declining to carry out an independent review advice be sought from One Voice Wales.

(c) **Grant application form**

The Clerk reported that he had amended the Council's grant application form to allow an organisation applying for financial

assistance to give its consent to the publication of its name and e-mail contact on the Community Council's website.

Grant applications forms had been sent to all organisations which were successful in obtaining grant the previous year. Additionally, notices had been placed in Community Council noticeboards advising of the availability of grants.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk's report be noted and that grant application forms be given to Members present at the meeting.

(d) **Erection of signs**

The Clerk reported that the three signs ordered for the Ivor Woods had yet to be erected.

In chasing up the delivery and erection of the signs the Clerk had been assured that the signs had been manufactured and their erection was "imminent".

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

(e) **Fallen tree in Talygarn**

Councillor Steve Rogers referred to the report in the Council's minutes of 10 June to a fallen tree blocking a footpath in Talygarn.

He noted that the Community Council's Handyman had been asked to investigate the incident. He pointed out that the fallen tree was clearly on land owned by him and he was disappointed that the matter had been brought up at a Community Council meeting instead of being referred to him.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Rogers' concerns be noted.

5. **Police matters**

In the absence of a police representative this item of business was deferred to the next monthly meeting of the Council.

6. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **Letter from Mr Mike Saunders**

The Council discussed a letter from Mr Mike Saunders of Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun.

Mr Saunders stated that he had been trying to get something done about cars using the lane to the rear of Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun, as a rat run to avoid the congestion on the road itself. Mr Saunders stated that the lane is used each day by dozens of mums and children going to and from school. Mr Saunders had, himself, on several occasions been forced to take avoiding action as a result of irresponsible and uncaring drivers using the lane. To date, Mr Saunders had been unsuccessful in his efforts to persuade drivers not to use the lane but he felt that it was only a question of time before someone was hurt. Mr Saunders sought the Community Council's help to influence the Highway Authority to install a speed hump in the lane.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the Community Council support the request for traffic control measures in the lane and that the Clerk write to the Highway Authority asking for a survey to be carried out and appropriate safety measures introduced.

(ii) That a copy of the Council's request be sent to Mr Saunders for his information.

(b) **Community Council's website**

A discussion took place on whether Members' e-mail addresses should be publicised on the Council's website.

**RESOLVED:** That while Members' names, addresses and telephone numbers should be displayed on the Council's website all e-mail correspondence should be channelled through the Community Council's official e-mail address.

(c) **National Training Programme for Community and Town Councils in Wales**

The Council discussed the introduction of the National Training Programme for Community and Town Councils in Wales promoted by One Voice Wales.

The Programme was modularly based and was intended to, separately, cater for both new and experienced councillors. The first six modules would cover:

The Council  
The Councillor  
The Council as an Employer  
Understanding the Law

The Council Meeting  
Understanding Council Finance

**RESOLVED:** That the Council reply that, provisionally, it would like training for one experienced councillor in each of the third, fourth and sixth modules.

(d) **Improving Access to Cardiff International Airport**

The Council discussed an invitation from the Welsh Assembly Government to attend a Public Consultation Exhibition in the evening of 8 July, 2008, to consider options for improving access to Cardiff International Airport.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk be nominated to attend the exhibition and report back to the next meeting of the Council.

(e) **Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales**

The Council discussed the invitation to renew its subscription to the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council renew its subscription at £20.00 for 2008/09.

(f) **Payment of creditors**

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

(g) **Weekly Planning Notifications**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the following comments be made to the Borough Council:

**Application No. 08/0518/10**

That while the Council has no objection to the proposal, it strongly urges the Planning Authority to impose conditions on the developer to ensure that all materials used in the development are in keeping with the Conservation Area.

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

**Community Council's Allotments Competition**

Councillor Norman advised the Council that judging of the Community Council's Allotments Competition would take place during week commencing 7 July, 2008.

Councillor Norman reminded the Council that its prizes for the Competition had remained at their current level for many years while the cost of vegetable seed had risen dramatically in the same time. Councillor Norman asked the Council whether it wished to increase the value of its prizes.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That the annual value of prizes be increased to £300.00.
- (ii) That the fee paid to judges be increased to £50.00.

8. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Annual Report of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales**

The Council received the letter of 6 June, 2008, from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales enclosing his Annual Report for 2007/08.

The Clerk advised that only one copy of the Report had been supplied to the Council. Any Member wishing to read the Report should contact the Clerk.

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

(b) **Local Government Partnership Scheme and the Local Government Partnership Scheme Report 2006-2007**

The Council received the letter of 9 June, 2008, Brian Gibbons, Minister for Social Justice at the Welsh Assembly, enclosing copies of the Local Government Partnership Scheme and the Local Government Partnership Scheme Report 2006-2007.

The Clerk advised that further copies of the documents were available from him.

**RESOLVED:** That the contents of the Scheme and Report be noted.

(c) **Taff Ely Ramblers**

The Clerk advised the Council that a programme of walks organised by the Taff Ely Ramblers for the next six months had been received.

Any Member wishing to receive a copy of the programme should contact the Clerk.

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

(d) **Communications Group**

The Chairperson, Councillor Willis, advised the Council that a meeting of the Council's Communications Group would take place following the Annual Grants Meeting scheduled to be held on the evening of 15 July, 2008.

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

(e) **National Vegetable Show, 2008**

Councillor Norman advised the Council that the National Vegetable Show, hosted by the Borough Council, would be held in the Llantrisant Leisure Centre on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2008. Entry packs were available by ringing 01443 490200.

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

(f) **Royal Welsh Show, 2009**

Councillor Dan Clayton-Jones advised that the former county of Mid Glamorgan would be a sponsoring authority at the Royal Welsh Show in 2009.

This would entail significant fund raising. Councillor Clayton-Jones invited the Council to consider making a donation to fund raising at the appropriate time.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council, as part of the former Mid Glamorgan area, look sympathetically at making a donation to the fund at the appropriate time.

(g) **Charitable Event**

Councillor Steve Rogers informed the Council of a barbecue and fun evening which was to take place at the Talygarn Equestrian Centre, commencing at 4.00 p.m. on 12 July, 2008, for the purpose of raising funds for charity. Councillor Rogers extended an invitation to all Members to attend the event.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the invitation be noted.

- (ii) That posters advertising the charity event be displayed in all Community Council noticeboards

(h) **Wales under 20s Ladies Rugby Team**

Councillor Norman informed the Council that his granddaughter, Miss Carys Thomas, had been selected to tour Canada in July with the Wales Under 20s Ladies Rugby Team.

**RESOLVED:** That a letter of congratulations be sent from the Council to Miss Thomas on her outstanding achievement.

9. **Exclusion of the 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 legal proceeding or contemplated legal proceeding.

10. **Land at Brynsadler Mill**

The Council received a copy of the hand delivered letter dated 15 June, 2008, to the Council's solicitor. No response had been received.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk be instructed to engage another solicitor to advise the Council.

11. The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.