

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun, at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 2 May, 2007.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ms V. A. Cale, D Clayton-Jones, P.Griffiths, Ms S. Jenkins, A. R. Lane, R G Norman, M Rea and P Thomas

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** PCSO Jitka Tomkova, for part of the meeting, and three members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Community Councillors C Davies and Ms D. Hayes.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were received from Councillor Rea:

| <b><u>Agenda item and subject</u></b>  | <b><u>Nature of interest disclosed</u></b>                |
|--|---|
| 4. (i) Application for planning consent – retail development – Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun | Member of Borough Council's Development Control Committee |
| 4. (iii) Access to Community Council owned land in Brynsadler.                           |   |

3. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 4 April, 2007**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 4 April, 2007, be approved as an accurate record subject to the amendment of Members present to read "D Clayton – Jones" instead of "C Clayton-Jones" and the inclusion of

the word “storage” after the words “flood plain” in minute 6 (a) (iii).

4. **Matters arising**

(a) **Application for planning consent for retail development, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun**

The Clerk reported that the application was scheduled for determination at the Borough Council’s Taff Ely Planning Committee meeting on 10 May, 2007. The Planning Officer’s recommendation was unknown at this time although it seemed likely, in view of highways objections, that the application would be recommended for refusal.

The Clerk advised the Council that a supplementary letter had been sent to the Planning Authority expressing concern that the traffic survey undertaken by the applicant had been carried out at times which were unrepresentative of normal traffic and pedestrian movements. The Clerk read out the reply received from the Planning Authority.

The Clerk also referred to an article in the latest edition of the Llantrisant Observer which gave the impression that the meeting to determine the application was to be held in the Pontyclun Community Centre. The meeting was to be held in the Parish Hall in Church Village.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Fire Service and Ambulance service, based in Pontyclun, be asked to forward their views on the proposal to the Development Control section of the Borough Council.
- (ii) That the Clerk display notices in the Council’s noticeboards to clarify to members of the public that the meeting to determine the planning application will be held in the Parish Hall, Church Village.

(b) **Membership of One Voice Wales**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had sought a date from One Voice Wales when Mr Simon White and Lyn Llewellyn would be able to address the Council. A reply was awaited.

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

(c) **Access to Community Council owned land in Brynsadler**

The Clerk advised the Council that informal site meetings had taken place with officers of the Borough Council to discuss proposals to access the Community Council's land in Brynsadler. Members in attendance at the site meetings had been told that there were unlikely to be any highways objections to the proposals but there may be a requirement to obtain planning consent in view of the need to construct a small retaining wall. Written confirmation on the planning position would be sent to the Community Council very soon.

**RESOLVED:** That the position be noted and that every effort be made to expedite the provision of an access to the Community Council owned land.

(d) **"A Shared Responsibility"**

The Council received a synopsis from One Voice Wales of a publication from the Welsh Assembly Government, entitled "A Shared Responsibility" about local government's contribution to improving people's lives.

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

5. **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 legal proceeding or contemplated legal proceeding.

6. **Land at Brynsadler Mill**

The Council discussed letters from Davies, Pritchard and Weatherill, solicitors, dated 12 April, 2007, and 17 April, 2007. The Council also discussed the response of the Clerk, dated 14 April, 2007, to the solicitors' letter of 12 April, 2007.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council's solicitors be instructed to reply to the letter of 17 April, 2007, stating that the Council was not seeking to extend the right of way.

7. **Police matters**

(a) **Crime Statistics**

PCSO Tomkova advised the Council that due to problems with the police computer systems crime statistics were not currently available. Statistics would be supplied when systems were functioning normally.

The report was noted.

(b) **PACT meetings**

PCSO Tomkova advised the Council that A4 posters advertising PACT meetings were now available for display in Community Council noticeboards.

The report was noted.

(c) **Removal of scrap metal and private property**

PCSO Tomkova advised the Council that reports had been received of a transit van being driven through back lanes in the Community. It appeared that the driver or passengers in the vehicle, in addition to collecting scrap metal in back lanes, had also been seen climbing over walls and removing private property. A significant amount of evidence had been gathered by the police and it was hoped to apprehend the culprits soon.

The report was noted.

(d) **Pontyclun Public Conveniences**

PCSO Tomkova reported that males had been turning up at the Pontyclun public conveniences in Pontyclun for dubious purposes. It was the view of the police that this had occurred following the article in the local press on public conveniences in the Borough. The police had organised patrols to deal with the matter.

The report was noted.

(e) **CCTV in Pontyclun**

PCSO Tomkova reported that she was disappointed that one of the CCTV cameras in Pontyclun had been unable to provide assistance in the police's enquiries. It appeared that the camera in question rarely altered position. On taking the matter up with the CCTV manager in the Borough Council she was advised that the camera was out of action for some weeks due to the need for a spare part.

The report was noted.

(f) **Traffic congestion – Heol Miskin/Clun Avenue**

Councillor Cale drew attention to the considerable traffic congestion being experienced in Heol Miskin and Clun Avenue. Councillor Cale asked whether it would be possible to create a

one way system for these streets and direct the heavy traffic to use the Talbot Green By Pass.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk follow up the proposal with the Highway Authority.

(g) **Potentially dangerous dogs**

Councillor Cale enquired whether it would be possible place controls on the presence of rottweiler dogs in private houses.

The consensus view was that provided the dogs were kept in private property and posed no threat to the public there were no controls which could be imposed.

(h) **Rhyd y Nant, Pontyclun**

A Member asked whether it would be possible to place a “No Through Road” sign at the southern end of Cerdin Avenue, Pontyclun, to prevent drivers of vehicles from abortively entering Rhyd y Nant with the intention of gaining access to other parts of Pontyclun.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk follow the matter up with the Highway Authority.

(i) **Bailey bridge, Station Terrace, Pontyclun**

Councillor Lane reported that heavy lorries had been seen being driven across the bailey bridge at the western end of Station Terrace to access the former Bronze Smelter site. While the weight of the vehicles was unclear, it was probable that it exceeded the weight restriction on the bailey bridge.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk follow up the matter with the Borough Council.

(j) **Car parking signs**

Councillor Lane drew the Council’s attention to the need for prominent car parking signs in Pontyclun to ensure the best use of available car parking spaces. He suggested that a sign was needed outside “The Flowerpot” in Cowbridge Road with a further sign with a further sign at the top of Cerdin Avenue. He further suggested that if the Highway Authority felt unable to erect the signs because of financial pressures then the Community Council should bear the cost.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk pursue the matter with the Highway Authority.

(k) **Proposed bicycle stand in Pontyclun**

Councillor Griffiths asked if there had been any progress with the erection of a bicycle stand in Pontyclun. The Clerk responded that there had been no progress with this item but that he would give it priority.

(l) **Speed detection cameras**

PCSO Tomkova advised the Council that the local police had recently started to use hand held speed cameras to detect motorists who were breaking the law.

The report was noted.

(l) **Vandalism in the Ivor Woods**

The Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins, showed PCSO Tomkova recent photographs of vandalism caused to the Council's picnic area in the Ivor Woods where timber benches and picnic tables had been broken up and burnt. PCSO Tomkova responded that she would organise visits to the site on Friday and Saturday nights during the next month.

The matter was noted.

8. **Matters report for decision**

(a) **Complaints Procedure**

The Council discussed a letter and enclosures from One Voice Wales suggesting a format for establishing a complaints procedure.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council welcome and note the guidance offered by One Voice Wales. However, the Council would prefer that if members of the public in the Community of Pontyclun have complaints about the Council, those complaints should be made direct to the Council in the first instance.

(b) **Planning**

(Councillor Rea left the meeting at this point)

The Council discussed details of planning applications contained in the latest Weekly Planning Notifications.

**RESOLVED:** That, for this month, no comments be made to the Planning Authority.

(c) **Payment of creditors**

**RESOLVED:** That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 7 to the Council's agenda.

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

(a) **Invoice for gas and electricity**

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invoice from the Borough Council for the use of electricity and gas at the garage occupied by the Community Council at the Pontyclun Community Centre for a period of approximately 18 months. The Clerk sought the Council's views on payment of the invoice. A lengthy discussion took place.

**RESOLVED:** That the invoice be paid in full.

(b) **The Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council's Local Development Plan**

The Clerk reminded the Council that at an earlier date the Council had asked to be a consultee to the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council's Local Development Plan. Since the despatch of agendas notification had been received from the Vale Borough Council of a half-day session on 24 May, 2007, in Barry, where officers would make a presentation on the emerging Local Development Plan. The Community Council was invited to send a representative to the presentation.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Norman represent the Community Council at the presentation.

9. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Rhondda Cynon Taf Borough Council's Local Development Plan**

The Council discussed a reply from the Welsh Assembly Government following the Community Council's earlier concerns about the lack of opportunity for the public of Pontyclun to express their views on the Borough Council's Preferred Strategy in its emerging Local Development Plan.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Council respond to the Welsh Assembly Government seeking an assurance that its letter of concern would be brought to the attention of the Inspector who will consider the Borough Council's Local Development Plan.

(b) **Information Commissioner's Office**

The Council received a letter from the Information Commissioner's Office in Cardiff informing the Council Of the ICO's role as independent regulator of the Freedom of Information Act and the Data Protection Act. The ICO's office was concerned with promoting access to public information while protecting individuals' personal information.

**RESOLVED:** That the contents of the letter be noted.

(c) **Have Your Say Day**

The Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins advised the Council that this year's Have Your Say Day would take place in Bethel Baptist Church, Pontyclun, on 7 July, 2007. Members were asked to let the Chairperson know of any ideas they may have for the Day.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That an invitation to attend the event be sent to the Borough Council.

(ii) That the report be noted.

(d) **Cowbridge Male Choir**

The Chairperson reported that she had received an invitation to attend a concert being held by the Cowbridge Male Choir on 19 May, 2007. Unfortunately, she would not be able to attend.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Norman be nominated to attend the event in place of the Chairperson.

(e) **Pontyclun Primary School**

Councillor Norman, as Chairperson of the Board of Governors at Pontyclun Primary School, advised that following the retirement of the head teacher, Mr D Keith Davies, a successor head had recently been appointed. His name is Huw Roberts and it was planned that he would take up his duties at the beginning of the Autumn term.

Following major capital expenditure at the school it was proposed to transfer the school bell to St Anne's Church in Talygarn.

The report was noted.

(f) **St. Anne's Church, Talygarn**

Councillor Dan Clayton-Jones reported good progress with the project to restore the chantry at St. Anne's Church in Talygarn. Planning consent had been received and sources of funding the project were now being investigated. Councillor Clayton Jones was pleased that it had been possible within the scheme to arrange for the former bell at St. Anne's Church to be installed in the chantry.

The report was noted.

(g) **Agenda for Council's meeting of 13 June, 2007**

Members asked for the following items to be placed on the agenda for next meeting of the Community Council due to be held on 13 June, 2007:

- (i) To discuss the Pontyclun public conveniences (Councillor Lane)
- (ii) To discuss the Pontyclun Allotments Competition (Councillor Norman)

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk take the necessary action.

10. The meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.

