

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 5 December, 2007.

PRESENT: Community Councillors Ms V A Cale, D. Clayton-Jones, C Davies, P Griffiths, Ms S Jenkins, R G Norman and M Rea

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Harold Tiltman and five members of the public for part of the meeting

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received on Community Councillors Ms D Hayes, Ms P Thomas and PCSO J Tomkova

2. **Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest were received from Members.

3. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 14 November, 2007**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 14 November, 2007, be approved as an accurate record.

4. **Matters arising**

(a) **Application for planning consent by Beckerly Holdings**

The Clerk reported that he had received the Inspector's decision allowing the application by e-mail on 23 November following the Planning Inquiry. The Inspector's decision was immediately forwarded to the six Members on e-mail with the remaining Members being notified the same day by post.

The Council expressed its deep disappointment at the Inspector's decision.

On behalf of those in the Community who had opposed the application, Mr Richard Cotter thanked the Community Council for its significant support. Mr Cotter raised the possibility of an application for judicial review of the Inspector's decision. He asked the Council whether it would be interested in pursuing this course of action.

The Council also received representations from residents of Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, whose houses are immediately opposite the site for which planning consent had been awarded. The residents were concerned that the on-street parking outside their homes would now be taken by shoppers visiting the new Tesco store. These residents were still hopeful that the Highway Authority would grant them Residents Only parking facilities outside their homes. They were of the view that, some years ago, the Council had widened the road outside their homes to allow on-street parking for residents.

The Council also received representations from residents of Heol yr Orsaf, Pontyclun. These residents feared that when the parking spaces had been utilised in the Community Centre car park, shoppers at the new Tesco store would park their vehicles in Heol yr Orsaf. It was pointed out that some residents of Heol yr Orsaf had mobility difficulties and would be significantly affected by increased parking in Heol yr Orsaf.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council decline to join an application for Judicial Review of the Inspector's decision.
- (ii) That the Clerk again contact the Highway Authority about the possibility of residents of Cowbridge Road being awarded Residents Only parking facilities.
- (ii) That the potential difficulties of residents of Heol yr Orsaf with mobility difficulties be pursued by Councillor Rea with the Borough Council.

(b) **Request for a grit bin, High Street, Brynsadler**

The Clerk advised the Council that he had contacted the Borough Council about the disappearance of a grit bin which was located near High Street, Brynsadler. The Borough Council was asked if a new grit bin could be provided.

In reply, the Borough Council had stated that no grit bin had ever been provided at this location. In response to a similar request in 2004 the site had been visited and assessed as a low priority site. Should additional funding become available consideration would be given to the siting of a grit bin.

RESOLVED: That the decision of the Borough Council be challenged as several Members recalled a grit bin in the locality in recent times.

(c) **Bus service No. 122 to Cardiff**

The Clerk reported that following concerns in the Community about the termination of the No.122 bus service at Greyfriars Road, Cardiff, instead of the bus station adjacent to Cardiff Central railway station, he had contacted an officer of the Borough Council's Transportation Section.

The Clerk had been told that the No. 122 was not a subsidised bus service. As a result, the Borough Council was not able to exercise any control over Stagecoach, the company operating the route. The operation of the service was entirely at the discretion of Stagecoach.

The Borough Council officer suggested that anyone in Pontyclun who felt disadvantaged could either catch a bus from Talbot Green bus station direct to Cardiff bus station or, alternatively, could catch a train from Pontyclun to Cardiff Central.

The officer also pointed out that with the redevelopment of buildings adjacent to the Cardiff bus station it was likely that further bus stands would be lost.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Mr E Gale of 4 River's Edge, Pontyclun be advised of the information.
- (ii) That the Clerk write to Stagecoach asking the company to review its decision on the termination point of service No.122.
- (iii) That the Borough Council be asked to provide the Community Council with bus timetables for service No. 122 in order that the public could be made aware of the change.

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

The Clerk reported on his attendance at the exhibition organised by Arup, Consulting Engineers, on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government on proposals to improve access to Cardiff International Airport.

There were three basic proposals:

- (i) To improve the Culverhouse Cross junction and the A48 road to Sycamore Cross at Bonvilston with improvements to the “five mile lane” to Weycock Cross and on to the airport.
- (ii) To improve the Culverhouse Cross junction and the A4050, via Wenvoe, the A4055 via Merthyr Dyfan and the A4226 to the airport.
- (iii) To improve the existing lane from Junction 34 on the M4 at Miskin, by-passing Pendoylan, to join with an improved “five mile lane” at Sycamore Cross on the A48.

Coupled with these proposals there were further suggestions for improved bus services, rail/bus links, road/rail park and ride schemes.

Arup stated that all the proposals posed considerable challenges because each route contained historic sites, sites of special scientific interest, high quality agricultural land, etc. However, the plan was to submit proposals to the Welsh Assembly Government at any early date so that WAG would be in a position to announce its preferred option by the end of 2008.

Members of the public attending the exhibition were also encouraged to submit their own proposals for highway and travel improvements direct to Arup for consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk’s report be noted.

(e) **Council’s Newsletters**

Councillor Rea referred to the earlier decision of the Community Council to discuss with him issues relating to the publication of Community Council newsletters.

A discussion took place on the publication of the last Council newsletter. Councillor Rea stated that he had been disappointed to find that the newsletter had been drafted, printed and distributed in the Council’s name without any reference to him and some other Members of the Council. He believed that the correct procedure would have been to get Council approval

for the content of the newsletter in advance of printing and distribution. He also asked whether there was budgetary provision for the publication and whether Financial Regulations had been followed.

In response it was stated that the last newsletter was produced within a very tight timescale and had concentrated on issues which had been previously discussed at Council meetings. Full budgetary provision had been made and Financial Regulations had been followed.

RESOLVED: That a draft of future newsletters be given to all Members prior to publication.

5. **Police matters**

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

6. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **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

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

(Councillor Rea asked that it be noted in the Council's minutes that as he had already voted against the purchase of the land he would not be participating in the discussion)

The Council received advice from its solicitor, Mr Harold Tiltman, of Edward T Davies and Sons.

RESOLVED: That representatives of the Council, comprising the Chairperson, Clerk and Mr Tiltman meet solicitors acting for Mr & Mrs G B Williams to discuss details of the offer made for the purchase of the Council owned land.

(c) **Request for financial assistance**

The Council discussed a request from Urdd Gobaith Cymru for a donation towards holding its next eisteddfod.

RESOLVED: That the Council make a donation of £100.00.

(d) **Spotlight on the Police**

The Council discussed an invitation from the South Wales Police Authority to attend the annual Spotlight on Police meetings. The meetings were to be held at three locations across South Wales in January, 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Chairperson be nominated to attend a meeting and that in the event that she is unable to attend consideration be given to making representations in another way.

(e) **Planning applications**

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

(Councillor Rea declared an interest in this item of business, as a Member of the Borough Council's Planning Committee, and left the Council meeting)

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

Application No. 07/2017/13

That the Council is opposed to the application because:

- (i) the land is very close to the Nant Dyfrgi
- (ii) the land is prone to flooding
- (iii) the proposed development constitutes an over development of the site

(f) **Payment of creditors**

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

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

The Bridge, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun

Members reported that The Bridge, the former Tabernacle Church in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, had recently been placed on the market.

While details of the proposed sale were not available, Members commented on the shortage of facilities for the youth of the Community and wondered whether the premises would be suitable.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That sale details be obtained from the estate agents acting for the vendor.
 - (ii) That the Clerk write to the Borough Council drawing attention to the premises' availability and suggesting that there well be an opportunity to secure grant funding for the purchase.

8. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Christmas trees and illuminations**

The Clerk gave an update on the erection of Christmas trees in Pontyclun and the erection of festive illuminations.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That the report be noted.
 - (ii) That as it would prove difficult to contact the owners of The Bridge café, no Christmas tree be erected at The Bridge this Christmas.
 - (iii) That the Council discontinue its Best Illuminated House Competition.
 - (iv) That to mark the festive season and the New Year, book tokens to the value of £50.00 each, be donated to the Pontyclun Primary School and the new bi-lingual school at Cefn yr Hendy, Pontyclun.

(b) **Adjudication Panel for Wales**

Members received copies of the annual report for 2006/07 of the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

(c) **Local Government Wage Award, 2007**

The Clerk reported that after protracted discussions the 2007 wage award for local government employees had been settled. The settlement provided for an overall increase in wages and salaries of 2.475% effective from 1 April, 2007. The Clerk reminded the Council that earlier in the year the Community Council had budgeted for a 3% increase.

The Clerk understood that as a result of the delay in achieving a settlement for 2007, negotiations would shortly commence for the settlement due for 2008 in the expectation that any increase would be paid promptly from 1 April, 2008.

RESOLVED: That the effect of the award and the steps being taken to ensure prompt payment of the 2008 award be noted.

9. The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.