

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 5 March, 2008.

PRESENT: Community Councillors C Davies, P Griffiths, A. R Lane, R G Norman and Ms P Thomas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO J Tomkova and one member of the public for part of the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Ms V A Cale, D. Clayton-Jones, Ms D Hayes, S Jenkins and M Rea

2. **Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest were received from Members.

3. **Local Government Member Code of Conduct**

The Council received and discussed a copy of the letter from the Welsh Assembly Government, dated 7 February, 2008, advising that an amendment had been made to legislation providing for the Local Government Code of Conduct.

The effect of the amendment required all Members to give an undertaking to observe the authority's Code of Conduct by 1 May, 2008. Any Member failing to give an undertaking would cease to be a Member from the end of that day.

Signed undertakings were received from all Members present at the meeting, that is, Councillors C Davies, P Griffiths, A R Lane, R G Norman and Ms M. Thomas.

4. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 6 February, 2008**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 6 February, 2008, be approved as an accurate record subject to the reference to "Pontyclun" in the third line of minute 7 (a) (iv) being amended to read "Groesfaen" and the duplicated word "arrangements" being deleted from the second line of minute 4 (d) (i).

5. **Matter arising**

Possibility of erecting cycle stands in Pontyclun

A query was raised about progress in getting consent for the erection of cycle stands in Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk pursue the matter with the Highway Authority and report back to the next meeting of the Council.

6. **Police matters**

(a) **Reports from the police**

(i) **Reported crime**

PCSO Tomkova reported that incidents of reported of crime in the Community were reduced in the last month. In the previous month there had been 19 reported incidents while in the last month there had been 13 reported incidents.

The report was noted.

(ii) **Street meetings**

PCSO Tomkova reported that attendance at the first street meeting had been disappointing. Nevertheless, she believed the concept to be sound. The next meeting was scheduled to be held in Brynsadler and she was hopeful of better attendance.

The report was noted.

(iii) **Speeding vehicles**

PCSO Tomkova reported that she had received a significant number of complaints about speeding vehicles in the Community. Consideration was being given to measures which would control the problem.

The report was noted.

(iv) **Dog fouling**

PCSO Tomkova reported that complaints about dog fouling continued to be received. She would make arrangements for Enforcement Officers to pay regular visits to the Community.

The report was noted.

(v) **Parking**

PCSO Tomkova reported that complaints continued to be received by the police about vehicles parked at sensitive areas in Pontyclun. Of particular concern were areas near St Paul's Church, in Llantrisant Road near the junction with Cerdin Avenue and the area around Kudos hairdressers in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun. Motorists found to have illegally would be reported.

The report was noted.

(vi) **Public conveniences, Pontyclun**

PCSO Tomkova advised the Council that during the last month six phone calls had been received by the police alleging that certain acts were taking place in the public conveniences. She was unsure whether the same individuals were responsible.

A discussion took place and a number of suggestions were put forward for discouraging any improper behaviour. PCSO Tomkova stated that she would check on what action the Council could legally take and report back to the Council.

The report was noted.

(vii) **Database of citizens**

PCSO Tomkova advised that the police were in the process of setting up a local database of citizens in the Community who would be prepared to assist the police in local investigations. PCSO Tomkova stated that the police were looking for public spirited citizens to agree to being included on the database and agree to being contacted in the course of police enquiries.

The report was noted.

(viii) **Future PACT meetings**

PCSO Tomkova reported that while The Diary contained details of future PACT meetings in many parts of the area, no details appeared about PACT meetings scheduled to take place in Pontyclun. She would ensure that future details of PACT meetings in Pontyclun were listed in The Diary.

The report was noted.

(b) **Reports from Members**

Councillor Norman drew PCSO Tomkova's attention to an abandoned car in the car park of the Pontyclun Community Centre.

PCSO stated that the police were aware of the vehicle but since the DVLA had advised that the car was parked on private land the police had very little power to ask for the car to be removed.

Councillor Norman advised that the information from the DVLA may not be up to date since he had established beyond any doubt that that the car park had been adopted by the local council.

PCSO Tomkova agreed to make further enquiries in the matter.

(c) **Traffic management, Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun**

Members drew to PCSO Tomkova's attention the poor traffic management existing in Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun, at around the starting and finishing times of the Pontyclun Junior School.

PCSO Tomkova said that she would visit the area in the mornings to get a better understanding of the problems.

In a discussion on traffic management Members expressed the need to advise members of the public of the possibility of being reported for traffic offences before penalty notices were issued. It was stated that advisory signs had already been erected at some locations.

RESOLVED: That the subject of traffic management be placed on the agenda of the April monthly meeting of the Community Council.

7. **Matters reported for decision**

(a) **One Voice Wales**

The Council discussed an invitation from the Chief Executive of One Voice Wales, Mr Simon White, to re-join the association. Mr White detailed the progress made by the association in recent years and the restructure which had taken place to deliver better services for its member councils.

RESOLVED: That the matter be deferred to the Annual Meeting of the Community Council.

(b) **Plastic bag free Pontyclun**

RESOLVED: That in the absence of the Chairperson, Councillor Jenkins, this item of business be deferred to the Council's next monthly meeting.

(c) **Rhondda-Cynon-Taff County Borough Council –
Local Development Plan - Questionnaire**

The Council discussed a letter from the Borough Council in which it learned that as part of the process of producing the Local Development Plan it was intended to produce a series of topic papers one of which will focus specifically on the provision of physical and social infrastructure in the Borough.

As a key infrastructure provider the Community Council was asked for assistance in producing the topic paper by completing a questionnaire. The questionnaire was required to be returned to the Borough Council by 7 March, 2008.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Griffiths be authorised to “cut and paste” to the questionnaire from the original comments submitted by the Community Council.

(d) **Review of Action for Nature: Part One of the Local
Biodiversity Action Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf**

The Community Council was invited by the Borough Council to comment on the draft Part One of its Local Biodiversity Plan.

Any comments made by the Community Council would be considered by the Steering Group and, following amendment, the updated version of Part One would be finalised. A copy of the draft Part One was provided for the Council's information.

RESOLVED: That the Council comment that the Community of Pontyclun has important woodlands, floodplains, and species rich wildlife. The Community Council

hopes that the Borough Council will take appropriate action to preserve this special environment.

(e) **Out and About: The Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf**

The Council received a copy of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the Borough along with a report on the draft consultation carried out to help initiate the plan.

RESOLVED: That the plan and report on the consultation be noted.

(f) **Directory of local voluntary organisations**

The Council received an outline of proposals prepared by Councillor Jenkins for a directory of local organisations.

The Council expressed its satisfaction with the proposals and agreed that work should continue to produce a comprehensive directory. The Council recognised that significant work might be needed to keep the directory up to date given that the officers of several organisations could change during a year.

RESOLVED: That work should continue on the directory and that a draft of the finalised directory be brought back to the Council in due course.

(g) **Application for financial assistance**

The Council discussed an application for financial assistance towards the cost of staging the 2008 Llangollen Musical Eisteddfod.

RESOLVED: That the Council decline to make a contribution.

(h) **Applications for planning consent**

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. 08/0181/01

While the Council is not opposed to the proposal it believes that the sign should not be illuminated and not be garish.

Application No. 0229/10

While the Council is not opposed to the erection of a fence, it believes that the type of fence proposed is unsuitable in a conservation area.

Application No. 08/0083/10

While the Council is not opposed to the erection of a sun room, it believes that the design of the extension should be sympathetic to the original design of the premises.

(i) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 9 to the Council's agenda.

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

Review of Community Boundaries in the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taff – Report and Proposals

The Clerk reported that on the previous the day before he had received copy of the Boundary Commission's Report and Proposals on Community Boundaries in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

While the report had not been read in detail, it appeared that the housing estates at Ynysddu, Pant y Dderwen and Clos Brenin would become part of the Pontyclun community. The settlement at Castell y Mwnws and that part of the Elms Farm Estate currently within the Pontyclun community would transfer to the Llanharry community.

The Commission also proposed an addition of one seat to the existing ten seats on the Pontyclun Community Council with the Cefn yr Hendy Ward having five seats, the Maesyfelin Ward four seats and the Miskin and Groesfaen Wards one seat each.

The Boundary Commission's proposals would be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government for approval. If approved, the proposed changes would become effective after the community council elections scheduled to be held on 1 May, 2008.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk's report be noted.
(ii) That the Clerk make enquiries about obtaining a copy of the Boundary Commission's report for each Member of the Community Council.

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 a term or terms proposed by or to the Council in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property, goods or services.

10. **Council owned land in Brynsadler**

The Clerk distributed copies of a report on the meeting which took place on 12 February, 2008, with representatives of the Community Council and the owner of land adjacent to Community Council owned land in Brynsadler. A discussion took place on the proposals made to the Community Council.

- RESOLVED:** (i) That a decision on the proposals put to the Council be deferred to the next Council meeting.
- (ii) That to assist the discussion at the next Council meeting, the Clerk compile a list of the costs incurred by the Council to date.

11. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Pontyclun railway station**

The Council received copies of correspondence which had taken place between Mr Graham Croad of Rhyd y Nant, Pontyclun, and Arriva Trains about accumulations of litter at Pontyclun railway station. In a further letter from Network Rail to the Community Council, it was stated that the track beds are cleaned on a regular frequency by Network Rail's own specialist contractor. A commitment was given that the area would be cleaned again in March, 2008.

RESOLVED: That Mr Croad be thanked for his public spirited approach to resolving the litter problem at the station and that he be given a copy of the letter from Network Rail.

(b) **Former Tabernacle Church, Pontyclun**

The Clerk reported that at the time the Community Council was considering making a bid to purchase the former Tabernacle Church in Pontyclun he had made enquiries with the Valuation Office Agency about the likely rateable value of the premises.

The Agency was unable to provide an assessment at that time but had agreed to contact the Community Council after an assessment had been carried out.

The assessment was enclosed at Appendix 13 to the Council's agenda.

RESOLVED: That as the Council's bid for the premises had been unsuccessful, the assessment be noted.

(c) **The "Free Twopence" for 2008/09**

The Council received the annual notification from the Welsh Assembly Government that the amount which could be spent on activities for which it has no specific powers, provided it is in the interests of the council, had been increased to £5.86 per elector.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

(d) **Borrowing by Community and Town Councils in 2008/09**

The Council received details from the Welsh Assembly Government of the arrangements for borrowing approval in 2008/09.

Councils wishing to obtain borrowing approval for 2008/09 need to return their completed application forms by 14 March, 2008. Applications submitted after this deadline will be considered on a case by case basis and must include an explanation of why the deadline was missed.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

12. The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.