

Minutes of the meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held in the Pontyclun Community Centre, Pontyclun at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 9 January, 2008.

PRESENT: Community Councillors Ms V A Cale, D. Clayton-Jones, C Davies, P Griffiths, Ms D Hayes, 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 the Chairperson, Councillor Ms S Jenkins, and Councillor M Rea

2. **Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest were received from Members.

3. **Minutes of the Council's meeting of 5 December, 2007**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's meeting of 5 December, 2007, be approved as an accurate record subject to the inclusion of Councillor Lane's name as a Member who had given an apology for absence.

4. **Matter arising**

Council owned land in Brynsadler

The Council received copies of the correspondence which had taken place between the solicitors of Mr & Mrs G B Williams and the Community Council's solicitor where it was proposed that the meeting

to discuss the Council's land in Brynsadler would take place at 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday 5 February, 2008.

The Clerk advised the Council that he had also visited the site with a surveyor to discuss the proposed access to the Council's land. The surveyor had estimated that the cost to the Council of creating an access would be in the region of £3,000.

RESOLVED: That the arrangements for a meeting and the estimated cost of creating an access be noted.

5. **Minutes of the Council's Special Meeting of 14 December, 2007**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council's Special Meeting of 14 December, 2007, be approved as an accurate record.

6. **Matter arising**

Former Tabernacle Church, Pontyclun

The Clerk reported on issues the Council had asked him to investigate following the Special Meeting of 14 December, 2007. He reported that:

- (a) An application for planning consent would be necessary to convert the building for youth use. The current planning consent is D1. The proposed use comes under D.2. From a preliminary discussion with a planning officer it appeared that the major issues for the planning authority to consider would be noise disturbance to neighbours and the availability of parking facilities.
- (b) The fee for a full structural survey would be in the region of £500.
- (c) The capital cost of the ICT equipment at the former Bridge Depot was around £70,000. The funds to purchase the equipment were provided under a grant made by Canllan On Line. Guidance on what would become of the equipment would be contained in the agreement drawn up at the time the equipment was installed.
- (d) The cost of employing staff at the premises had been met out of a grant under the Community Regeneration Fund.

A lengthy discussion took place on the shortage of facilities for the youth of the community. The Council recognised that it was unlikely to be able to meet the full commercial value of the property but wondered whether it might be possible to negotiate a lower price with the trustees with a preserved right for worshippers to continue to use the premises.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact a trustee of the premises to discuss the possibility of a lower price being accepted coupled with continued worship facilities and community use.

7. **Police matters**

(a) **PACT meeting**

PCSO Tomkova reported on the PACT meeting which had taken place earlier that evening.

She reported that the meeting had been well attended and that the highways concerns of residents of High Street, Brynsadler had been discussed in detail. In an attempt to resolve some of residents' concerns PCSO Tomkova proposed organising a site meeting with representatives of the Borough Council. This issue would be one of the priorities for the coming month.

Residents' concerns about dog fouling were also raised. It appeared that despite recent publicity being given to a local case of a dog owner being fined for allowing his dog to foul a pavement, the public was not aware that a £75 fine could be imposed for dog fouling. PCSO Tomkova stated that she would be asking for more receptacles for dog fouling with one for the centre of Pontyclun. Dog fouling in the community would be the second priority for the month.

RESOLVED: That the report from the PACT meeting be noted.

(b) **ourbobby.com**

PCSO advised the Council of a recent online innovation, called ourbobby.com, which was designed to facilitate communication between the public and the police. PCSO Tomkova asked whether it would be possible to place a link on the Community Council's website to help members of the public access the new facility.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make enquiries about incorporating the facility into the Community Council's website.

(c) **Christmas, 2007**

PCSO Tomkova reported that the Christmas period in the Community had been relatively quiet for the police. There had been only one reported break-in and no instances of youth annoyance.

Councillor Ms Cale stated that she was disappointed that a number of shopkeepers in Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, had failed to provide lights for the Christmas trees erected by the Community Council outside their premises. Councillor Cale suggested that the Council should consider withholding Christmas trees at Christmas, 2008, where shopkeepers did not provide lights for their trees.

RESOLVED: (i) That PCSO's report be noted.
(ii) That the Council's position on Christmas trees be reviewed in December, 2008.

(d) **Parking in Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun**

Several Members commented on the dangerous practice of some motorists of parking their vehicles very close to the junction of Clun Avenue and Llantrisant Road, Pontyclun. The vision of motorists wishing to turn right at the junction was severely hampered by the presence of parked vehicles.

While the Council's request to the Borough Council for parking restrictions had resulted in a number of site meetings, little seemed to have happened to lessen the danger of collisions to motorists wishing to turn right at the junction. Members asked PCSO Tomkova whether she was able to "book" motorists for parking in a dangerous place.

PCSO Tomkova responded that the police had powers to prosecute motorists who parked their vehicles in a dangerous position. However, the police were reliant on the public reporting instances of vehicles parked dangerously.

RESOLVED: That the position be noted.

8. **Precept for the 2008/09 financial year**

- (a) The Council reviewed its income and expenditure to 31 December, 2007, its projected income and expenditure to 31 March, 2008, discussed its plans for providing services in the Community during the 2008/09 financial year and produced a budget for 2008/09.

RESOLVED: That, based on the Council's budget for 2008/09, a precept of £108,544, an increase of 2.4%, be levied upon the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

Footnote: During discussion on this matter, Councillor Lane

accused the Clerk of a lack of integrity and professionalism in the appointment of an employee to the Pontyclun Community Council. The Clerk refuted the accusation.

(b) **Draft Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates**

The Council received a letter from the Development Planning Manager at the Borough Council drawing attention to the regional public consultation currently taking place.

The consultation on the Draft Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates considers how the South Wales region can provide sufficient aggregates to maintain a vibrant economy whilst controlling the impact on the environment and communities. The consultation period ends on 31 January, 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Council decline to comment.

(c) **Planning**

The Council discussed planning applications contained in the latest Weekly Notifications received from the Planning Authority.

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

Application No. 07/1816/10

- (i) To protect the privacy of residents of neighbouring properties any development should be single storey.
- (ii) To prevent over development of the plot any development should use the existing footprints.
- (iii) To protect the interests of neighbouring residents no building work should take place after noon on Saturdays.
- (iv) In recognition of the fact that High Street, Brynsadler has very little provision for on street parking, any additional parking requirement generated by the new development should be contained within the curtilage of the premises.

(d) **Payment of creditors**

RESOLVED: That payment be approved to the creditors listed in Appendix 13 to the Council's agenda.

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

Alpha Director

The Clerk referred to the report he made to the Council at the November meeting about the need to purchase a financial software package which would convert the Receipts and Payments Account into an Income and Expenditure Account, produce a Balance Sheet and complete the Annual Return for external audit. The package would also provide a range of management information for budget monitoring during a financial year. The Council authorised the Clerk's attendance at a demonstration and the purchase of the system if the Clerk was of the opinion that it would increase the efficiency of the Council.

The Clerk reported that he has attended the demonstration and was impressed by the single entry facilities afforded by the package. He was of the opinion that once the initial information had been input to the package it would produce significant efficiencies. Purchase of the system would also assist the Council to achieve the deadlines for the production of its Annual Return.

The purchase price of the package is £540.00, to include initial data set up, on site training and installation and the first year software maintenance contract. The maintenance contract after the first year is £50 per annum.

RESOLVED: That the Council authorise the purchase and agree to the annual maintenance contract of £50.

10. **Matters reported for information**

(a) **Approval of Annual Accounts**

The Clerk reported that changes are to be made to the date by which local councils must approve their annual accounts.

In 2008, the Accounts (for 2007/08) must be prepared and approved by the Council by 31 July and in 2009 and beyond (for the 2008/09 and subsequent years' accounts), by 30 June.

These dates bring local councils into line with the approval dates which are required for Principal Authorities.

The Clerk advised that the change would be very significant for the Pontyclun Community Council since the accounts for 2005/06 were approved in November, 2006, and the accounts for 2006/07 were approved in December, 2007.

The Clerk was hopeful that the newly purchased financial software package would play a major role in meeting the revised deadlines.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(b) **The Mwyndy Planning Appeal**

The Clerk reminded the Council that the appeal against the refusal of the Planning Authority to award planning consent for the proposed major development at Mwyndy would be held in the Bethel Baptist Church and Centre, Pontyclun, commencing on 19 February, 2008.

The appeal would be conducted by an inspector appointed by the Welsh Assembly Government and was likely to last 5/6 days.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted.

(c) **After School Club**

Councillor Norman reported that the After School Club which is held at the Pontyclun Primary School would not be starting until after half term.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(d) **Post mounted bin**

A Member reported that there was an urgent need for a post-mounted bin at the Llantrisant Road end of School Street, Pontyclun.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk requests the Borough Council to erect a post-mounted bin in the vicinity.

11. The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.