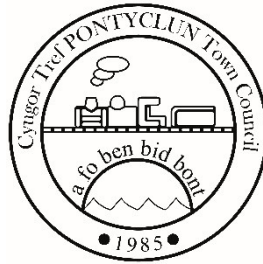


Cyngor Tref Pontyclun Town Council

Croesawn ohebu yn Gymraeg a fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg ddim yn arwain at oedi gormodol. Rhowch wybod inni beth yw'ch dewis iaith e.e. Cymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog

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Mae Swyddfeydd y Cyngor fel arfer ar agor o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener 10am tan hanner dydd ac eithrio Gwyliau Banc
 The Council Offices are normally open Monday to Friday 10am to noon except Bank Holidays

Minutes

Minutes of the July monthly meeting of Pontyclun Town Council held at 7pm on Thursday 25th July 2024.

PTC Member attendance at public Council meetings											
Member name	2024										
	Jul	Sep	Oct	Nov	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	May E	Jun	Jul
Wayne Owen	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Jordan Thorne	Absent	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present
Kelly Sherratt	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Absent	Present	Present	Absent	Absent
Rhys Williams	Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Susan Owen	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Jamie Daniel	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Amanda Sparks	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present
Paul Binning	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Carole Willis	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Sian Assiratti	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Gareth Summers	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Present											
Gave Apologies											
Absent											

Ahead of the meeting the Council received a presentation from representatives of Transport for Wales regarding Pontyclun station and the services there. This is summarised in the appendix after the minutes.

Minutes

1. To receive apologies for absence
 - a. **Councillors Paul Binning, Amanda Sparks and Jordan Thorne gave their apologies, Councillor Kelly Sherratt did not attend.**
2. Disclosure of personal and pecuniary interest in items of business listed below in accordance with the Code of Conduct.
 - a. **None declared.**
3. Public presentations to Council
 - a. **Mr John Dilworth gave the Council an update on planning issues with the building which was the storage unit for the old Stores for Floors shop.**
4. To confirm minutes of the Council's meeting of 13th June are a true record and discuss minor matters arising from them.
 - a. **The minutes were accepted as a true record.**
 - b. **Matters arising from previous minutes.**
 - i. **It was noted that the Forest Wood quarry planning application had been refused by RCT. The planning officers will now be updating the recommendations to reflect this, and application will go back to planning committee again in near future.**
 - ii. **The Clerk advised that he had contacted the RCT officer in charge of this project with a suggestion that arrangements were made to allow some of the constructor's vehicles who are parking across Pontyclun to park on the hard standing at the Maesyfelin Rugby Pitches. Approx 30 vehicles could fit there, and this would help the overall parking situation in the Town centre. The Rugby club had already confirmed their agreement to this.**
5. To consider report on Council Payments and finances
 - a. **The members noted the May payments and confirmed them.**
 - b. **Members noted the current budget position.**
 - c. **Members approved payments for**
 - i. **Emergency purchase of brush cutter**
 - ii. **Payment of up to £800 to Cardiff Conservation volunteers for work at Riverside Walk (CIL)**
 - iii. **Payment for 2 bins previously agreed to purchase (449.48 plus VAT using CIL)**
 - iv. **Payment for new flag post fixings (693.74 plus VAT using CIL)**
6. To receive update on Community Events
 - a. **The Council noted the update and agreed the following.**
 - i. **Council would like a band to support the choir at the Xmas lights switch on.**
 - ii. **When schedule of jobs at Christmas fayre is drawn up for volunteers more rotation is to be built in**
 - iii. **The Council will provide Santa grotto again this year.**
 - iv. **Council Officers to investigate options for providing permanent electric power at War memorial and in Car park for use at stalls.**
7. To receive report on Town improvements
 - a. **The Council noted the report and agreed the following.**
 - i. **We would offer RCT £2500 towards cost of bus stop improvements in Brynsadler.**
 - ii. **We would purchase 4 lamp post Christmas lights for Groesfaen with the 2 existing Groesfaen lights going by War Memorial in Pontyclun and at corner of Llantrisant Rd and Clun Avenue**
 - iii. **Development plans agreed for Pontyclun park and Pontyclun Town Centre**
 - iv. **Council agreed to buy 4 waste bins, 2 for Pontyclun park (to replace temporary plastic bins) one for by café 50 and one by Giles Gallery**

- v. **Council agreed to have a “Croeso I Pontyclun” bench at Ynysddu with a Welsh flag background if possible and delegated power to the Pontyclun central ward to decide on the bench design for centre of Miskin.**
8. Update on Pontyclun 175 anniversary activities.
 - a. **Council noted the update and agreed.**
 - i. **To aim to arrange an event around VE day 2025 including.**
 1. **Addition of names to War Memorial**
 2. **Plaque showing history of the war memorial to be unveiled.**
 3. **Reenactment**
 - ii. **To formally invite representatives from Ravensburg to our commemorations**
 9. To appoint a minor authority governor for Pontyclun Primary school
 - a. **The Council agreed that Councillor Gareth Summers would be our next governor here and Clerk to advise RCT/School in due course.**
 10. To agree submission for Safer Routes in the Community scheme
 - a. **The Council reviewed the submission and approved it.**
 11. To receive report from Developing Pontyclun working group
 - a. **The Council noted the report and agreed the following.**
 - i. **The Clerk to contact Ammonite Yarns to see what help we can provide to support a Yarnover event.**
 - ii. **Councillor Wayne Owen would talk to RCT regarding possible amendments to parking times and report back ahead of any recommendations to RCT. Councillors noted this proposal essentially meant giving more time to some people to use Pontyclun’s shops whilst reducing the overall number of potential shoppers.**
 - iii. **Clerk to investigate options for lighting up outside of Giles Gallery for events.**
 12. To discuss weight limit on Brynsadler bridge
 - a. **The Council discussed this and requested the Clerk to establish with RCT if there is a weight limit on this bridge and if so, would it be appropriate to install signage to reflect this.**
 - b. **Clerk will update Council once he has this information.**
 13. To discuss RCT Community review update
 - a. **The Council noted that RCT had started this process and that Councillor Wayne Owen had been asked to join the committee that would recommend the final changes.**
 - b. **The Council agreed that we would be asking for Tyla Garw, The Coed Cae lane industrial estates and the land south of the A473 to be moved to Pontyclun, with a small parcel of land by the cemetery to be moved to Llantisant.**
 - c. **The reasons are that this would match the RCT Council wards with the communities, better reflect what people thought was the reality and provide a simple boundary between Pontyclun and the other Communities to the north.**

This is a true copy of the minutes on the July Council meeting. A signed copy can be viewed at the Council Offices

Summary of presentation from Transport for Wales

Representatives from TFW discuss the various issues at the station. The following is a summary of what was discussed and should not be read as transcript of the discussions.

Parking

1. There is a working party in TFW looking at options to reconfigure the existing car park at the station and options for adding more parking. No timescale for completion was given
2. Whilst the shunting yards are an option this is not actively being considered at this time
3. Councillors asked about the railway buying the land by station (on Station terrace by Bailey bridge) for a new car park. This was outside TFW remit but they will provide us with contact details for Network rail so we can liaise with them.
 - a. They gave an example of the stations around Dinas Powis where the local Council has been able to bid for funding for works there from Network rail.

Trains

1. Timetable changes are typically made half yearly so it is unlikely that any changes will happen before December.
2. Because of train capacity issues and interconnectivity between the various operators it can take up to 40+ months to agree changes to routes/timetables
3. There are plans to upgrade the rolling stock on our lines which would mean that the trains would all be either 2 or 4 carriages – at the moment we sometimes have 1 carriage trains. No date for this has been fixed.
4. There are plans to have trains every half an hour through Pontyclun, though TFW are focussing on moving capacity to where there is most passenger growth so at this time no date can be set for additional services.
5. TFW are looking at having the last Maesteg train leaving Cardiff at night stop in Pontyclun giving an additional late night travel option.
6. It was accepted that as many passengers cannot get onto the trains at Pontyclun (train is full) any passenger figures TFW have might not truly reflect the demand.
 - a. TFW to try and provide passenger numbers to/from Pontyclun.
 - b. PTC to consider ways we could get a better picture of the passengers who are not able to travel to TFW.

Cancellations/Delays

1. TFW say the issues are caused by years of under investment in the past which they are trying to recover.
2. Old stock very prone to breakdown
3. Approx 2/3 of new rolling stock is now in service or on final testing.
4. One key issue is drivers. During the pandemic they lost 2 years of driver training which they are now catching up on and when extra drivers are trained capacity can improve
5. The new stock has a self-testing capability so TFW would know ahead when issues may arise and can be proactive in maintenance so reducing last minute cancellations.

Other

1. They were keen to point out that whilst the railway service in Wales is all branded TFW most of the lines/stations are actually owned and run by Network rail so any changes/ improvements etc need their agreement.
2. Should Network Rail in Wales become devolved (as it is in Scotland) they felt that this would improve liaison and ease some of the bureaucracy.

Action points

The TFW representatives agreed to provide.

1. Network Rail contacts so we could seek funding for additional parking.
2. Case study on how to apply for Network Rail funding.
3. Passenger numbers to/from Pontyclun
4. Regular updates on changes to trains/services

PTC agreed we would look at options for getting additional data on passengers who could not travel from Pontyclun due to cancellations/delays/overcrowding.