

**MINUTES** of the Ordinary Meeting of the Pencoed Town Council held on Wednesday 11 January 2006 in the Council Chamber, Felindre Road, Pencoed at 7 p.m.

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**PRESENT:** Councillor D.R. Gregory [Mayor]  
Councillors: Mrs. L. Davies, Mrs. M. Jones, E. Alford, J. Butcher,  
C.J. Davies, M. Gregory, C.F. Hewlett, D.J. John, K.F. King,  
G. Oram, R. Williams.

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The Mayor greeted Councillor C.F. Hewlett who advised Members that his wife had been discharged from hospital. He thanked Members for their support over a difficult few months. On behalf of Mrs. Hewlett he particularly wished to express thanks for the bouquet of flowers delivered to her by the Clerk and his wife.

5190 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Mayor welcomed and introduced Mrs. Mair Jones who was then invited to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as the Councillor for the Casual Vacancy of the Penprysg Ward of Pencoed Town Council.

POLICE PRESENCE

Sergeant Uprichard was present and welcomed by the Mayor. The figures for December 2005 were as follows:

	<u>Felindre</u>	<u>Hendre</u>	<u>Penprysg</u>
Assaults	7	3	1
Theft	4	1	1
Theft of Motor Vehicles	-	-	-
Theft from Motor Vehicles	5	2	3
Burglary – dwellings	-	-	-
Burglary – other	-	1	-
Vehicle damage	-	-	-
Public Order Offences	-	-	-
Criminal damage	11	3	10
Driving whilst disqualified	-	-	-
Make off without payment	-	-	-
Illegal possession of drugs	-	-	-
Arson	-	-	-
Harassment	-	-	-
Drive with excess alcohol	-	-	-
Other	1	1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>
Arrests	8	4	-

Members expressed serious concern at the substantial increase in crimes in December. Much of the criminal damage in Penprysg was caused through stone throwing at house windows, a door and windows at The Clinic. The PCSO is following up reports of much of the problem being caused by groups of early youth age vandals. There were also reports by Members of tyre slashing and scratching of cars in the Pant Glas area. Sergeant Uprichard said that arrests had been made in relation to the criminal damage.

Members also expressed their acute disappointment and disbelief that the Sensory Gardens at the Infants School in Penprysg had again been seriously vandalised within the last few days. This will be pursued by the Police.

The dangerous parking on the brow of the hill in Penprysg Road was again raised as a serious issue, despite extra surveillance by traffic wardens and recently painted warning slow signs on the road. The Sergeant said he would seek further advice from the Police Traffic Management Section in an effort to permanently resolve this problem.

There has been a vacancy for a School Patrol Crossing Officer at Croesty School. There has been a vacancy since July 2005 and Members are most concerned as the safety of the vast number of children is at risk. They invite the Police to be available on this site at the appropriate times. This will be monitored and steps taken to secure a Patrol Officer. In conclusion Sergeant Uprichard advised Members that powers of arrest have been substantially increased since January 2006 and it is hoped that the application of these powers will reduce the criminality in the Town. The Mayor thanked the Sergeant for his attendance and report.

**There were no declarations of interest.**

5191 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE  
None were received.

5192 MINUTES  
The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 December 2005 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

5193 CLERK'S REPORT  
(Minute 5149 refers)

**Right of Way Access – Coed y Graig to the Relief Road**

Response still awaited from BCBC.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk send a reminder of the request to BCBC.

(Minute 5165 refers)

**Town and Community Councils Forum**

All correspondence has been circulated to Town and Community Councils in the Borough. A number of replies have been received with the exception of one Community Council. All are supportive of this Council's statements. Maesteg Town Council are writing to the appropriate Minister of WAG concerning the conduct of this particular Forum and had requested permission for Pencoed Town Council's correspondence to be included in that letter. After discussion:

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Clerk write to Sue Essex, the Minister for Local Government of WAG seeking clarification for the purpose of setting up the TCCF
2. That permission be given to Maesteg Town Council to include this Council's correspondence in their own request to the Minister.

**Collier's Path damage [Footpath 29]**

As a result of a number of complaints over the Christmas period, the Clerk visited the site again, and was very surprised at it's condition and the return of four horses. He had written to Councillor Richard Granville sending him all previous correspondence and earlier photographs, together with the new ones taken at the week-end (these were tabled for information). I reply was received from the relevant department as follows, ...'I acknowledge your letter regarding the above issue which was received on 5.1.06. In the event of further communications, to ensure you are dealt with efficiently, please quote the above reference number.'

Members expressed dissatisfaction at this response particularly in view of the health and safety aspect of this problem. After discussion:

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Clerk be instructed to seek assurances from the Rights-of-Way Section that in the event of any claims from the public in relation to injury caused either from the horses or condition of the footpath Pencoed Town Council would not be liable. A response to this request will be expected within 14 days of receipt of that letter.
2. The Clerk write to the Public Protection Department enquiring whether the horses in this area have been registered under the Passporting of Horses Legislation.

(Minute 5178 refers)

**Overgrowth, Hendre Gardens, Hendre Road.**

A further response from BCBC received which was circulated. It contained the following: ...'It appears that he [i.e. the developer] has been negotiating the adoption of the area by the Council, which, if successful will ensure the long-term maintenance of the area.' After discussion Members concluded that this response was not entirely satisfactory.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk keep this letter on file and write requesting for a progress report on that negotiation in three months time.

**Motorcycle nuisance - Rear of Penybont Road**

The meeting with the Principal of Bridgend College, The Mayor and Ward Members, accompanied by the Clerk, was held 15 December 2005. This was preceded with a site meeting by the Members. After a fruitful discussion, it was agreed that this Council would write to the Highways Department BCBC with proposals to eliminate this nuisance. The Clerk had done so and a response was received from BCBC on 6 January 2006 as follows: ...'This matter has now been passed to the appropriate section for investigation and will be dealt with as soon as resources permit. Following investigation I will write to you again indicating my views and any actions taken in this matter.'

**RESOLVED:** That copies of this response be circulated to the interested parties.

(Minute 5188 refers)

**Application for a Bursary – Miss C.J.**

The Clerk had closely examined the relevant legislation with regard to Special Grants (Bursaries) to individuals. He had also interviewed the Applicant, and had the opportunity to read a synopsis of her research to be presented and was satisfied that this application meets the criteria to enable this Council to make a Grant if it deemed fit to do so. The criteria are:

1. The Town, and this Council's reputation would be enhanced by the making of such a Grant.
2. That in the medium, long term, infants in the Town could benefit from such Research.

After a full discussion:

**RESOLVED:**

1. That this Council accept in principle these criteria and therefore could make grants in special cases.
2. That a grant of £500 be made to Miss C.J. with a letter of congratulation for her outstanding achievement in having her research accepted and published.

(Minute 4995 refers)

**Road Signs at the Entrances to the Town**

The following response was received from Rhondda Cynon Taf as follows: ...'The Authority accepts the recommendation of the Welsh Language Board with regard to the spelling of Pencoed and any future signing relating to this destination will be erected without the 'hyphen'. After discussion:

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk send copies of the letters from both the Vale of Glamorgan and Rhondda Cynon Taf Councils to the Director of Environment, BCBC requesting now a definitive decision in relation to Bridgend County Borough Council and this matter.

5194 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The following were approved for payment:

Internet Monthly Payment	£ 14.49
Postage	13.35
Clerk's Mileage	15.50

BCBC Fuel (September/October)	166.60
Music in Hospitals	119.85
Bridgend College (Supplies for baskets)	14.28
Inland Revenue	265.78
Petty Cash	100.00

5195 CORRESPONDENCE**Bridgend County Borough Council**

Dates and venues of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meetings received.

The Task and Finish Group investigating the issue of falling school rolls seek a feedback on the future challenges and the long-term financial viability of schools taking into account the importance of schools to local communities. Comments to be received by 3 February 2006. After full discussion:

**RESOLVED:** That the following comments be submitted.

- Innovative ways should be sought for extending the communities use of the schools which would make a valuable community resource [the building] more financially viable.
- That the facility should be made more customer friendly. When this facility is currently used by community groups there remains the constant problem of year round availability as a result of buildings being closed during the various holiday breaks causing continuity problems for the users.
- Concept of a school being a community building instead of the narrower context of a place being primarily for the education of children should be debated and examined in depth.
- Within the context of Town and Community Council monthly schedule of meetings it would have been much appreciated if a longer period of time had been given for discussion and response on this major issue.

Notice received of the next Town and Community Forum to be held on 31 January 2006.

Christmas Illuminations 2005. Notice received that the Licence Fee is being waived.

Bridgend Local Development Plan. Notice received that BCBC had resolved on 7 December 2005 to commence preparation of this plan.

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Notice received that a section of Hendre Road from the level crossing to its junction with Pen-y-bont Road will close for a short period on 8 January and 15 January 2006 for repairs.

November/December Edition of Regeneration Roundup received.

ALL THE ABOVE WERE NOTED

**Welsh Assembly Government**

Risk Reduction Planning Guidance for the Fire and Rescue Authorities – Wales a Safer Country. This consultation document was received.

Question asked by Mrs. Janice Gregory to Ms Sue Essex, the relevant Minister, concerning the promotion of effective practice in Town and Community Councils. Her observation in relation to effective practice was as follows: ...'However, will you join me in congratulating Pencoed Town Council on the way in which it disseminates information throughout Pencoed Town by publishing the 'Hyphen' newsletter which is produced and delivered by the Town Councillors?'

In response the Minister said, ...'I have seen the Pencoed Town Council newsletter which is excellent. It is informative and readable, and I am sure that the residents rely on it for a lot of information. We could use that as a best practice example for other local councils.'

ALL THE ABOVE WERE NOTED

Valley and Vale Community Arts AGM. Notice of a AGM received.

NOTED

Royal National Institute for the Blind. Booklet concerning details of various organisations who assist the hard of hearing.

NOTED

5196 IMPLICATIONS OF INSTALLATION OF BARRIERS AT FOOTPATH 34

Councillor E. Alford introduced this item expressing concern that substantial ponding over an area of at least 10 metres was causing problems for pedestrians using this footpath at its junction with Hendre Road. After discussion:

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk writes to the Rights-of-Way Officer bringing this problem to his attention.

5197 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- To discuss this Council's involvement in the visit of the Mayor of Plouzané to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Town Twinning Charter.
- To discuss the training needs for Council Members.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

SIGNED .....  
MAYOR

DATE .....