

**MINUTES** of the Ordinary Meeting of the Pencoed Town Council held on Wednesday 12 July 2006 in the Council Chamber, Felindre Road, Pencoed commencing at 7 p.m.

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**PRESENT:** Councillor C.J. Davies [Mayor]  
Councillors: Mrs. L. Davies, Mrs. M. Jones, Mrs. K. Watkins, D.J. John, K.F. King, R. Williams.

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### POLICE PRESENCE

The Mayor welcomed Sergeant Mark Uprichard. The crime figures are as follows:

	<u>Felindre</u>	<u>Hendre</u>	<u>Penprysg</u>
Assaults	-	1	2
Theft	5	-	3
Theft of Motor Vehicles	-	-	-
Theft from Motor Vehicles	5	2	2
Burglary – dwellings	-	-	-
Burglary – other	-	1	-
Vehicle damage	-	-	-
Public Order Offences	-	-	-
Criminal damage	3	-	2
Driving whilst disqualified	-	-	-
Make off without payment	-	-	-
Illegal possession of drugs	1	1	-
Arson	-	-	-
Harassment	-	-	-
Drive with excess alcohol	-	-	-
Other	3	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>
Arrests	9	6	4

Members expressed pleasure at the reduction in offences and level of arrests. Sergeant Uprichard responded that there is a high level of Police presence in the Town which does make a difference. The following issues were raised.

Continued potential danger of parking in Penprysg Road. This will be monitored.

Serious concern expressed of the increased incidents of motorists driving through traffic lights on red in Hendre Road. There is a potential for a serious accident. This will be investigated.

The increased crime in Penprysg Ward was a cause of concern. Would the addition of CCTV cameras in the Town be of benefit? The Sergeant responded that the Courts do take CCTV footage into account and no doubt additional cameras could be seen as effective in further reducing crime.

The continued parking in the lay-by at Penybont Road is still considered dangerous and the unloading of goods vehicles near the traffic lights causes a great deal of congestion at times. This situation will continue to be monitored.

Sergeant Uprichard stated that the PACT meetings will commence in September 2006 and details will be made available soon.

The Mayor thanked the Sergeant for his attendance.

### **Presentation by Sub-Officer Steve Thomas, Pencoed Fire Station**

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Thomas who has been in the Fire Service for 15 years, the last six years of which he has been Sub-Officer in Charge of the Pencoed Station.

He described the role of the Fire Service in the community, the number of personnel in Pencoed [17] and the area covered by the Station.

From January to the end of June the Station was involved in 137 incidents and included grass, home and factory fires, cars being set alight and motor vehicle accidents particularly on the M4.

A campaign has been launched in an attempt to reduce fires in houses and Officers are available to talk to groups about preventative action. There is also a National scheme for the installation of free smoke alarms including free surveys of private homes. The uptake of this service has been disappointing to date.

In response to a question Mr. Thomas said that arson was not identified as a serious problem in Pencoed.

With response to alerts firemen driving to the fire station must adhere to traffic regulations. There is inevitably a problem with the level crossing as eight officers live to the north of that crossing. The Station being in Fairlawn Terrace there is sometimes difficulty in exiting into Coychurch Road. Mr. Thomas indicated it would be helpful if some sign was erected at that junction and a yellow hatched box painted on Coychurch Road. He said that available staff must respond to calls within 5 minutes and the preferred minimum cover for taking out the fire engine was 5 people although the regulation allows for a minimum of 4.

The Mayor and Members thanked Sub-Officer Thomas for his enlightening and refreshing presentation as it gave an insight into a little known community resource.

It was agreed that this Council make representation to the Highways Department BCBC in relation to the installation of a sign or a blue flashing warning light at the junction of Fairlawn Terrace and Coychurch Road, as well as the provision of a hatched box at that junction.

**There were no declarations of interest.**

5244 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: E. Alford, J. Butcher, D.R. Gregory, M. Gregory, C.F. Hewlett, G. Oram.

The Mayor, on behalf of Members wished Councillor D.R. Gregory a speedy return to good health after his stay in hospital.

5245 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 June 2006 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

The Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 21 June 2006 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

The Minutes of the General Policy Committee held on 4 July 2006 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

5246 CLERK'S REPORT

(Minute 5149 refers)

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

A response is still awaited from BCBC

NOTED

(Minute 5165 refers)

**Town and Community Councils' Forum**

Maesteg Town Council had discussed the response they have received from WAG, and in the light of that response had decided to just note its contents. NOTED

(Minute 5178 refers)

**Training needs for Council Members**

A Regional meeting of One Voice Wales was held on 10 July. It was announced at that meeting that WAG were publishing a strategy for training of Town and Community Councillors in the Autumn.

**RESOLVED:** That this Council awaits receipt of the training strategy and will discuss the matter further at that time.

(Minute 5208 refers)

**Railway Level Crossing**

Network Rail had suggested a level crossing in Hampshire as a suitable site for a visit  
After discussion:

**RESOLVED:** That this Council would not take up this offer because of the distance involved as they saw this as being unrealistic.

(Minute 5218 refers)

**The re-opening of the Public Toilets at week-ends**

The response of BCBC was circulated and Members expressed their deep disappointment at its contents. The following points were made:

- A Local Authorities first responsibility is to the public. In this regard how do BCBC measure necessity [in the light of the comments contained in the first paragraph of their response].
- The Centre of Pencoed is in its own right a commercial centre [albeit a small one] and therefore the need to have the public toilets open on Saturday mornings is regarded as essential.
- The dismissive response reflects no concern for the needs of shoppers in the Town.
- This refusal could well as being interpreted as a violation of the human rights of the people of the Town.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk responds to BCBC in the above terms.

(Minute 5241 refers)

**Grant Application, Salem Chapel**

Councillor D. John reported that he had inspected the car park and had spoken to a representative of the Chapel, on site. His personal view was that the work was not up to an expected reasonable standard. However, the Chapel were happy with the result. After discussion:

**RESOLVED:** That the request for a grant be referred to the Finance Committee.

OTHER MATTER

**Police presence at Council Meetings**

The response from Chief Inspector Paul Murphy, on behalf of the Divisional Commander, having been circulated, was discussed. Members expressed a number of reservations.

NOTED

5247 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The following were approved for payment:

	£
Internet Monthly Payment	14.99
Postage	30.08
Clerk' Mileage	21.76
Inland Revenue	243.59
Birds (Brush Cutter)	239.00
Pencoed Miner' Welfare and Community Hall (Hire charge)	75.00
One Voice Wales (Conference fees)	100.00
Goplastic Ltd.	1462.88
Petty Cash	100.00
D. Prosser [Internal Auditor]	48.00
Amberol	127.49
EIS	56.92

OTHER MATTERS

1. The Annual Audit Return, together with the Internal Auditor's Report, had been circulated. After discussion:

**RESOLVED:** The required Section 2 was duly completed and signed by the Mayor on behalf of the Council. He also thanked the Clerk on behalf of the Council for his continued management of the Council's financial affairs.

2. The Annual Assessment of the Countryside Maintenance Officer was circulated to Members who expressed satisfaction at the progress he had made in the first year in his employment with this Council. In recognition of that:

**RESOLVED:** That the Countryside Maintenance Officer's salary be increased to £7.00 per hour.

5248 CORRESPONDENCE

The following has been received:

**SSAFA** Forces help - request for a grant

**RESOLVED:** That this be referred to the Finance Committee.

**SEWTA** – Notice of day conference to be held in Cardiff on 6 July. As this was received too late it was just NOTED.

**Directorate of Air Space Policy**

Information letter concerning the Introduction of Class D Controlled Airspace in the vicinity of Bristol and Cardiff International Airports. NOTED

**Age Partnership Group**

Be Ready – Practical information booklet on age issues for Welsh employers.

NOTED

**Bridgend Local Strategy Partnership**

Notice of a half day conference to be held on 21 July 2006.

NOTED

**SLCC Welsh Conference**

This Conference will be held at Cwmbiran on 14 September 2006. On examining the agenda for conference.

**RESOLVED:** That the Mayor and the Clerk will attend this event.

**Welsh Assembly Government**

Final Guidance Publication 'Providing Indemnities to Members and Officers of Relevant Authorities'. NOTED

Consultation paper 'Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005' – Gating of Certain Highways for the Prevention of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. Members expressed surprise that this document had not been formally circulated to Town and Community Councils.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk consult with Mrs. Janice Gregory AM before making a response.

**Public Services Ombudsman for Wales**

Annual Report 2005/2006.

**TCCSCC**

Notice of the winding up of this Committee on 31 August 2006. The final balance of the account will be divided equally and will be returned to Town and Community Councils in membership.

**Bridgend County Borough Council**

Town and Community Council Forum 23 May 2006 – Report on Transport in the Borough.

Agency Agreement of Rights of Way. Notice of slight increase in payments to Councils for 2006/07.

Highway Maintenance Programme 2006/07.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Bridgend Unitary Development Plan – Supplementary Planning Guidance.

ALL THE ABOVE WERE NOTED

**Town and Community Council Forum**

Legal Advice offered to BCBC to the effect that only the nominated representative or the reserve member for a Town / Community Council should attend these meetings. If Clerks were in attendance they should use the public gallery rather than sit in the Council Chamber itself. Members expressed displeasure at the contents of this letter and the following points were expressed.

- Had this decision been made by the Forum itself after due debate or by Officers of the County Borough?
- As County Borough Officers were in attendance as advisors to Members, why were Officers of Town and Community Councils deprived of acting as advisors to their Members at Forum meetings?
- What were the Terms of Reference used for the Legal Officer's decision.

**RESOLVED:**

- That the Mayor would be nominated the Reserve representative for this Council
- That the Clerk responds to the Legal Officers advice as above.

5249 THE ROAD SYSTEM IN THE PENPRYSG WARD

Councillor Mrs. Mair Jones presented a paper with a plan setting out the issues in relation to the road system in the above Ward. Members discussed at length the proposals.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk present these proposals to the Highway Department, BCBC with a recommendation that they be implemented.

5250 PARKING OF VEHICLES ON GRASS VERGES

Councillor K.F. King introduced this matter. There has been an increased number of incidents of parking on many of the grass verges in the Town to the detriment of the general appearance of the area through damage of these verges. After discussion:

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk seek information from the Highways Department as to the legality of such parking and the effect on the Town in general.

5251 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

The provision of additional CCTV equipment in the Town. [Councillor Mrs. L. Davies]

5252 DELEGATED POWERS

**RESOLVED;** That delegated powers be given to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in consultation with the Clerk, to cover the period to the September Town Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

**SIGNED** .....  
**MAYOR**

**DATE** .....