

GLAMORGAN RECORD OFFICE/ARCHIFDY MORGANNWG
TEMPORARY LIST PENDING TRANSFER TO DATABASE

Reference code: GB 0214 LBPP

Title: PONTYPRIDD LOCAL BOARD

Dates : 1873-1894

Level of description: Fonds

Extent and medium: 0.08 cubic metres (12 vols., 1 file)

Name of creator(s): Pontypridd Local Board of Health

Administrative/biographical history

Local boards of health were set up under the Public Health Act of 1848 (11 and 12 Vict. c.23), amended by the Local Government Act of 1858 (21 and 22 Vict. c.98). These Acts did not impose a uniform system of local public health authorities on the whole country simultaneously, but enabled individual localities, following certain procedures, to adopt the provisions of the Acts and become local boards of health if they so wished. Consequently, local boards were set up at different dates in different areas, and in some areas none were set up at all. They were usually set up only at the request of local inhabitants (a petition of one tenth of the ratepayers had to be presented) but in areas with a very high death rate it was possible for the Acts to be imposed by the General Board of Health.

It was not until the passing of the Public Health Act of 1872 (35 and 36 Vict. ch.79) that an attempt was made to establish a comprehensive system of local authorities for public health matters. The country was divided by the Act into urban sanitary and rural sanitary districts. Where local boards of health had been set up, these became the local authorities in the urban sanitary districts (except in municipal boroughs, where the borough council was the sanitary authority). The poor law boards of guardians became responsible for public health in rural sanitary districts, which consisted of all those parts of the poor law unions which were not included in urban sanitary district. In 1875, a new Public Health Act (38 and 39 Vict. ch.55) revised, consolidated and superseded all previous acts relating to public health.

Local boards of health were responsible for matters relating to public health and civic amenities: the provision of a water supply and sewerage, the cleansing of streets, maintenance of highways, approval of building plans, registration of slaughter houses, and provision of parks, as well as other functions. They were also in some cases responsible for burial grounds, although in some areas these were provided by separate burial boards. Members of the boards were elected by all those in the local board area who paid rates; a system of multiple votes based on the value of the ratepayers' property was in operation and there was a property qualification for those who wished to stand for election. The boards appointed a salaried clerk, treasurer, unusual to find that the minute book used by the local board of health for the urban sanitary district remained in use as the minute book of the successor urban district council.

Local boards of health were supervised centrally to a greater or lesser extent, first by the General Board of Health (1848-58), then by the Local Government Act Office, a department of the Home Office, (1858-71), and finally by the Local Government Board (1871-94).

In Glamorgan, twenty boards of health were set up between 1848 and 1894:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Aberdare (1854) | Merthyr Tydfil (1850) |
| Barry and Cadoxton (1888) | Mountain Ash (1867) |
| Bridgend (1851) | Ogmore and Garw (1887) |
| Briton Ferry (1864) | Oystermouth (1874) |
| Caerphilly (1893) | Penarth (1875) |
| Canton (1859 - 1875) | Pontypridd (1873) |
| Cardiff (1850 - 1875) | Porthcawl (1893) |
| Cwmdu (Maesteg) (1858) | Roath (1859 - 1875) |
| Glyncorwg (1893) | Swansea (1848) |
| Margam (1884) | Ystradyfodwg (Rhondda) (1877) |

Note that Cowbridge was created an urban sanitary district in 1888, out of the Bridgend and Cowbridge rural sanitary district, but the sanitary authority for the district was Cowbridge Borough Council, not a local board of health. Similarly, Cardiff Borough became the urban sanitary authority for Cardiff in 1875. Strictly speaking, boards set up under the 1848 Act were called 'local boards of health', and those established under the 1858 Act were simply 'local boards', although this distinction does not seem to have been made consistently.

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Local boards of health and urban sanitary districts were superseded in January 1895 by urban district councils, under the Local Government Act of 1894 (56 and 57 Vict. c.73). Under the same Act, rural sanitary districts ceased to be the responsibility of the poor law unions and separate rural district councils were established. The powers and boundaries of the districts remained unchanged, and in many cases the members and officers of the authorities also remained the same, although elections for the new district councils were held in December 1894. For these reasons, it is not unusual to find that the minute book used by the local board of health for the urban sanitary district remained in use as the minute book of the successor urban district council.

Pontypridd Local Board was created in 1873 out of the Pontypridd Rural Sanitary District. It comprised parts of the parishes of Llanwonno, Eglwysilan, Llantwit Fardre, Llantrisant and Llanfabon, and included, as well as the town of Pontypridd, Gelliwastad, Hopkinstown, Trehafod, Coedpenmaen, Trallwn, Treforest, Glyntaff and Rhydyfelin [Rhydfelen]; it was later extended to include Ponsionorton and Cilfynydd, and Hawthorn and Upper Boat. In 1883, the Pontypridd Local Board joined a Joint Sewerage Board with the Ystradyfodwg Local Board, to implement a sewerage scheme for the whole of the Rhondda Valleys and the Pontypridd area. The Local Board was succeeded in 1895 by Pontypridd Urban District Council.

Bibliography

Record Sources for Local History by Philip Riden (Record Office library reference R/694) gives in chapter five a brief account of the development of local boards of health.

'*A Sanitary survey of Glamorganshire*', by William Williams, medical officer of health for the Glamorgan County Council, published in 1895 (Record Office library reference G/134) contains useful information on the urban sanitary and rural sanitary districts in Glamorgan, at the time of their change to urban district councils and rural district councils. (The surveys were carried out between 1893 and 1895.)

'Investment in Public Health Provision in the Mining Valleys of South Wales 1860-1914', by Hamish Richards, in *Modern South Wales. Essays in Economic History*, edited by Colin Baber and L.J. Williams. (Record Office library reference W/532)

Census returns (enumerator's books) for 1871 give the local board, and those for 1881 and 1891 give the urban sanitary district, in which any particular locality falls; they can thus be useful for determining the areas covered by individual boards.

Ordnance Survey maps, first edition (c. 1875), six-inch to the mile scale, also show the boundaries of urban sanitary districts.

Archival history

The records were inherited by Pontypridd Urban District Council in 1895.

Immediate source of acquisition

The records were deposited by Pontypridd Urban District Council in 1974 (accession no. 3065, file 11/0118/15).

Scope and content

Minutes, 1873 - 1894; surveyors report book, 1891 - 1893; report on sewerage scheme, 1880

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information

All records which meet the collection policy of the Glamorgan Record Office have been retained.

Accruals

Accruals are not expected

System of arrangement**Conditions governing access**

Open access

Conditions governing reproduction

Normal Glamorgan Record Office conditions apply.

Language/scripts of material

English

Physical characteristics and technical requirements

Good to fair condition

Finding aids

Detailed list available.

Existence and location of originals**Existence and location of copies****Related units of description**

| | |
|---------------|---|
| BUBPP | Records of the Pontypridd Burial Board |
| UPP/124 - 128 | Records of the Pontypridd Board of Guardians acting as Rural Sanitary Authority |
| UDPP | Records of Pontypridd Urban District Council |
| UDPP/T/1/6 | Pontypridd Local Board of Health, ledgers 1874 - 1895 |
| UDPP/C/150 | Pontypridd Local Board of Health, bye-laws, 1874 and 1887 |

Records relating to individual local boards of health can be found among the records of the General Board of Health (1848-58), the Local Government Act Office (1858-71), and the Local Government Board (1871-94) held at the National Archives in London.

Publication note**Note**

These records are stored in an outside repository. They should be ordered at least a week in advance of an intended visit so that they can be brought into the Record Office for consultation in the search room.

Archivist's note

Compiled by the Glamorgan Record Office

Rules or conventions

This description follows Glamorgan Record Office guidelines based on ISAD(G) compatible cataloguing guidelines for fonds level descriptions used by the Archives Network Wales.

Date of description

November 1999; revised June 2006

Minutes books

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| LBPP/1 | Minutes book | 1873-1880 |
| LBPP/2 | Minutes book | 1880-1883 |
| LBPP/3 | Minutes book | 1883-1887 |
| LBPP/4 | Minutes book | 1887-1888 |
| LBPP/5 | Minutes book | 1888-1890 |
| LBPP/6 | Minutes book | 1890-1891 |
| LBPP/7 | Minutes book | 1891-1892 |
| LBPP/8 | Minutes book | 1892-1893 |
| LBPP/9 | Minutes book [9 vols.] | 1893-1894 |
| LBPP/10 | Rough minutes book [1 vol.] | 1891-1893 |

Surveyor

| | | |
|---------|--|-----------|
| LBPP/11 | Surveyor's report book [1 vol.] | 1887-1892 |
| LBPP/12 | Report on sewerage scheme by Mr James Lomax [1 bdle.] | 1880 |

Treasurer

Formerly listed as L/B Pp 13-18

Rate made

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|-------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| LBPP/T/1 | Pontypridd District rates book | Dec 1893 |
| LBPP/T/2, 3 | Pontypridd District rates books | May 1894 |
| LBPP/T/4, 5 | Pontypridd District rates books | Nov 1894 |
| LBPP/T/6 | Pontypridd District rates book | May 1895 |