

## **Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council**

### **Agreed Minutes of Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Present:** Cllr Colin Woodley (Chair), Cllr Richard Jones (Vice Chair), Cllr Lynwen Law, Cllr Jenny Myring, Cllr Carol Hindley, Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Cllr Jenny Edwards, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Adrian Harford, Cllr Morien Morgan, Cllr Debbie Smart, Cllr Non Thomas

**Attending:** CBC Graham Thomas

**Apologies:** CBC Karen Morgan,

#### **2021/001- Disclosures of Personal Interest**

Cllr Non Thomas disclosed a personal interest in agenda item 9.

#### **2021/002 - PCSO report**

There was no written report provided by the PCSO. There was nothing to report to the PCSO.

#### **2021/003 – County Borough Cllr reports**

CBC Graham Thomas provided the following written report:

- Oil at Lamb Road - Oil pollution has been reported at Lamb Road. The source of the oil was from a vehicle parked further up the road. The matter has been resolved as the owner of the vehicle has repositioned the vehicle so as not to cause an oil spill.
- Hanson Notice Board - Hanson have agreed to supply and fit a public notice board. Commented that positioning at the Quarry entrance is not a suitable location and requested suggestions and permission for appropriate location.
- Roller Coaster/Zip World – Planning application - Change of use of land for erection of a structure for use by coaster karts, alterations to existing Lamp Room building together with associated works. Decision: The application was approved/permitted at committee on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020.
- Tower Liaison Committee 13<sup>th</sup> January - Report on restoration included that sub soil would be completed by the spring. Restoration of levels to be completed between March and September. Planting of “one season” seed mix to green areas. There has been a full hydrological assessment on site and the formation of three temporary attenuation ponds pending full restoration that will include ten attenuation ponds. 120 tyres have been removed from the site at tip 107 and concrete rail path. NRW reported that there have been four enforcement notices regarding water pollution. Also, there was one notice for non-compliance regarding the removal of tyres. RCT Land Drainage provided answers to the questions I raised regarding overland drainage and road culverts. Answered that there has been a reduction in outflow from the four water courses. Three culverts have been identified as operating under capacity and there will be investment to improve all three. 1. Near Hirwaun A465 roundabout. 2.R/H side of Tower entrance in this financial year and 3. L/H side Tower entrance in the next financial year. There was a contentious debate on the presence of buried tyres. It was stated that all tyres that were to be removed had been removed and the remainder were for legitimate use such as border strengthening. It was disputed at the meeting

that the removal of tyres had been fully addressed and will no doubt be the subject of further representations.

- Result of Resident selection for Penderyn Quarry Liaison Group - The result of the selection of residents' representatives on Penderyn Quarry Liaison Group is that Two nominations were received for three places leaving one vacancy. The two new members of the Group are; Victoria Bond and Anthony Hope. Their contact details will be published on Penderyn Quarry Community Page. We welcome both to the Group and look forward to seeing them, virtually, at the first business meeting to be arranged later in the month. That will leave one vacancy in the residents' group and a method of co-option will be considered at that meeting to fill the remaining vacancy.
- Welsh Government Holding Direction Twyn Y Glog Ridge Reserve Swap Decision - Having assessed the issues associated with the call-in requests and, in the light of the Welsh Government's policy on call-in, I do not consider the issues raised are of more than local importance in this instance. In view of this, I do not consider the application should be called in for determination by the Welsh Ministers and it is now for your Authority to determine the application as it sees fit.

Cllr Jenny Edwards arrived at the meeting at 6.41pm.

- Decision to remove Penderyn Community Centre Grant - I have been contacted with concerns regarding the decision to discontinue paying the grant of around £400 per month to Penderyn Community Centre as follows: - It has been mentioned that the decision was based on information supplied that the Community Centre is now financially sound. I am informed that this is not the case and was only the case in the current financial year because of a £10,000 grant made available by RCT/Welsh Government to combat the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on organisations experiencing a negative impact on income streams. Without this grant the current financial year would be in deficit as would previous years with deficits mentioned ranging between £4,500 and £5,700 per annum. Two other funds were mentioned one that is a dedicated fund (Tower Grant) for the aspiration of a Cafe and another fund that would exhaust within two years at current deficit levels. The timing of the decision is also of some concern as the centre faces' loss of income during the current pandemic hence the support from RCT. Could this decision at least be held in abeyance until a full appraisal can be made of the full impact of the pandemic and a financial assessment of Penderyn Community Centre as it would stand without the temporary grant support from RCT/Welsh Government.

Cllr Colin Woodley asked CBC Thomas if he was aware that the Community Centre had been paying a trustee a payment of £3,000 per year since 2017. CBC Thomas advised that he had not been made aware of this by the Community Centre when they contacted him for assistance. Cllr Colin Woodley also made CBC Thomas aware that the Community Centre had been acting other than in accordance with their governing document from March 2019 until December 2020 as they had been running the Community Centre with only 2 trustees instead of the required 9 trustees.

No further matters were reported to CBC Thomas.

Cllrs Morien Morgan and Colin Woodley thanked CBC's Graham Thomas and Karen Morgan for representing our residents at the recent Tower Liaison meeting.

There was no written report provided by CBC Karen Morgan. There were no matters to report to CBC Morgan.

## **2021/004 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Ceri Woodley and seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos and agreed nem con.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Morien Morgan and seconded by Cllr Ceri Woodley.

### **Matters arising from the previous meeting:**

#### **2021/005 – Repairs to the Old Fire Station**

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on the quote received for the repairs to the Old Fire Station. Cllrs agreed that a grant application would be made to Pen Y Cymoedd to cover the cost. It was also agreed that further quotes would be sought should they be needed for any other grant funding sources.

The current lease was also discussed which is no longer fit for purpose. Cllr Adrian Harford has sourced a solicitor who is willing to draft the new lease free of charge. Cllr Harford disclosed a personal interest in this.

**Action 1** – Executive Officer to continue with this. Cllr Morien Morgan to provide further quote details. Cllr Harford to forward the draft lease to the Executive Officer for discussion at the February meeting.

#### **2021/006– Penderyn Christmas Lights**

The Executive Officer advised that Hanson at Penderyn Quarry have agreed to cover the cost of replacing the existing Christmas lighting in Penderyn. An update was also provided into RCT's requirements on the replacements. **Action 2** – Cllr Debbie Smart to provide an update at next month's meeting in relation to the Tower Fund and the option to purchase additional lighting features.

#### **2021/007 – Penderyn Community Centre Grant**

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on the chain of emails received from Penderyn Community Centre following their grant being terminated. Concerns were raised that these were bordering on being vexatious. It was advised that they had also contacted outside sources in relation to our decision. The Executive Officer advised that it is a matter solely for the Community Council to decide on any grants that are made. The Chair advised that as per our standing orders, any decisions made cannot be reversed for 6 months.

**Action 3** – Cllr Debbie Smart to provide Cllrs with a draft Vexatious Comments policy for Cllrs to review and adopt.

Cllr Debbie Smart reminded Cllrs that the grant was not a permanent payment and that the Community Council needs to ensure that it has the reserves to fully discharge our responsibilities. Concerns were also raised that the role of Development Officer for which the £3,000 per year payment is made was not advertised externally.

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs that the Community Centre split from the Community Council in 2006. The Community Council continued to pay the Caretakers wages until 2013 when the Caretaker retired. At that point the payment converted to a grant which was subject to an annual review. It was also advised that the Community

Centre insisted that they become independent of the Community Council, and again insisted that they wanted to take over the employment of the Caretaker when the Caretaker employed by us retired. It was agreed that there were grant funding options available to the Community Centre via other sources.

**2021/008 – Tunnel at Devonshire Drive, Hirwaun**

Cllr Jenny Edwards advised that this matter had been reported to CBC Karen Morgan.

**2021/009 – Hole in the Road at Richmond Drive, Hirwaun**

Cllr Jenny Edwards told Cllrs that she had been advised that as Richmond Drive is an unadopted road than RCT have no responsibility to repair the road. **Action 4** – Cllr Edwards to refer the matter to Vikki Howells MS.

**2021/010 – Quad Bikes on Arcway**

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs that BBNP has asked their Area Warden to investigate and to respond to us directly on this issue. Cllrs raised further concerns and questions in relation to quad bikes using the arcway which the Executive Officer is to raise with the Area Warden. Finally, it was raised that damage has occurred to the surface of the arcway at both ends which should also be reported to the Area Warden. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to update Cllrs further next month.

**2021/011 – Acts of Kindness at Christmas**

The Executive Officer advised that the Pastor at Ramoth wished to convey his thanks at the donations provided for its Foodbank.

**2021/012 - Planning Applications**

- i) Outline for residential development (18 dwellings) – Land to the rear of 15 & 16 Rhigos Rd, Hirwaun,
- ii) Rear single storey extension, construction of a driveway and raising of roof level by 700mm (retrospective) (additional plans received 20/11/20) (retaining wall calculations and detail received 3/1/21),
- iii) Replace single storey attached garage – 3 Springfield Gardens, Hirwaun

**2021/013 – RCT Local Development Plan – Call for Candidate Sites**

Cllrs discussed this plan with view on taking it forward to suggest candidate sites. It was agreed that as the Community Council does not own the land it would be difficult to put forward sites in Hirwaun that would be suitable and that the Industrial Estate is already designated for use such as cafes, hotels etc. It was agreed that Cllrs comments would be conveyed via the visioning events due to take place with RCT.

**221/014 – Penderyn Quarry Liaison Committee Vacancy**

It was agreed that Cllr Debbie Smart would put herself forward for this vacancy. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to advise the Quarry and CBC Thomas.

## 2021/015 - Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Jenny Edwards updated Cllrs following the recent One Voice Wales Area Committee meeting. Cllr Edwards also suggested running a Spring/St David's Day competition. Cllr Edwards reported that more litter bins were needed for the village. It was discussed that a list of where the bins were needed could be compiled but that RCT would not install them until after the COVID pandemic as they are dealing with essential services only.

Cllr Adrian Harford updating Cllrs on the burning of unknown materials in the village and the public toilets being closed. He advised that he had contacted CBC Morgan in relation to these issues.

Cllr Morien Morgan asked if we could provide an automatic response to the PCSO each month if no report is received. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to respond to PCSO. An update was provided in relation to the Tower Liaison Committee

Cllr Margaret Amos raised concerns received from residents in relation to the post on Penderyn Community Centre's Facebook page about the ducks going missing. It was agreed that if anyone has any concerns, they should report them to the police.

Cllr Amos also reported lights out at Bryn Onnen. **Action 8** – Executive officer to report to RCT.

Cllr Non Thomas raised the issue of face masks and gloves being discarded in the village. **Action 9** – Cllr Richard Jones to design a graphic to add to the Facebook page.

Cllr Colin Woodley referred to the scam emails received by Cllrs recently and advised that the matter had been reported to the PCSO. The Executive Officer updated Cllrs with the PCSO's response.

## 2021/016 – Executive Officer's report

The Executive Officer recited the bills paid for the month which included:

Print Partnership - £4.32

Daisy Communications - £75.04

Siemens - £231.46

PAT testing - £40.00

Consultations:

- Walking and Cycling – RCT online consultation as part of the active travel consultation. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to send the link to Cllrs for their response.

- Your Town, Your Future survey – Audit Wales review on the future of Welsh Towns.

**Action 11** - Executive Officer to send the link to Cllrs for their response.

- Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board – Pharmacy services survey. **Action 12** - Executive Officer to send the link to Cllrs for their response.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

- Wales Audit Office – Advising of the new three year additional audit cycle. – The Executive Officer confirmed that our additional audit would take place in year three with the normal external audit taking place in year's one and two.
- Great British Spring Clean – 28h May to 13th June 2021 – **Action 13**- Executive Officer to add this to the March agenda for discussion based on the COVID regulations at the time.
- Save a Life Cymru - They are encouraging communities across Wales to understand the importance of CPR. It was agreed that Cllr Adrian Harford would be nominated as our Save a Life Champion. **Action 14** – Executive Officer to promote this campaign via the Facebook page and website and to forward the necessary information on to Cllr Harford.
- Welsh Hearts are offering grant of £200 towards the cost of defibrillators to Community Councils. The Executive Officer advised of the full costs involved and Cllrs agreed that additional grant funding would need to be sought to cover the full cost. It was also agreed that there are a number of defibrillators already in place locally with limited options to install more.
- Welsh Government Keep Wales Safe Campaign- Aimed at promoting the use of healthcare services in Wales during the pandemic. **Action 15** - Executive Officer to promote this campaign via the Facebook page.
- NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers Day 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Local councils in Wales are being encouraged to play a leading role in this day to celebrate the frontline staff. Cllrs agreed to take this forward and discussed the format of this as per the advice received. **Action 16** – Executive Officer to take this forward. Cllr Richard Jones to design the graphics for our Facebook page.

Cllr Jenny Edwards left the meeting at 8.45pm.

- Census 2021 – The Executive Officer provided Cllrs with an update on the Census, advising Cllrs that because of COVID restrictions the Census Officers cannot go out into the community to advertise it and to help residents complete the forms as they usually would. This year's Census will be completed online but residents have the option to ring to request a paper form. They are aware that specific groups such as the elderly, low income or blind may have difficulty in completing an online form, or may not be aware of what they need to do to comply. The Census is compulsory with £1,000 fine if it is not completed. Cllrs agreed to assist in advertising the Census requirements.

Cllr Richard Jones left the meeting at 8.50pm.

- Email from resident asking if planters can be installed in Hirwaun like the ones recently installed in Penderyn. Cllrs agreed to consider installing planters in Hirwaun if funding becomes available. **Action 17** – Executive Officer to update the resident.

Other:

- Fruit trees, Penderyn – Groundwork will be planting these alone due to Covid restrictions.

- The Executive Officer provided an update following the recent Clerks meeting with RCT. This included: i) Volunteers being requested or there is an option to redeploy staff to help with Covid Track and Trace, and vaccination services. ii) RCT will be helping us with our compliance with the Local Government Bill which we need to comply with by 2022. iii) Hybrid meetings will be able to take place from April 2021 and RCT will be seeking funding from Welsh Government, which they aim to use to help Town & Community Councils, in addition to themselves to support the delivery of the bill. iv) RCT may want a Community Cllr representative to sit on an equalities committee being set up.

**2021/017 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion**

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.**

Agreed