

# **Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council**

## **Agreed Minutes of Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

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

**Attending:** CBC Graham Thomas,

**Apologies:** Cllr Adrian Harford, Cllr Lynwen Law

### **2021/104- Disclosures of Personal Interest**

Cllr Richard Jones disclosed a prejudicial interest in the proposed Cynon Gateway North project as a landowner and his involvement in the campaign to oppose it.

### **2021/105 - PCSO report**

The PCSO did not provide a report for this month.

Cllrs reported the following issues to the PCSO:

Cllr Non Thomas again raised concerns in relation to children on bikes along High Street.

Cllr Morien Morgan raised concerns regarding the lack of report from the PCSO and asked for an email to be sent. **Action 1** – Email to be sent to the PCSO.

### **2021/106 – County Borough Cllr reports**

CBC Graham Thomas provided the following written report:

- Penderyn Broadband for outlying farms - The current scheme aim was to meet a finance requirement without involving additional payments from the householder or business. This would involve planning by engineers to provide infrastructure to the main population areas and provide the required number of vouchers under the Community Fibre Partnership, matched with Openreach funding to reach the required base line funding without further contributions by residents.
- Dog waste bin at The Red Lion - The first response to this was that the post in the original request was a Western Power post and RCT could not attach a dog bin to this post and the narrow road did not provide a suitable location near to the Red Lion. I have further pursued this request to establish a point to install a post to provide a dog bin in clear view and deter the unacceptable practice of using the Red Lion bins.
- New yellow lines on the approach to the Hirwaun roundabout which are causing damage to cars - I have reported this to the Traffic Engineer who will contact SWTRA to inspect the yellow lines to establish whether they are within regulation and, if not, to renew to comply with regulation.
- Speeding issues on Chapel Road – Following my update last year where I provided a breakdown of the extensive measures that have been taken over the years to address speeding on the A4059 that includes the 40mph zone just to the North of this section to get incoming vehicles from the North to slow before entering the 30mph zone (this includes the red patch painted pre warning). Also, a 30mph limit introduced

from the South to replace the previous 40mph limit and included a 20mph time limited zone passing the school all this fitted with warning signs including electronic flashing signs. You will see from the same email that centre islands with bollards were introduced many years ago (while I was on Mid Glam. County Council), and then some bollards had to be removed due to irresponsible drivers. We have also involved the offices of MP and MS. The issue is now mainly a police matter to enforce the measures that are already in place and the police have been included over the years. I have further copied this to RCT Traffic management albeit it requires police enforcement of current (reduced) speed limits.

- Glass lager bottles smashed on the MUGA, Penderyn - I have informed Streetcare Enforcement and requested suitable signage highlighting this anti-social behaviour and the fines in place for such behaviour. Streetcare have responded that they will visit the site to consider my request. I have also informed the P.C.S.O.
- Trees marked with red paint in the lane behind Bryn Onnen - The National Parks warden has given the following explanation: There was to be a section 106 agreement for funding right of way/footpath improvements in relation to the Enviroparks planning application. A professional tree contractor assessed the route to provide a tree management plan and provide a quote. During the process one tree, a mature Silver Birch, was identified with Honey Fungus and had to be immediately removed. Others appear to be OK. Alternative funding will have to be sought to carry out any recommended tree management plan or other improvements.
- Penderyn Quarry Notice Board update from Penderyn Quarry - It is likely that this could be carried out without the need to make an application to the Local Planning Authority for formal planning permission, although an assessment of the proposal would need to be sought to determine if planning is required. Advertisement consent may be required, depending on the material to be displayed. I have contacted National Parks for further clarification of Advertisement consent. I have further contacted Highways to confirm no objection.
- Penderyn Quarry Liaison Group - Odour continues to be an issue but difficult to pinpoint depending on wind direction and duration means that the situation changes before they can be viewed on site by Environmental Services. Incidents could be reported directly to the Quarry as they occur to try and establish the source. In the past there have been changes to fuel type with incidents reduced but not eliminated. There were also scheduled Roadstone Coating Plant insulation upgrades for May. Additional measures will also be considered as the current investigation (including proactive monitoring) progresses. It has been reported by a resident that water pollution appears in the water course when viewed from the bridge at the entrance to Arcway near the War Memorial, during periods of heavy rainfall. This has been reported to NRW. Ongoing arrangements are being discussed between RCT and the Quarry to re-establish the road cleansing scheme daily with shared responsibility. This is to reduce the amount of dust that is dispersed from the Highway into the air.
- Tower Liaison Committee - 138 tyres placed near the A465 ready for removal. Another 44 near the temporary lagoon to be removed. A question was raised as to what happened to the 180 bales previously removed by Tower with the answer that this question should be addressed to Tower Colliery not TRL who are only overseeing the opencast site. Restoration is coming to the final stage, blending and shaping, taking into account the dualling preparation and to finalise over the next six months. Maximising the land form and gradients together with re-planting to achieve the best results for drainage and water run off. Working with NRW one culvert replaced and one to upgrade within the dualling project. Two either side of the Tower entrance to be upgraded to allow for increased rainfall. There was a discussion on the best use/purpose of an ERC. Some discussion on whether there should be further meetings of a sub group for this purpose and further community involvement. Concerns have been raised as to the time left if we take too long over this and the site is vacated before action is taken. Community fund update to be circulated for further discussion/comment.
- Flooding adjacent to 19 Bryn Onnen - Reply from Corporate Estates that the drainage ditch comes under the lease held by Trustees for the Community Centre. I have contacted Flood Risk Management to explain the lease etc., and asked for advice assistance. Site visit will be held with engineer and myself and Trustee representatives to assess the situation.
- A465 Dualling - Complaints have been received regarding the long delays at peak times when travelling between Hirwaun to Baverstocks and the Cefn Roundabout. I have contacted Future Valley's public relations regarding the practice of leaving cones in place when no work is being carried out sometimes for a number of days. Reply given that this has been passed on to their traffic management teams. The current arrangements are for the safety of workers during preparatory work involving vegetation and site clearance for the main construction work. Further communication leaflets have been distributed by Valleys Construction here are some key extracts. I have been in contact with RCT Traffic Management regarding the need to set up a liaison group involving County Borough Councillors and relevant officers; Community

Councillors; Residents and representatives from Valleys Construction. I have been informed by RCT Traffic Management that a sub group is being organised involving local members to discuss such an arrangement.

The following matters were reported to CBC Thomas:

Cllr Colin Woodley raised further concerns in relation to the lack of broadband for the outlying farms in Penderyn.

Cllr Morien Morgan raised concerns that there was still no decision on how the Tower Environmental Resource Centre would be run. It was agreed that a Special Meeting would be held for Cllrs to discuss further.

Cllr Margaret Amos requested a dog waste bin to be installed by the lane from Llwyn Onn to Woodland Park.

There was no written report provided by CBC Karen Morgan.

The following matters were reported to CBC Morgan:

Cllr Jenny Edwards asked for an update on the repairs to the bridge to the ironworks.

Cllr Colin Woodley asked for a litter bin to be installed at the Hirwaun end of the arcway.

### **2021/107 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were, subject to a minor amendment, proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Colin Woodley and seconded by Cllr Non Thomas and agreed nem con.

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

#### **2021/108– Children on bikes, High St, Hirwaun**

The Executive Officer provided an update on this following contact with both primary schools. Letter from resident raising concerns also discussed by Cllrs. Increased littering behind the library where they congregate was reported and concerns were raised that the PCSO had not responded to our email in this matter. **Action 2** – Executive Officer to contact the Police Inspector to see why the PCSO has not responded to our emails.

#### **2021/109 – Tree Down – Penderyn Road**

The Executive Officer provided a further update in relation to this confirming that the tree stump will not be removed as it is likely to re-grow filling in any gaps.

#### **2021/110 – Cyclists using Cefndon Playing Fields**

The Executive Officer advised that RCT Parks department has been out to fill the ramp in.

### **2021/111 – One Way System - Hirwaun**

The Executive Officer advised that RCT had been chased again but no response has been received. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to ask CBC Karen Morgan for an update.

### **2021/112 – Arcway Sculpture Trail**

The Executive Officer provided an update following contact with BBNP.

### **2021/113 – Cynon Gateway North**

Cllr Richard Jones was placed into the waiting room and Cllr Colin Woodley took over as Chair for this part of the meeting. Cllrs discussed the response from RCT which they were unhappy with. Cllr Colin Woodley proposed that Cllrs Morien Morgan and Non Thomas be nominated to speak at the planning meeting and this was agreed nem con. It was also agreed that a letter would be sent to Welsh Government objecting to the road on environmental grounds. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to ask that our Cllrs be allowed to speak at the planning meeting. Cllr Morien Morgan to draft the letter to Welsh Government.

### **2021/114 – Defibrillators – Hirwaun & Penderyn**

An update was provided on the Penderyn defibrillator with the suggestion from Welsh Hearts to install it in the bus shelter. A site visit is due to be held to assess the suitability of this location.

### **2021/115 – Penderyn Community Centre Grant – Resident Letter**

The Executive Officer confirmed that a response had been sent to the resident in question who had responded that they will now go down the official complaints route. No complaint has been received.

Cllr Ceri Woodley left the meeting at 7.37pm.

### **2021/116 – Coal Dram**

The Executive Officer advised that Tower had been contacted but no response has been received.

### **2021/117 – Wildflowers and Biodiversity in Hirwaun**

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs following a telephone conversation with RCT Streetcare who as confirmed that the pavements are sprayed for weeds in both Hirwaun & Penderyn. RCT is in receipt of a grant to increase biodiversity in RCT and as part of this they are adding biodiversity posts to wildflower areas.

### **2021/118 - Old Fire Station Repairs**

The Executive Officer provided an update on the repair works to the old Fire Station. Cllrs were also advised that the cost of the repairs to the roof came in cheaper than quoted for and Pen Y Cymoedd had confirmed that the underspend can be used to cover the cost of the repairs to the guttering there. As the contractor for the internal electrical works could now not fit the job in a new quote was reviewed and approved by Cllrs.

Cllr Colin Woodley continued by advising that knotweed has been found in the Old Fire Station grounds coming in from the river and an adjacent property. A local licenced contractor has agreed to treat the knotweed on our property free of charge. It was agreed that steps would be taken to consult with the owner of the neighbouring property. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to continue to oversee the repairs to the Old Fire Station in conjunction with Cllr Colin Woodley.

Cllr Ceri Woodley returned to the meeting at 7.45pm.

### **2021/119 - Planning Applications**

- Single storey rear and side extension – 47 Fairview, Hirwaun, CF44 9SA,
- Discharge of conditions 9 Dust Management Plan, Condition 20 Noise Monitoring Scheme, Condition 24 Reptile Mitigation and Protection Strategy, Condition 26 Soil Management Scheme, Condition 32 Site Liaison Committee Meetings scheme relation to planning permission 19/17586/FUL – Hanson Aggregates Penderyn Quarry, Chapel Road, Penderyn, - As there was an issue with access to the planning documents it was agreed that a special meeting would be held to discuss this planning application.
- Proposed garage conversion with first floor extension, proposed two storey rear extension, single storey side extension – 9 Bute Tce, Hirwaun.

### **2021/120 - Community Councillors reports:**

Cllr Colin Woodley thanked Cllrs Jenny Edwards, Margaret Amos and Morien Morgan who carried out the site visit of the arcway with him. He confirmed that for our arcway project we would like to install 7 sculptures, 4 benches, 3 dog waste bins, 5 litter bins, 3 history boards and 1 geological board. It was agreed that two benches could be installed straight away if grant funding becomes available. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to query installation costs for the benches with BBNP and look for grant funding.

Cllr Carol Hindley asked for an update on the adoption of Springfield Gardens as there is a need for dog waste bins there. **Action 7** – Executive officer to ask Vikki Howells MS for an update.

Cllr Jenny Myring reported that there is a vent broken in the wall at The Glancynon. **Action 8** – Cllr Jenny Myring to contact the owner to report.

Cllr Margaret Amos reported an issue with cars turning in the bus lane at Penderyn Primary School. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to report to the PCSO.

Cllr Jenny Edwards provided an update on her position on Beth Winter MP's advisory group. She also advised that the Chair had approved her position as Pen y Cymoedd Ambassador as they request had come in with a short timescale before this meeting.

Cllr Non Thomas advised that she had met with a representative from CADW at the ironworks who has now assessed the stonework and arches as high risk. CADW are

having difficulty in contacting the landowner about this issue. She also advised that she has left a bag for litter to be placed in by the Penyard entrance to the ironworks.

Cllr Richard Jones advised that he had been contacted by a resident with concerns that they had been told that there were no business units available for rent on the industrial estate when there were.

**2021/121 – Welsh Government Race Equality Consultation**

It was agreed that Cllrs would respond to this individually.

**2021/122 – External Audit 2020/21**

The Executive Officer provided an update on this year's audit and advised that due to the increase in workload that the council is unlikely to meet the 30<sup>th</sup> June deadline for approval. Priority will be given so that it can be approved at the July meeting.

Cllr Morien Morgan left the meeting at 8.11pm.

**2021/123 – An update from the Village Improvements Committee**

The subcommittee advised that advice had been received from RCT to hold off on installing the seating area by Hirwaun Primary School until the works to the carpark are complete. The committee recommended to full council that we purchase the benches now using the CIL money and then store the benches until they can be installed. It was also advised that the Greenwood Drive bus shelter is due to be installed in July.

**2021/124 – NHS Day 2021**

Cllrs agreed to promote this event online. Cllr Richard Jones agreed to carry out The Nation's Toast. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to promote the event.

**2021/125 – Refill Hirwaun & Penderyn**

The Executive Officer provided Cllrs with an update in relation to this scheme. It was agreed that Cllr Margaret Amos would act as Refill Champion for Hirwaun & Penderyn. **Action 11** – Cllr Margaret Amos to take this forward.

**2021/126 – Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom**

The Executive Officer provided an update on Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom 2021.

**2021/127 – Kids Seed Bomb event**

Cllrs agreed to run the kids seed bomb event in person this year subject to social distancing guidelines. **Action 12** – Executive Officer to take this forward.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach left the meeting at 8.37pm.

### **2021/128 – Summer Acts of Kindness**

Cllrs discussed the grant funding application for Summer Acts of Kindness. It was agreed that the grant would be sought to provide the Scouts and Guides with a wellbeing session. **Action 13** – Cllr Jenny Edwards to contact the Scouts. Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach to contact the Guides. Executive Officer to make the grant application.

### **2021/129 – Groundwork Wellbeing Project**

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on the final arrangements for the wellbeing walk and bug hotel making event. It was agreed that Cllrs Jenny Edwards and Non Thomas would attend the wellbeing walk, and Cllrs Jenny Edwards and Marguerite Courtney-Solbach would attend the bug hotel making.

### **2021/130 – Executive Officer's report**

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

|                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Print Partnership - £16.15           | Daisy Communications - £76.46 |
| Hirwaun Community Garden Shop - £250 | Siemens - £171.46             |

Consultations:

- Learning lessons from the community-led response to COVID-19 in Wales survey.
- RCT Tourism Strategy.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

- RCT Together – Cynon Neighbourhood Network invite.
- Let's Talk Wildflowers.
- Email from resident about issues in the village such as parking issues, anti-social behaviour and dog mess/littering. Cllrs agreed to add further posters to our Facebook page encouraging residents to take their litter home with them. It was agreed that Cllrs Non Thomas and Jenny Edwards would act as Litter Champions for Hirwaun & Penderyn and that a site visit would be held with RCT in order to determine where additional litter bins are required. It was also agreed that a permission would be sought from RCT to install signage on the lampposts encouraging residents to take their litter home with them and clean up after their dog. Grant funding would be sought to cover the cost of this and a competition run for children to submit drawings encouraging residents to clean up after themselves.

**Action 14** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach returned to the meeting at 9.02pm.

- Letter from resident requesting one way system in Hirwaun.
- Email from resident regarding planting trees on the Ironworks. It was advised that as we don't own the land we could not give permission for this. The resident was

referred onto CBC Karen Morgan who would be aware of the permissions attached to the village green.

- Email from Penderyn resident in relation to the public footpath at Penderyn reservoir. **Action 15** - Executive Officer to refer the matter to CBC Graham Thomas.

Other:

- The Executive Officer confirmed that an assessment had been completed which confirmed that Council could safely meet in the main hall at Hirwaun Village Hall for its Council meetings.
- A request had been made from a Penderyn resident for publicly accessible recycling bins to be installed locally. **Action 16** – Executive Officer to refer the matter to CBC Graham Thomas.
- The Executive Officer updated Cllrs in relation to the entries for The Crucible and the technical difficulties at the magazine end which resulted in our entries for the last 3 months not being included.

#### **2021/131- Staffing Issue**

It was agreed that all staff would have access to sick pay in line with our Staff Sickness Policy.

#### **2021/132 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion**

There were no urgent items to discuss.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.21pm.