

## **Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council**

### **Agreed Minutes of Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

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

**Attending:** CBC Graham Thomas, CBC Karen Morgan

**Apologies:** None received

#### **2022/0016 - Disclosures of Personal Interest**

Cllr Richard Jones declared an interest in the proposed Cynon Gateway North.

#### **2022/017 - PCSO report**

No written report was provided by the PCSO. The Executive Officer advised Cllrs that no response had been received to our request to change the format of the report. CBC Karen Morgan advised that the Police have had a mass IT issue which may have been the cause of our email not being responded to.

Cllr Non Thomas arrived at the meeting at 6.33pm.

#### **2022/018 – County Borough Cllr reports**

CBC Karen Morgan provided the following written report:

- During the recent weekend full road closure of the A465 residents living alongside the road especially in the area of Riverside and Denbeigh Close experienced a lot of noise and light disturbance despite having been informed that there would be no work near houses at night. The disturbance was such that I had to contact the out of hours safety officer to intervene. I then raised the issues with the contractor, asking for improved communication and seeking measures to minimise disruption should there be any future need for night-time work near residential properties. The contractor has sent letters to residents apologising for the disturbance and assuring them that whilst noise levels did not exceed permitted levels, their review of the weekend showed that they could have prevented a lot of the disturbance, they said that lessons had been learnt and would take these into account for any future works in the area. This would include consideration of white noise warning systems, shutting down idling plant, briefing to all operatives regarding conduct during night works and improved communication with residents. Where possible there would be installation of noise attenuation barriers and screening for lighting. I have asked the contractors to provide the permitted noise levels and what the actual levels were that weekend. There were also complaints that the road did not reopen on time i.e. 0600hrs.

Cllr Margaret Amos arrived at the meeting at 6.35pm.

- At the A465 liaison meeting there was a lot of discussion and concern about the plans to close the access/exit at Hirwaun roundabout planned for Easter through to November. Future Valleys and

RCT are looking at whether there are any ways of avoiding this because of the disruption it will cause. Welsh Government monitoring of traffic to assess the potential impact has been delayed so RCT officers stated they will do it instead. I raised concerns again about the safety of children walking to school and asked about the delayed public liaison drop-in sessions for the village. These have now been arranged fortnightly from Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 0900hrs to 1230hrs at St Lleurwgs Church Hall, following feedback from residents about the time not being suitable for people in work I have asked Future Valleys to try and hold some late afternoon/early evening sessions (awaiting reply)

Cllr Adrian Harford arrived at the meeting at 6.36pm.

- I usually do regular walkabouts in the village to pick up issues which need addressing, through discussions with our local neighbourhood police team and other agencies I have decided to formalise these and invite relevant partners to join me. We held our first one on Jan 17<sup>th</sup> at Maescynon and had time to visit Bethel Place, I was joined by staff from Trivallis and our PCSO Carys. We picked up a few estate issues at Maescynon, some I am trying to get sorted now although others will need to be put forward for larger schemes where RCT and Trivallis can work together. The main issue at Bethel Place was rubbish – and there was a lot of it! The bins area at the rear of the maisonettes was in a shocking state. It was a Monday and already bins were full/overflowing with rubbish strewn everywhere including nappies, wipes, cans, bottles, takeaway food containers and lots of dumped furniture. A lot of the litter had come from recycling bags which had not been collected because they are classed as contaminated (e.g. food waste in there). An urgent request was put in to Streetcare to clean the area and enforcement are going to be working with Trivallis to engage with residents to improve the situation. Since the visit enforcement have been monitoring daily and collecting evidence. First offence is a warning, repeat offences £100 fine. I am also discussing the bin storage provision with Trivallis.
- Environmental Resource Centre. Hargreaves now have a project manager to deliver the ERC. In brief, pre-commencement there will be a desk study submitted to RCT, followed by intrusive site investigations. Depending on everything being in place the development phase is hoped to start July 1<sup>st</sup> with an estimate of 6 months to complete. Comments would still be welcome regarding the design of the consented building. Hargreaves stated that they would be going out to tender for contractors and where possible these would be local. There was discussion around the use of the building and the long-term management. Consultation will be undertaken with local community groups and schools to gauge their interest. Long term management now remains with TRL but Hargreaves stated they have had initial discussions with the Coalfield Regeneration Trust. Concerns remain regarding the extent of buried tyres on the site especially in the area of the ERC, there is a specific condition on the planning consent relating to contaminated ground/buried tyres.
- The long-awaited Sec 19 flood report for Hirwaun has been released. In summary the 57-page report states that the primary source of much of the indoor flooding was due to the River Cynon breaching its banks affecting Cae Felin Parc. It also acknowledges that there is no formal flood defence in place for these high-risk properties. Surface water was also a primary source of flooding in the village affecting Penmark Row, Tramway, Station Rd and Rhigos Rd. There was evidence that water may have originated from the Tower Colliery Site which exacerbated flooding at Rhigos Rd. The Residents Flood Action Group will now scrutinise the report and its recommendations and push for actions. It has taken almost 2 years for this report to be published, I do not believe it offers the reassurance residents need.
- Fly tipping reported and collected including a bed base on Swansea Rd and 2 freezers from Rhosilli Close
- We continue to have a problem with Dog mess in the village, I have recently requested enforcement attention and street cleansing for pavements at Denbeigh Court, Station Road and Longfield Court.

- Our new One Stop Shop on Tramway is due to open next Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. I have had initial discussions with the owner about the previous problems experienced with parking there especially in light of the fact we are losing a length of on street parking opposite. Whilst much is obviously out of his control he is keen to avoid problems and will be encouraging any staff working there to use the car park.

Cllr Carol Hindley arrived at the meeting at 6.44pm.

There were no matters to report to CBC Morgan.

CBC Graham Thomas provided the following written report:

- Rhigos Road/Tower entrance culverts update - Significant upgrades to existing culverts at A4061 Rhigos Road, near the Tower Colliery site, will be delivered thanks to Welsh Government Resilient Roads funding. The upcoming work will replace culverts at two positions close together on the A4061, on the section of road between Hirwaun Industrial Estate and A465 roundabouts. The new culverts will be larger structures with multiple pipes beneath the carriageway, complete with new inlet and outlet structures. This will significantly increase each culvert's capacity during periods of heavy rain.
- Follow up on cattle signs for A4059 Penderyn - an additional sign is needed just after entering the RCT boundary travelling southbound. There is also a need to refurbish some of the existing warning signs that have faded over the years. I asked for detail of the signage and images provided that showed a sheep and horse. I reminded that the request was for a sign to indicate cattle. It may be possible to consider the provision of separate cattle warning signs on the approaches to a point where cattle are frequently crossed over the highway.
- Follow up on Bryn Onnen re Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Nappy collection - Crew informed to be more vigilant when in the street from now on and to make sure they log everything down on their tablet.
- Light outside 18 Bryn Onnen not working - Reply a ticket has been raised for column 8.
- Salt bin outside gated entrance to Yr Eithin empty - The salt bin has been filled.
- 3 houses in Dolgynog not cladded as rest of estate - The other three properties we have at Dolgynog were not included on the programme as there was no water entering the properties but also because they are of a different construction type and the external insulation was not required to these homes. As such there are no current plans to fit the External insulation to the remaining properties.
- Request for subsidised later evening bus service for Penderyn - The Council has been able to maintain funding for its remaining supported local bus network but there is no funding available at this time to support the trial of an evening link to Penderyn, even on Saturdays only. As such, it would be necessary to assess the priority of doing so against the services that are currently supported, one of which would need to be withdrawn in order to free up the required funding.
- Sweep new pavement and treat moss of opposite side pavement. A4059 above junction with Chapel Road - Email sent to Streetcare Cleansing requesting mini sweeper for new section. Chemical treatment for moss on opposite pavement.
- Lights at garage area Llwyn Onn only one working of three - Reported to Trivallis for attention
- Dog bin request for entrance to Yr Eithin - It has been requested warning signs to be located at the gated entrance to Yr Eithin indicating the fines that are in place for this offence to act as a deterrent. There is also a request for a dog bin to be located at the entrance. Arrangements will be made to move the one adjacent to 6 Bryn Onnen to the gated entrance of Yr Eithin and for warning signs to be fitted and patrols of the area.
- Tango Swing Llwyn Onn Play Area - I requested a swing for younger children to replace one of the flat swings. A Tango swing option became available that can be fitted and allows for parent and young child to swing together.
- Tower ERC meeting - Debate around the suitability of the design and the reports that there are tyres buried under the site. There will need to be an intrusive investigation of the ground before commencement of work. Looking at around 6 months for the development depending on the

availability of contractors and materials. Questions raised on staffing and continued maintenance of the site. Answer yes to maintenance but not to staffing. Assurances sought that the basics of a Café; Play Area and car parking are incorporated and facilities such as walking routes; Cycling and fishing are considered

- A465 Meeting - Home to school transport delays. Also concerns from parents regarding safety of children when walking to school. Residents of Lawrence Avenue have been complaining for a long time regarding parents parking at school and is a long term issue irrespective of the A465 Dualling. On a weekend work was ceased adjacent to Denbigh Court due to excessive noise also looking at different warning for reversing vehicles at night. Question raised on the installation of noise attenuation barriers. Also, it is important that residents are informed of time and duration of works particularly during night time working. A public relation location is required in the community. Timing of road closures should be planned later in the evening say 9pm. Rhigos Road roundabout as before and no current issues raised. Croesbychan junction mini roundabout to temporarily replace the current junction lay out. Also, footpath connections to be provided under the road.

Cllrs reported the following matters to CBC Thomas:

Cllr Lynwen Law reported that residents had raised concerns on the HOV road closure where traffic was diverted through Penderyn, along with a complaint about the late re-opening of the road. A request was made for a sign showing horse riders crossing the road at Trebanog Tce.

Cllr Colin Woodley stated that there are at least as many cattle as horses on the common, and that the main area of concern is at RCT end and two cattle warning signs are needed – one at the county border and one at the cattle grid. He also advised that there are a large number of potholes on the single track road to Ystradfellte between the A4059 and the cattle grid. He concluded by thanking Hanson for the promise of purchasing an additional Community Council noticeboard for Penderyn and asked that it be of the same design as the existing Community Council noticeboard. CBC Thomas responded that the Community Council would need to decide on the location of this noticeboard. **Action 1** – Cllr Colin Woodley to look for a suitable location for the new noticeboard at the top end of the village.

Cllr Margaret Amos advised that she has received complaints that the dog waste bin at Bryn Onnen has been moved to Yr Eithin. She also advised that there is moss on the pavement at Bryn Onnen and speeding traffic through the village.

Cllr Non Thomas advised that horse rider warning signs are needed from The Lamb Hotel to Heol Las Farm.

Cllr Morien Morgan advised of an issue with dog mess from John's Lane to The Glancynon.

## **2022/019 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were 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:**

### **2022/020 – Bryngelli Industrial Estate planning application**

The Executive Officer advised that Cllr Non Thomas had responded directly.

### **2022/021 – Arcway**

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that he had met with the Chief Executive of BBNP who had promised to look into the lack of response to our emails.

### **2022/022 – Parking Issues in Hirwaun**

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on the email response from the PCSO and RCT into the responsibilities of which organisation to deal with these issues. Cllr Richard Jones advised that he would be carrying out another Considerate Parking campaign under his Accessible News role and it was agreed that Cllr Adrian Harford would assist him on behalf of the Community Council. Cllr Morien Morgan raised concerns that issues such as parking are falling on the Community Council when they are the responsibility of the Police to enforce. **Action 2** – Executive Officer to contact the Police again.

### **2022/023 – Household Waste/Rubbish in Hirwaun**

The Executive Officer advised that an email has been sent to RCT highlighting this issue, and an update has been added to our Facebook page, and in the Crucible.

### **2022/024 – CIL Spend**

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs following the Village Improvements meeting where it was agreed that a seating area would be installed by Hirwaun Primary School using the CIL spend. It has also been agreed that the cost of installing a bus shelter at Rhigos Road would also be considered.

### **2022/025 – Valuation of Community Council owned properties**

The cost of the surveyor to value the Old Fire Station was agreed by full council. The Executive Officer advised that the Village Hall Trustees had agreed to pay the valuations costs for the hall in this instance only. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to continue with this in conjunction with Cllr Colin Woodley.

### **2022/026 – Lease for the Old Fire Station**

The Executive Officer provided an update on the process of updating the lease for the Old Fire Station. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to continue with this in conjunction with Cllr Colin Woodley.

### **2022/027 - Planning Applications**

None received.

### **2022/028 - Community Councillors reports:**

Cllr Colin Woodley updated Cllrs on the Gigabit project advising that Broadway Partners were happy with our draft letter which they are now translating. The bilingual letter will then be sent to eligible residents asking for expressions of interest.

Cllr Ceri Woodley and Jenny Edwards advised that they had attended Fire Safety and Health & Safety Awareness training at Hirwaun Village Hall.

Cllr Lynwen Law informed Cllrs that there is a defibrillator at Penderyn Community Centre. She also advised that she hasn't been invited to the HOV Liaison meeting as Penderyn representative and asked that she be added to the invite list.

Cllr Morien Morgan raised concerns that the HOV permanent presence in the village has not happened as promised. The session planned does not allow people who work during the week to attend. He asked that we request a public meeting be held with the senior management team in attendance so that residents can raise their concerns in a public forum. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to contact Future Valleys Construction to request a public meeting.

Cllr Jenny Myring provided Cllrs with an update from the One Voice Wales Area Committee meeting.

Cllr Non Thomas provided Cllrs with an update on the planned Heads of the Valleys (HOV) road closures. She also advised that a new dog waste bin had been installed on Swansea Road at the Cefndon playing fields.

Cllr Adrian Harford advised Cllrs that there have been issues with speeding at Manchester Place/Meadow Lane and that he has referred the matter to the PCSO but had received no response. He advised that as we had not been able to secure a place to install a defibrillator at the top end of Penderyn the charity who were funding it have allocated it elsewhere. He advised that Pen y Cymoedd are now major funders for defibrillators in our area and asked Cllrs to get together to devise a plan to go forward.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach advised that her research into visually impaired options to take forward for our Sight Loss status was ongoing.

Cllr Carol Hindley advised that there are ongoing speeding issues on Swansea Road from the A465 and a public meeting is definitely needed.

### **2022/029 – Climate Emergency**

Cllr Morien Morgan lead the discussion on the Community Council declaring a climate emergency following the recent sub committee meeting.

Cllr Richard Jones left the meeting at 8.01pm and Cllr Colin Woodley took over the role of Chair.

Cllrs agreed to the wording of the climate emergency declaration. Cllrs discussed how to encourage residents to join forces with us to form an action group, along with plans to hold a climate assembly at Hirwaun Village Hall.

Cllr Richard Jones returned to the meeting at 8.04pm.

Cllrs continued to discuss the way forward to include encouraging local businesses to become involved and how to link them in with our event. The sub committee agreed to meet again in a month to take this forward.

### **2022/030 – Executive Officer Finance Qualification**

Cllrs agreed that the Community Council would fund the cost of the Executive Officers Financial Introduction to Local Council Administration (FILCA) qualification. This was proposed by Cllr Colin Woodley, seconded by Cllr Non Thomas and agreed nem con. The Executive Officer advised that we could apply for a bursary towards the cost of the qualification. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to register for the qualification.

### **2022/031 – Executive Officer’s report**

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

Print Partnership - £4.32                      Daisy Communications - £69.78  
Centregreat - £4,569.60

Consultations:

1. RCT Revised Local Development Plan.
2. RCT Budget consultation.
3. RCT LNP – Action for Nature consultation.
4. Welsh Water Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 – pre-consultation.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. Audit Wales – Fee Scheme 2022-23.
2. Welsh Government Section 137 expenditure limit for 2022-23.
3. Vision ICT – update on the new fees being introduced for the email account.
4. Email from Vikki Howells – confirmation that Denbeigh Court has now been adopted by RCT.
5. Pugh’s Computers – Experts in Modern Workplace solutions – It was agreed to set up a sub committee to assess our requirements for hybrid meetings. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to add this to the March meeting for further discussion.
6. One Voice Wales - Information on Swifts – The Executive Officer advised that she had contacted OVW to ask if they have any nesting boxes that we can have.
7. One Voice Wales – Report on Section 47 multi location meetings.

Other:

1. Pensions Regulator – The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on the Community Council’s requirement to carry out a review of the staff pension scheme for auto enrolment, and the submission of the declaration to confirm this has been completed.

2. SLCC'S Practitioner's Conference –The Executive Officer sought approval to attend this and advised that we may be able to get a bursary towards the cost. Cllrs approved the cost of this conference for the Executive Officer.
3. The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on the grants that had recently been applied for. These included the Neighbourhood Network fund for planters for the welcome signs of which we were unsuccessful. And the Local Nature Partnership for wildlife habitat boxes for our residents to be run via a competition. We are currently awaiting the outcome of this application.
4. Centregreat bill - The Executive Officer advised that an additional charge had been made to our annual Christmas lighting bill for converting the four lighting columns at the war memorial to allow us to install Christmas lights there. The Executive Officer advised that she had contacted Hanson to see if they would consider covering this cost as they had provided the funds to purchase the new Christmas lighting for Penderyn. The Executive Officer also advised of an issue with Centregreat not filling in a form required by Western Power despite being chased to do it. Cllrs agreed to withhold the cheque for this year's invoice until all of the work has been completed by Centregreat. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to continue with this.
5. The Executive Officer enquired about starting to plan this year's Garden Show. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to add this to the March agenda for discussion.
6. The Executive Officer advised that she will need the numbers for the Easter eggs for schools, plus any dietary requirements. **Action 10** - Cllr Margaret Amos to obtain the numbers.
7. The Executive Officer provided Cllrs with an update on seed bombing the fire station's roof. She advised that this was a project agreed by Cllrs in 2019 which was delayed due to planned maintenance works at the fire station and then COVID. The Executive Officer advised that she will update further in due course.

#### **2022/032 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion**

There were no further items to discuss.

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.43pm.**