

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 10th March 2022

Present: Cllr Richard Jones (Chair), Cllr Colin Woodley (Vice Chair), Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Cllr Non Thomas, Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Adrian Harford, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Jenny Edwards, Cllr Debbie Smart

Attending: CBC Graham Thomas,

Apologies: Cllr Lynwen Law, Cllr Carol Hindley, Cllr Jenny Myring, CBC Karen Morgan

2022/033 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

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

2022/034 - PCSO report

The following written report was provided by the PCSO:
Penderyn – Incidents of off road bike annoyance, theft of electric fencing and found stripped cables.

Hirwaun – Two incidents of anti social behaviour, 1 public order offence, 1 suspicious vehicle, 1 suspicious drone, 1 theft of a vehicle, 2 scam frauds, 2 criminal damages, 1 burglary, 1 damage to a vehicle and 1 assault.

There was nothing to report to the PCSO.

Action 1 – Executive Officer to ask the Police Inspector for a meeting.

2022/035 – County Borough Cllr reports

In her absence, CBC Karen Morgan provided the following written report:

- A465 update. The closure of Brecon Rd access from the roundabout has been confirmed as Easter until at least November, Future Valleys have said pedestrian access will be maintained but may need re-routing, one possibility is the Tramroad, I expressed concerns about this because it has been previously deemed as an unsafe walking route for school children. The closure of the A4509 at Trewaun will be during the school summer holidays, access will be maintained for residents. A great deal of work needs to be done before Easter to manage the impact on public transport, school transport and residents. I have supplied information to RCT about local traffic flow, pinch points etc to assist with the traffic monitoring exercise which will be undertaken to assess the impact of the closure on the village. During the recent stormy weather there was flooding on the A4509 from the site compound opposite Trewaun and potholes which caused damage to vehicles, I reported this, a flood management officer contacted the site and a temporary repair was done by RCT Highways. This stretch of road is now under the control of Future Valleys and they have done further repairs. Also raised concerns about the condition of the A465 between Hirwaun and Rhigos roundabouts and from Hirwaun to Baverstocks. Future Valleys planned to use the overnight closures to undertake resurfacing/repairs. Have received a complaint about A465

contractors using the road at the Welfare Ground as a rat run and speeding along it which I am taking up with FVC.

- The large pothole on Tramway/Cynon Terrace has been repaired. I have also requested inspection and clearance of drains and gullies in the same area.
- Reported the deterioration of the road surface at Harris St. A works ticket has been issued for resurfacing of one side of the road (no date yet) and a Category 2 ticket for the damaged areas (should be fixed in 28 days)
- I am in further discussions with the council regeneration team and the Finance Director regarding a proactive approach needed in view of the potential impact of the dualling of the A465 and the support needed for local businesses who are refurbishing properties but still expected to pay full business rates.
- Recent walkabout with PCSO where we walked the centre of the village and visited the YMCA. The PCSO moved on vehicles parked on double yellow lines on the High Street and gave directions to the free car park. Also made note of areas where cars are parking on pavements causing obstructions to pedestrians. Various streetcare issues have been reported to RCT.
- Defibrillators – I am making arrangements for the one at the school to be placed outside Hirwaun YMCA for 24/7 access with the YMCA being the guardian. Hope to make progress with siting another 24/7 one outside Hirwaun Fire Station after a generous offer of financial support towards it from a local business man. Will also be requesting an update from Pen-y-Cymoedd. Have discussed this with Cllr Hartford.
- Waste collection. Bethel Place continues to be a problem with large amounts of contaminated recycling, enforcement have been visiting daily and collecting evidence. First step is a warning, 2nd occurrence is a fine. There was some confusion in the village after the postponed collections due to Storm Eunice when RCT decided to collect some on Friday and others Saturday, some areas still haven't been collected, but have been reported.
- Reported safety concerns about overhead lines on the mineral line where large tree branches are resting on the lines at some points since Storm Eunice
- Provided Executive Officer with details for contacts for interested parties regarding Rhigos Rd bus shelter as requested.
- Took the opportunity at the March full council meeting when discussing the capital programme funding to highlight our unadopted streets where roads and pavements are in a shocking condition and have no street lighting despite paying full council tax for many years, suggested that traffic management needed increased investment to be creative about finding solutions to the road safety concerns across the county borough and asked that the playground funding would be used to improve those which need total refurbishment such as The Cefndon
- It was my great pleasure to take collection of a large quantity of knitted items from the ladies of Hirwaun Library Knit'n Natter which I will be delivering to Older Peoples Mental Health Services on their behalf.

The following matters were reported to CBC Morgan:

Cllr Jenny Edwards reported a potential issue of water damage to properties adjacent to Devonshire Drive where a drainage channel has been built by a homeowner.

CBC Graham Thomas provided the following written report:

- Follow up on Cattle signs for A4059 at boundary of RCT/Powys. I communicated the view from the community council that there are as many cattle as horses on the common within RCT from the cattle grid just to the north of Penderyn heading north to the boundary between RCT and Powys. With regard to location, signs located with one just before the cattle grid for drivers leaving the Penderyn area and one at the boundary for incoming drivers from the Powys side would be the best locations". I requested signage indicating the presence of grazing cattle be included in the

proposal for the next financial year. Traffic Management confirmed that signage will be included in next years' capital programme.

- Follow up on signs for riders and horses on A4059 above Trebanog Terrace, plus request signs for horses and riders on A4059 for vehicles approaching 40mph limit from the north to the Lamb to Heol Las Farm area. Reply from Senior Engineer Traffic Management: Once the scheme has been allocated to an appropriate officer to take forward in the new financial year, you will be updated on progress.
- Pot Holes along single track from the Ystradfellte finger post north of Penderyn to the cattle grid in the direction of Ystradfellte. Reply from Highways Inspector: " I have made out a works ticket for these to get repaired".
- Chemical treat moss on pavement from 1 to 6 Bryn Onnen. Request to Streetcare that the pavement between 1 and 6 Bryn Onnen; Penderyn be treated for moss and cleaned as the surface (particularly on the gradient) becomes slippery in wet weather. Reply from Streetcare: "take a look at this with the road sweeper please, the jet wash vehicle is still in the garage being repaired".
- During A465 road closures Cwm Cadlan is still used as a rat run and also the road does not re-open on time at 6am. Email to Future Valleys Construction. When there are overnight road closures the road does not always re-open on time at 6am. When the road is closed overnight traffic travelling back to the Cefn roundabout are still using Cwm Cadlan as a short cut instead of continuing on the Brecon Road to the Llwyn Onn reservoir junction and following the Hirwaun sign. Also reported at the A465 Liaison meeting. Reply that apart from road closure it depends on motorists following the signs that are in place. Acknowledged that the road did not open at 6am on one occasion and this will be avoided.
- Update on the proposed RCT Cynon Valley Gateway scheme - This went to Planning Committee this afternoon. Debate on the benefits and dis benefits of the scheme. Comments opposing were made e.g. on the environmental concerns e.g. carbon footprint/Climate change; pollution/Co2 emissions; Loss of biodiversity/trees etc; Comments supporting were made e.g. on economic regeneration and employment opportunities; reducing Co2 emissions with less congestion; traffic relief to the LLwydcoed and Penywaun areas. I spoke in support of the application. Vote was taken with majority to be "minded to approve". This was because there is a Welsh Government Directive in place that would allow Welsh Government to determine the application if they so choose. Separate from the planning considerations would be the Welsh Government decision to part fund the project or not.
- Update on Notice Board offer from Penderyn Quarry for Lamb area. Community Council will look at location. Email sent to Penderyn Quarry requesting update. Reply from Penderyn Quarry. I offered to install a notice board similar to the one we erected last year. Once it arrives we will take advice on where it needs to be sited and arrange for it to be installed. Question who commissioned the last one?
- Continued problem with traffic speeding on A4059 through Penderyn. Email sent to PCSO reporting the matter. Reply from PCSO: We do not have any recent speed surveys for Chapel Rd, Penderyn, as our annual GoSafe site surveys have not taken place during the pandemic, due to abnormal traffic flows. I have requested a survey be carried out in the next 6 months so that we can return to annually assessing our site speed data. I do have the results from October 2021 to February 2022 and on 19 time periods the Go Safe van was located on A4059 there were 114 vehicles exceeding the speed limit. The times of the offences were on different days of the week between the hours of 0800 – 2100hrs, this included weekdays and weekends. The worst days being Mondays and Wednesdays. It was a very comprehensive report of which I have picked the relevant data.
- Tower Discharge of condition to Planning Consent ERC re Contamination Report. Public consultation is presently being carried out. I have contacted the case officer as follows :- Following on from our telephone conversation this afternoon, the main point of consideration/local concern would be around the contamination report and whether this included any reference to the presence of buried tyres. This has been a long running issue for a number of years with the involvement of NRW and frequent references during site Liaison Committee meetings including recent specific meetings regarding the Environmental Resource Centre. There

is strong opinion that there are tyres buried under/around the proposed site for construction of the ERC and further that they have been buried without the required authorisation/license from NRW or meeting any specific requirements to address leakage and contamination. Could you confirm that this aspect is addressed within the report and provide the required detail on the matter. Also are Public Health aware of this aspect and are NRW involved in providing their view with regard to discharge of this particular condition. Reply from Case Officer I have referred your e-mail, and the highlighted the points that you have raised, regarding the reports of tyres having been buried at the site, to the Council's Public Health & Protection Section. I have asked them to bear this matter in mind when assessing the reports. I can also confirm that NRW have been consulted on the application and offered the opportunity to comment on the submissions.

Cllrs reported the following matters to CBC Thomas:

Cllr Colin Woodley thanks CBC Thomas for his work on the cattle signs on the common, and the potholes on the road to Ystradfellte. He advised that we need a noticeboard to match our current ones, rather than the smaller notice board on the arcway due to the space requirements of our minutes. **Action 2** – Executive Officer to forward the details of our current noticeboard on to CBC Thomas.

Cllr Margaret Amos reported that the dog waste bin at 55 Llwyn Onn had been left open and unlocked, and requested that the dog waste bin be put back outside 6 Bryn Onnen.

2022/036 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 10th February 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:

2022/037 – New Penderyn Noticeboard

Cllr Colin Woodley suggested that the new noticeboard could either be installed outside of the market area, or opposite the Rectory, subject to approval from RCT and possible adjustments to the pavement.

2022/038 – Parking Issues in Hirwaun/PCSO

The Executive Officer provided Cllrs with an update from the PCSO in relation to these issues. Cllr Adrian Harford advised Cllrs of staffing issues with the Police in Hirwaun at the moment. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to ask RCT and the Police Inspector for regular reports on parking fines issued in Hirwaun.

2022/039 – Arcway

Cllr Colin Woodley advised Cllrs that he had recently met with Ystradfellte Community Council and the Chief Executive of Brecon Beacons National Park who assured him that an update would be received in respect of the lack of response to our emails.

2022/040 – Valuation of Community Council owned properties

Cllr Colin Woodley updated Cllrs on the recent valuation of Community Council owned properties. It was agreed to keep the existing estimates for this year and re-value the buildings next year.

2022/041 – Public Meeting - Future Valleys Construction

The Executive Officer advised that Future Valleys Construction had refused the request for a public meeting to be held as they will be carrying out regular drop in sessions at different times to accommodate those who work. **Action 4** – Cllr Non Thomas to raise this issue at the next liaison meeting.

2022/042 – FILCA Qualification

The Executive Officer confirmed that she had been registered for this.

2022/043 – Centregreat Bill

The Executive Officer confirmed that Centregreat had now met all of their requirements in respect of the paperwork for the Christmas lighting.

2022/044 – Easter Eggs for Schools

Cllr Margaret Amos confirmed the numbers required.

2022/045 - Planning Applications

- Proposed front link extension and garage conversion – 1 Oakbrook Drive, Hirwaun

2022/046 - Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Non Thomas provided an update following the Cynon Gateway planning meeting in which she spoke on behalf of the Community Council and advised that the application was passed despite our objections. She also provided an update following the liaison meeting with Future Valleys Construction for the HOV dualling.

Cllr Jenny Edwards provided an update following her attendance at the drop in session with Future Valleys Construction.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach provided an update on the HOV dualling and Future Valleys Construction.

Cllr Adrian Harford provided an update on his work to install defibrillators in Hirwaun and Penderyn. He also advised that he is currently liaising with CBC Karen Morgan and the PCSO in relation to Manchester Place/Meadow Lane being used as a rat run, and provided an update on the 20 mph speed limit due to be imposed along with the traffic surveys that are due to take place.

2022/047 – Community Council Insurance Policy

Cllrs agreed to renew the insurance policy with the current provider.

2022/048 – Review of Community Council Policies

Cllrs reviewed the following policies and agreed that there would be no amendment to them:

- Social Media Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Relationships Between Councillors and Council Employees Policy
- Policy and Procedure on Capability
- Retention and Disposal Policy
- Data Protection and the Council and Councillors
- Information and Data Protection Policy
- Removable Media Policy.

Cllrs agreed that the following policy needed a full review and amendment to bring it in line with current guidelines:

- Absence through Sickness Procedure **Action 5** – Cllrs Jenny Edwards and Adrian Harford to form a sub committee to review this policy.

2022/049 – Draft Lease for The Old Fire Station

The Executive Officer confirmed that this is ongoing and that it would need to be added to the April agenda for discussion. **Action 6** – Executive Officer and Cllr Colin Woodley to continue with this.

2022/050 – RCT's request for a change in Payment Method for the Staff Pension Scheme

Cllrs discussed RCT's request to change the payment method for the pension scheme. It was proposed by Cllr Colin Woodley and seconded by Cllr Non Thomas that the payment method be changed and that the Financial Standing orders would be reviewed and amended after the election to take this change into account. This was agreed nem con. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to deal with this.

2022/051 – One Voice Wales Membership

Cllr Non Thomas proposed that the Community Council renews it's membership of One Voice Wales, and this was seconded by Cllr Ceri Woodley and agreed nem con.

2022/052 – Hybrid Meetings

It was agreed that Cllrs Colin Woodley, Richard Jones and Ceri Woodley would form a sub committee to discuss the equipment needed to enable us to hold hybrid meetings. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to set up meeting.

2022/053 – Relief Caretaker Vacancy at Hirwaun Village Hall

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs following the resignation of the Relief Caretaker. Cllrs agreed on how to advertise the role. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to advertise this vacancy.

2022/054 – Publication of Cllrs Home Addresses

The Executive Officer advised that there is no longer a requirement to publish Cllrs home addresses. Cllr Ceri Woodley proposed that Cllrs home addresses no longer be published. This was seconded by Cllr Jenny Edwards and agreed by a majority vote.

Action 10 – Executive Officer to remove the addresses from the website and noticeboards.

2022/055 – Garden Show 2022

The Executive Officer provided an update on the organising of this year's Garden Show.

Action 11 – Executive Officer to book in the judges. Sub committee to be set up after the election to take this forward.

2022/056 – Executive Officer's report

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

Daisy Communications - £69.78 Siemens - £171.46

Consultations: None received.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. One Voice Wales newsletter.
2. Great British Spring Clean – Cllrs agreed to carry out a litter pick in Hirwaun as part of the Spring Clean. **Action 12** – Executive Officer to take this forward in conjunction with Cllrs Jenny Edwards, Adrian Harford, Marguerite Courtney-Solbach and Richard Jones.
3. Phone/broadband costs set to increase from 1st April.

Other:

1. Annual report – The Executive Officer advised of the requirement for the Community Council to publish an annual report. **Action 13** – Cllrs Colin Woodley Richard Jones, Non Thomas and Marguerite Courtney-Solbach to form a sub committee to take this forward.
2. Litter signage competition – Cllrs agreed to put this on hold until after the election.
3. Wildlife habitat box competition – The Executive Officer provided Cllrs with an update on this competition. Cllrs agreed on which organisations to donate any unallocated prizes. **Action 14** – Executive Officer to continue with this. Cllrs Non Thomas and Marguerite Courtney-Solbach to help deliver any prizes that are being donated to community groups.
4. Benches by Hirwaun Primary –An update was provided on this project. Cllr Non Thomas agreed to help with the planting for the planter.
5. Penderyn Village Group coffee morning– Cllrs have been invited to attend.
6. Queen's Jubilee – Cllrs agreed that they would not be arranging a jubilee celebration.

2022/057 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

Cllr Richard Jones proposed that the Community Council should issue a social media statement, and temporarily amend our logo, to offer solidarity to Ukraine. Cllr Jenny Edwards wished to abstain from voting. The remaining Cllrs agreed to this proposal.

Action 15 – Cllr Richard Jones to prepare the statement and graphic for publication by the Executive Officer.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.59pm.

Agreed