

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 14th April 2022

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

Attending: CBC Graham Thomas, Lee Adams Environmenta Director, Rob Shaw Third Revolution

Apologies: Cllr Carol Hindley, Cllr Adrian Harford,

2022/058 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

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

2022/059 – Proposed Bryngolwg Solar Farm

Cllr Richard Jones welcomed Lee Adams and Rob Shaw to the meeting.

Lee Adams provided Cllrs with an update how the proposed solar farm site would be set up and run, which was followed by a presentation on the location of the proposed solar farm by Rob Shaw.

Cllrs raised queries in relation to the suitability of the land for other uses, along with the use of solar panels on buildings rather than land. They were advised that the land proposed for use as the solar farm cannot be used for growing crops and there is a need to switch to rooftop plus ground solar to enable the switch to renewable energy due to National Grid storage issues.

It was confirmed that there is no intention to bring traffic through local villages to the site and that they will use the existing access off the main roads with construction taking place from September to December. It was also confirmed that the traffic from these works will not add to the existing Heads of the Valleys dualling traffic issues.

2022/060 - PCSO report

The PCSO did not provide a written report. There was nothing to report to the PCSO.

2022/061 – County Borough Cllr reports

CBC Karen Morgan did not provide a written report in her absence. There was nothing to report to CBC Morgan.

Cllr Richard Jones thanked CBC Graham Thomas for his commitment and hard work over the last 40 years.

CBC Graham Thomas provided the following written report:

- Update progress for signage. Email sent to Traffic Management for an update: I have a meeting with Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council in April are you able to confirm that the funding has been allocated for the horse signs in Penderyn and also the inclusion of cattle for the A4059 north of Penderyn so that I can update the community council at their meeting. Reply from Traffic Management: - Hello Councillor Thomas; A meeting to discuss the works programme for 2022-23 will be held in the near future. I will let you know as soon as information is available to me.
- Notice Board at the Lamb. The one at the Arcway entrance is too small for the Community Council minutes and needs to be the same size as the one at the community centre. Quarry to Commission H&PCC to send me details of theirs. Email sent to Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council - At the last meeting we discussed the specifications for the notice board as at the community centre in relation to Penderyn Quarry providing the same and for the community council to send me the details. Could you forward them to me so that I can share the details with Penderyn Quarry in relation to providing the same board in the Lamb area. After receiving further details from the community council, I made the details available to Penderyn Quarry management.
- Can dog bin be moved back to 6 Bryn Onnen. This location would be only around 20 metres from the existing location and unlikely to be approved so I have requested an additional bin at the exit to the footpath between Woodland Park and Llwyn Onn, at the Llwyn Onn end and just across the road from the original location. I have received a reply that this would be considered with the next delivery of bins.
- Clearance of litter and fly tipping from the drainage ditches at the Ty Newydd lay by; off the A4059. Penderyn. Reported to Streetcare and the litter and fly tipping was removed.
- Tower Liaison Committee March 21st 2022. Discussion on the Community Fund took place with a representative for the fund. Criticism of the decision to drop the amount paid into the fund from 49p per tonne to 10p per tonne. Explanation given that the price of coal had collapsed and that it became no longer viable to pay the original amount per tonne into the fund. Further that TRL was under no legal or planning obligation to make any further payments but still decided to make a reduced payment at 10p per tonne. This was contested and comment made that the payments were part of a S106 agreement. TRL replied that the payments were not part of a Section 106 agreement and was voluntary on the part of TRL. As many of the questions required research to answer in detail it was stated that such questions be put in writing to the Community Fund representative to obtain written answers. A progress report was made that the site had been in the "care and maintenance" mode and it was hoped that the restoration and drainage crew would be back on site around April 4th, subject to weather conditions. This would allow drainage ditches to be finished that were incompletable from last year. RCT have ongoing culvert works to the two culverts at the site entrance. A presentation with slides followed outlining where tyres had been removed following previous complaints made at the Liaison Committee. The remaining tyres at the temporary lagoon would be removed when the lagoon is dismantled. In answer to a question as to how many tyres had been removed, it was stated that 130.37 tonnes of tyres had been removed from the site to a licensed tip and verifiable through transfer notes. A discussion followed involving disagreement on whether all buried tyres that required disposal had been retrieved and removed from the site. Final restoration was anticipated by the end of Summer.
- Delayed re-opening of A465/Croesbychan junction. Croesbychan junction had been closed for a number of weeks and residents believed it was due to re-open at 5am on Monday 11th April. It was then advertised that it would re-open at 5am on Wednesday 13th April and this did not take place. Following my telephone call on Wednesday afternoon, after being contacted by a resident, I contacted the A465 Team and the road re-opened around 4.15 pm on Wednesday

13th April. I followed this up with an email to outline the concerns of residents regarding perceived/poor communication and public relations, in that detail of such matters, that involved delay or change of plan, should be made available to those in the locality and generally on the website for other road users.

- A465 Dualling Liaison Meeting. It was reported that Aberdare Road; Cwmdare to Hirwaun had become highly congested after the road closures to Croesbychan Cwymynsminton Road. Comment was made of the need to review the current layout of Hirwaun Roundabout while work is ongoing as the current situation could be confusing with regard to traffic management. Question raised " a current contractor has gone into receivership; will replacements focus on employing local labour?" Answer that it is too early to respond to that question. Will this affect the timescale of this road? Answer do not think so but too early to say. Project Update. Baverstocks. Earthworks and drainage at Baverstocks North. Trial Holes to DCWW water mains. Croesbychan. Enabling works for temporary road. Construction of Croes bychan roundabout. Install roundabout and work to Keepers Lane. Rhigos; Work to Eastbound Slip Road. Hirwaun: Trewaun West bridge preparations for the bridge beam installation; Trewaun east base wall complete. Presentation of diversion of traffic to Rhigos Roundabout when closure of Brecon Road takes place; Question raised as to whether the traffic monitoring exercise has been undertaken. Answer not as yet but should start the 7-day count by the end of this week (week ending April 1st) and have data prior to the closure of Brecon Road. Community Engagement; generally good participation; may need to look at some time adjustments for those who wish to attend after work. Request from Hirwaun & Penderyn Council to arrange a public meeting; this would be looked at after the Council Elections. Date of next meeting: to be called after the Council Elections.

Cllrs reported the following matters to CBC Thomas:

Cllr Jenny Edwards reported an issue with the pathway from the Church to Yr Eithin where the path is churned up/blocked off due to the works being carried out there.

Cllr Colin Woodley reported that the gatepost on the cattle grid on Ystradfellte Road has rotted away and is in danger of collapse.

Cllr Margaret Amos reported that the right of way at the rear of Brynonnen has become churned up by the cattle there, and that the styre has also been removed and a scaffolding fence put there.

Cllr Lynwen Law reported that 6 bags of garden waste have been dumped in the layby at the Ty Newydd.

2022/062 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 10th March 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:

2022/063 – Meeting with Police Inspector

Cllr Richard Jones advised that he had instructed the Executive Officer not to contact the Police Inspector due to Purdah and asked that it be dealt with by the next council.

2022/064 – Parking Issues in Hirwaun/PCSO

The Executive Officer confirmed that an email had been sent to RCT to ask them for a regular report on parking fines issued in Hirwaun.

2022/065 – HOV Public Meeting

Cllr Non Thomas confirmed that Future Valleys have confirmed that our request for a public meeting will be discussed again at the next meeting.

2022/066 – Old Fire Station Lease

The Executive Officer confirmed that this is ongoing. **Action 1** – Executive Officer to update Cllrs next month.

2022/067 – Payment Method of Staff Pension Scheme

The Executive Officer confirmed that this has been amended.

2022/068 – Hybrid Meetings

Cllr Colin Woodley provided Cllrs with an update on the requirements needed to hold hybrid meetings.

2022/069 – Publication of Cllrs Home Addresses

The Executive Officer confirmed that these have now been removed from the website and noticeboards as per the current regulations.

2022/070 – Garden Show

The Executive Officer to continue with this.

2022/071 – Great British Spring Clean

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on the success of this event.

2022/072 - Annual Report

The Executive Officer advised that the sub committee meeting for this could not go ahead due to lack of attendees. **Action 2** – New committee to be set up after the election.

2022/073 – Wildlife Habitat Competition

The Executive Officer provided Cllrs with an update on this competition.

2022/074 – HPCC Logo/Ukraine

Cllrs agreed that our amended logo would remain in place for six months before further discussion as per our standing orders.

2022/075 - Planning Applications

1. Demolition of existing glass conservatory to rear garden elevation and replacement with an extension consisting of a garden room and external covered area – 7 Redhill Close, Hirwaun – No comment
2. Replacement single storey rear extension – 19 Crawshay St, Hirwaun. – No comment

3. Pre-application consultation – Proposed Solar Farm on Land at Bryngolwg Farm, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun. **Action 3** – Cllrs to respond individually to this pre application consultation.

2022/076 - Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Colin Woodley updated Cllrs on the Gigabit project and advised that we need more people to register for the project to go ahead. It was agreed to promote this via a Facebook graphic, poster and in The Crucible. **Action 4** – Cllr Richard Jones to design the graphics. Executive Officer to circulate.

Cllr Jenny Edwards confirmed that she had attended the Pen Y Cymoedd Climate & Environment workshop, along with the Naturewise webinar and the Community Council litter pick.

Cllr Non Thomas provided Cllrs with an update on the HOV dualling following the recent Community Liaison meeting.

Cllr Debbie Smart advised Cllrs that Penderyn Community Centre had changed its charitable status. She also advised that residents had raised concerns about the new ward changing to include two County Borough Cllrs and had asked which Cllr should be contacted. Cllr Richard Jones declared an interest at this point due to being a candidate. He advised that who a resident contact doesn't matter as they represent the whole ward.

2022/077 – Community Council Bank Account

It was agreed that in addition to Cllr Colin Woodley, Cllrs Debbie Smart, Jenny Edwards and Non Thomas would act as signatories on the Community Council bank account. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to arrange for the necessary forms to be completed.

2022/078 – Absence through Sickness Procedure Policy

Cllrs approved the draft version of this policy. This was proposed by Cllr Colin Woodley, seconded by Cllr Debbie Smart and approved nem con. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to add this to the website.

2022/079 – Staff Pay Award 2021/22

The Executive Officer left the room for this discussion. Cllrs discussed and approved the staff pay award for 2021/22. This was proposed by Cllr Ceri Woodley, seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos and approved nem con.

2022/080 – Relief Caretaker Vacancy at Hirwaun Village Hall

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on this vacancy.

Cllr Ceri Woodley left the meeting at 8pm.

2022/081 – Executive Officer’s report

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

Print Partnership - £8.47	Daisy Communications - £71.58
Vision ICT - £182.86	Information Commissioner’s Office - £40.00
Easter eggs - £104.00	RCT Bench installation - £1,860.00

Consultations: None received.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. Emails from Penderyn resident re Community Centre. – Cllrs discussed this email and advised that the resident needs to direct his concerns to the Charity Commission as we have not been responsible for Penderyn Community Centre for 37 years as they became a separate entity to us in 1985 and there is no scope to take back the running of this.
2. Pre-Election Protocol for Employees and Elected Members.

Cllr Ceri Woodley returned to the meeting at 8.05pm.

3. The Big Plastic Count – May 16th-22nd. – Cllrs agreed to take this forward via our Facebook page. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to take this forward.
4. World Refill Day 16th June. – Cllrs agreed to take this forward via our Facebook page. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to take this forward.
5. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual report.
6. Letter from Welsh Government re preparation of accounts.

Other:

1. RCT pension scheme end of year exercise to be completed by 6th May. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to complete this.
2. Easter eggs for schools. – The Executive Officer confirmed that these have been delivered to the schools and positive feedback was received via our Facebook page.
3. SLCC Clerk’s conference. – The Executive Officer confirmed that there is a bursary available towards the cost. Cllrs approved the cost of the Executive Officer attending this conference.
4. New plants for the planters at the Welcome signs and at the benches by Hirwaun Primary School. Cllrs approved the purchase of these plants.
5. The new Rhigos Road bus shelter, paid for with the CIL money is on order.
6. Notice of uncontested election circulated to Cllrs confirming 4 returning Penderyn Cllrs and 3 returning Hirwaun Cllrs. Co-option for the vacancies will be dealt with at the May meeting.

7. Community Council owned noticeboard at Penderyn Community Centre. – The Executive Officer raised a recent Facebook post with Cllrs which stated that an additional key was being cut for the noticeboard for other groups to use. Cllrs discussed this and agreed that as the Community Council is legally obliged to display statutory and legal notices in our noticeboards that access must be limited to ensure that these notices are displayed accordingly. As such, no additional keys are to be given out for this noticeboard. **Action 10** - Executive Officer to advise the Community Centre accordingly.

2022/082 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

None.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Agreed