

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 12th May 2022

Present: Cllr Colin Woodley (Chair), Cllr Debbie Smart (Vice Chair), Cllr Non Thomas, Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Jenny Edwards, Cllr Lynwen Law,

Attending: Cllr Richard Jones (Outgoing Chair), CBC Karen Morgan, CBC Adam Rogers

Apologies: None

Outgoing Chair, Cllr Richard Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting and offered his congratulations to the new County Borough Cllrs for Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos ward Karen Morgan and Adam Rogers.

2022/083 - Election of Chair

Cllr Richard Jones asked for nominations for the role of Chair. Cllr Ceri Woodley nominated Cllr Colin Woodley. This was seconded by Cllr Lynwen Law and agreed nem con. No other nominations were received.

Cllr Colin Woodley thanked Cllr Richard Jones for his work as Chair over the last year. Cllr Richard Jones then left the meeting and Cllr Colin Woodley took over the role of Chair.

2022/084 – Election of Vice Chair

Cllr Colin Woodley asked for nominations for the role of Vice Chair. Cllr Ceri Woodley nominated Cllr Debbie Smart. This was seconded by Cllr Lynwen Law and agreed nem con. No other nominations were received.

2022/085 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

Cllr Non Thomas arrived at 6.33pm.

2022/086 - PCSO report

The PCSO provided the following written report:

My main focus this month has been Antisocial behaviour as we have had a few issues of Antisocial behaviour occurring again as the lighter nights are upon us.

Shoplifting from One Stop Shop and Co-op - I have had reports of some youths attending the new One Stop Shop and also Co-op and not paying for items. I have been working with the local shop owners to collect CCTV to try and identify the subjects. For the ones that I could not identify myself I have attended the local schools who have helped me to identify those responsible. I have then attended every home address and spoken to all youths involved in company of their parents/guardians. The shops did not want to proceed with any criminal proceedings so all youths involved have now had stern words of advice from the police and have all received antisocial behaviour referrals (letters home). The shop has now implemented a two at a time system with the youths and this along with ASB referrals seems to have reduced the shop lifting issue.

Other ASB calls in Hirwaun - Myself and my colleague attended an Antisocial behaviour call on a Sunday evening on the High Street, Hirwaun. I spoke to the reporting person and the shops who

explained that they had issues that evening. After conducting an area search, I have located all youths involved. Again, details were taken of all involved and I have spoken to all the parents. Antisocial behaviour referrals have been submitted for these also. To be fair some parents have even attended the police station to speak to me and we have received apologies from those involved. Also, Myself and my colleague have conducted a foot patrol around the village on a Saturday night this month. While on foot patrol we have located 4 youths drinking alcohol in a derelict shed. All youths were drinking alcohol under the legal age therefore we have confiscated the alcohol from them and were dispersed from the area. Again, all details were taken and all parents of those involved have been spoken to and antisocial behaviour referrals were submitted. In total I have submitted 16 ASB referrals to 16 individuals and we are hoping this will reduce Antisocial behaviour in the future – especially before the summer holidays. I have also been linking in with the YMCA.

Operation Bunting This was a sector wide operation on the weekend of 29th April – 1st May. The objective was to detect and reduce instances of ASB, drug use, motoring offences and arson relating to grass fires in the Cynon valley.

- High visibility foot patrols were conducted by Neighbour policing teams 1 & 2 (Hirwaun, Aberdare & Mountain Ash) in parks, car parks, town centres and shops.
- Assistance was sought from officers' part of our Operation Sceptre team to proactively target individuals involved in drug and knife crime.
- Our OCU (Organised Crime Unit) were deployed to the area to target individuals of interest
- BTP were asked to participate in the operation at train stations to prevent persons involved in ASB coming into the area in the first instance.
- Assistance was also sought from our Mounted section to assist and link in the Fire Service to tackle grass fires. Our horses were patrolling Rhigos and Penderyn on the Friday afternoon.

And finally, as you may have already heard that our longest standing PCSO in the Cynon valley PCSO Nicola Bryant has now left after serving 17 years in SWP! Nicola did so much for our communities over the years and will be missed by the community and her colleagues. Currently we do not have a replacement PCSO for Penderyn & Rhigos as of yet but I will try my best to cover the area as much as I can along with Hirwaun. I will update you if we have any new PCSO's join the team!

2022/087 – County Borough Cllr reports

CBC Graham Thomas provided the following final written report:

- Cattle grid along the Ystradfellte road. There is a gate to the right that lets horses through. The post that holds up the fence has become rotten and needs replacing. Email sent to ROW Warden at National Parks. At the last meeting of Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council a request was made for the repair/replacement of a wooden post that had become rotten at the base and collapsed. The location is as follows. When you travel north out of Penderyn you reach the Ystradfellte finger post off the A4059 a short distance in you come to the cattle grid. Adjacent to the cattle grid is a grey steel gate to allow horses through. You will see from the photographs that the post is rotten at the base and collapsed. Who'd would be responsible for replacing this post and could arrangements be made for the repair. Reply from the Warden that he has temporarily made the fence livestock secure by strapping the post to the existing steel gate post. He will now have discussions with Highways regarding responsibility for the wooden post as that is a 'grey' area of responsibility between Highways and those who have grazing livestock.
- Right of way leading down from opposite the Church ground (turn left at the top of Church Road). If you travel up from Dolgynog and past the Red Lion the Stile entrance is on the left just after the Church Road junction. Email sent to ROW Warden at National Parks. Take the first Stile off Foel Road then around 40 metres to the next Stile and around 25 metres from there are stones at one point that make following the Right of Way very difficult without leaving the path and also the right of way is churned up by cattle making it difficult to walk on the path as you progress along the Right of Way. Could the stones be cleared so that walkers can stay on the path as indicated on the signage. I have attached photographs. Reply from Warden that he has visited the section and the stones were put there to improve the surface that was not accessible during periods of rainfall

when the surface was mud laden and impassable. However there were some large stones that he moved that were obstructive.

- Path/ROW to entered from the grey steel gate off the footpath that runs from Woodland Park Penderyn to Llwyn Onn; Penderyn. Path to Penderyn Church has become difficult to negotiate as a stile has been taken away. Email sent to ROW Warden at National Parks. One more right of way issue has come in regarding the Right of Way accessed off the footpath between Woodland Park and Llwyn Onn. The grey access gate leads up the field that is adjacent to Bryn Onnen. A complaint has been made at the Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council that the Right of Way is very difficult to negotiate due to the surface churned up by cattle. This is the same Right of Way that joins up to the Church mentioned in my previous email. Reply from the Warden that the intention of the land owner is to move the cattle to the top field. Also that the gate off the rear lane to Woodland Park/Bryn Onnen will be replaced to make it more accessible.
- Ty Newydd lay by there are bags of garden waste that have been left on the verge. The bags have been collected.
- Tango swing, Dolgynog play area. Following the success of the Tango Swing at the LLwyn Onn play area I have requested the same, from Leisure Services, for the Dolgynog play area. Also following comments that the large swing with rope and platform access is not suitable for young children, I have requested that access be improved or a more suitable slide for younger children be provided at Dolgynog in addition. Reply from Leisure Services that they are waiting for delivery of the Tango swing and that could be a few weeks, once received it will be fitted to replace one of the platform swings as was the case with Llwyn Onn. In relation to the slide that is designed for older children and should be used as such. I asked about fitting a smaller slide suitable for younger children and the reply was that there was limited space on flat ground at Dolgynog. As there is a great deal of sloping ground, I enquired about any designs that could be incorporated into the natural sloping ground. Reply was that this could be quite expensive but was met with some interest for future consideration budgets notwithstanding.
- Final Note - This is my final report upon my retirement. It has been a pleasure to work with you over many years and I wish you all the very best for the future. I am sure that our paths will cross in other ways. Good luck and good health, signing off; Graham.

CBC Karen Morgan provided the following written report:

- A465 Update - The closure of the Brecon Road access to and from Hirwaun roundabout went ahead on 21st April and is estimated to remain closed until September.
- Emailed FVC with a list of concerns:
 - Concerns of layout of cones/lane markings at Rhigos roundabout to Penderyn and inadequate signage eg Neath/Brecon
 - Lighting at and between Rhigos and Trewaun roundabouts, residents have complained that the new layout is confusing and especially so at night, in their words “an accident waiting to happen”, “reminds them of Mario Kart”
 - Closure of HIR/40/1, top of road to Welfare. Residents have complained that the alternative path does not exist and that there are large quantities of earth in the area
 - Proposed closure of HIR 23 AUN 3 NCN 46 (Tramroad). This has raised a lot of objections from residents who use the Tramroad.
 - How does a resident who keeps horses on the Tramroad gain access?
 - What if a horse is too high to use the subway as suggested?
 - Are any attempts being made to separate users of the subway and footpath to reduce risk to all users?
 - Will there be separate paths on the new “multi user” bridge and temporary road/path to reduce risk to all users?
 - How will the bridge and road/path manage the risk of it being used by off road motorbikes/scramblers?

- Has any consideration been given to managing the works so that the public can continue to use the Tramroad, e.g., a narrower Tramroad?
- A465 Resident drop-in sessions. Dates finally received for afternoon/evening.
- There has been a lot of concern about the proposal to close the Tramroad and as a result I wrote to the Chief Executive of RCT Council expressing my frustration at the "wait to see what happens" approach and pushed for safe crossing points on High Street and speed reduction measures. I also shared the many comments I have received from residents. I said that residents are feeling trapped in the village and also conveyed concern about the effect on our local businesses. I have received a positive response from the Chief Executive of RCT. In brief, he has spoken to the Welsh Government Director responsible for the dualling works and asked that he considers all the issues highlighted and asked that the WG team meet as soon as possible with RCT officers to explore opportunities to help mitigate the issues caused by the roadworks. RCT have also asked that WG accept full responsibility for taking this action and to fund it in full. The focus will initially be on measures that can be introduced quickly to reduce the pressure on the local roads and to also consider immediate measures which will also improve safe active travel within and to and from Hirwaun. The Chief Executive has committed to keep chasing Welsh Government until we can adequately resolve these issues and hopefully ensure that there will be some long term benefits of not just the road improvements, but also a better range of active travel routes for the community.
- Covid 19 Vaccinations – If any residents are having difficulty getting to Merthyr Tydfil to the vaccination centre, please ring the Health Board on 01443 281163 and ask for a vacci taxi to take you and bring you home for your vaccination appointment.
- Fly tipping Glannant street. Caswell close, letters issued to Bethel Place, continued problems at car park by school and culvert area, requested review of bin provision
- Requested intervention of empty properties in the village – will contact owners, unfortunately RCT Council do not have the powers to compulsory purchase, because they do not have the funding or management structure to use the legislation

CBC Adam Rogers offered his thanks to residents for voting for him.

The following matters were reported to the CBC's:

Cllr Debbie Smart congratulated the CBC'S on the election. She then went on to raise questions on safe walking routes with the Heads of the Valleys dualling works. Concerns were also raised that the repairs to the church wall had still not been carried out. She asked the CBC's to attend a meeting with herself and The Red Lion to discuss their concerns and familiarise themselves with the issues. She asked that CBC Adam Rogers email address be circulated to full council.

Cllr Lynwen Law reported that the green garden waste bags are not being returned to the gardens in Penderyn and are being left on the road.

Cllr Colin Woodley reported that the school buses are reversing into Lamb Road to turn around and not using the turning circle, nearly causing an accident recently.

2022/088 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 14th April 2022 were proposed to be true and accurate, subject to a minor amendment, by Cllr Lynwen Law and seconded by Cllr Debbie Smart and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2022/089 – Old Fire Station Lease

The Executive Officer provided an update on the new lease. **Action 1** – Executive Officer and Cllr Colin Woodley to continue with this.

2022/090 – Gigabit Project

Cllr Colin Woodley provided Cllrs with an update on this project. It was agreed that a new poster and graphic would be designed informing residents that this is their best chance to have fibre optic broadband installed to the premises rather than the roadside distribution cabinets. Thereby ensuring that their broadband connection is future-proofed. **Action 2** – Cllr Colin Woodley to continue with this.

2022/091 – Bank Account Signatories

The Executive Officer provided Cllrs with an update on the new signatories for the bank account. The Executive Officer was given permission to pay invoices over the phone until the signatories have been updated.

2022/092 – Pension Scheme End of Year Exercise

The Executive Officer provided Cllrs with an update on this.

2022/093 – Community Council Noticeboard at Penderyn

The Executive Officer advised that a representative from Penderyn Community Centre would be attending the June meeting to request a second key in person.

2022/094 - Planning Applications

- Erection of boundary brick wall around the garden perimeter – 3 Greenwood Drive, Hirwaun.

2022/095 - Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Debbie Smart asked Cllrs for the council's support in seeking to expedite the church wall repairs to include a firm date when the works will start. Cllrs agreed to support this request. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to contact the church in conjunction with Cllr Debbie Smart.

Cllr Lynwen Law referred to a Freedom of Information request that herself and some Cllrs were cc'd in on in relation to parking in Poneddeddfechan. It was agreed that it was not for us to deal with as it is out of our jurisdiction and that it should be directed to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

Cllr Non Thomas advised Cllrs that the recent Community Liaison meeting was cancelled at short notice. She also advised that a resident had been informed by the HOV team that Cllrs were giving out wrong information and that they should not be reporting it to the public. CBC Adam Rogers was asked to raise this issue at a future HOV meeting. Cllr Thomas also advised that she attended the recent RCT climate change workshop.

2022/096 – Minor Authority Representative for Hirwaun Primary and Penderyn Primary Schools

It was agreed that Cllr Debbie Smart would be appointed as the representative for Hirwaun Primary School and Cllr Colin Woodley would be appointed representative of Penderyn Primary School.

2022/097 – Tower Colliery Site Liaison Committee Representative and Environmental Resource Centre Liaison Committee Representative

It was agreed that Cllr Colin Woodley would act as a representative for both of these committees. The second representative will be appointed at our July meeting. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to add this to the July agenda.

2022/098 – Future Valleys Construction Liaison Meeting Representative

It was agreed that Cllr Non Thomas and Cllr Lynwen Law would be appointed as representatives for this committee.

2022/099 – Waterfall Partnership Committee

It was agreed that Cllr Colin Woodley would be appointed as representative for this committee.

2022/100 – Penderyn Quarry Liaison Group

It was agreed that Cllr Colin Woodley would be appointed as representative for this committee.

2022/101 – Gigabit Project

It was agreed that Cllr Colin Woodley would be appointed as representative for this project.

2022/102 – One Voice Wales Area Committee Meetings

It was agreed that Cllr Jenny Edwards would be appointed as representative for this committee. The second representative will be appointed at our July meeting. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to add this to the July agenda.

2022/103 – RCT Community Liaison Committee

It was agreed that Cllr Colin Woodley, Cllr Debbie Smart and the Executive Officer would be appointed as representatives for this committee.

2022/104 – PACT Meetings for Hirwaun and Penderyn

It was agreed that Cllr Margaret Amos and Cllr Debbie Smart would be appointed as representative for Penderyn. The Hirwaun representatives will be appointed at our July meeting. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to add this to the July agenda.

2022/105 – Sight Loss Champion

It was agreed that this representative would be appointed at our July meeting. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to add this to the July agenda.

2022/106 – Save a Life Champion

It was agreed that this representative would be appointed at our July meeting. **Action 8**
– Executive Officer to add this to the July agenda.

2022/107 - Litter Champion

It was agreed that Cllr Jenny Edwards would be appointed as representative for this committee. Cllr Non Thomas indicated that she wished to step down from this role. It was agreed that the second representative will be appointed at our July meeting.
Action 9 – Executive Officer to add this to the July agenda.

2022/108 - Climate Emergency Committee

It was agreed that these representatives would be appointed at our July meeting.
Action 10 – Executive Officer to add this to the July agenda.

2022/109 – Garden Show Committee

It was agreed that Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Non Thomas and Cllr Lynwen Law would form the committee to organise the garden show, with former Cllr Jenny Myring acting in a volunteer capacity to provide advice as she has organised the show in previous years. Cllr Colin Woodley and Ceri Woodley offered their assistance on the day of the show. **Action 11** – Garden Show committee to take this forward.

2022/110 – Standing Orders Committee

It was agreed that Cllr Colin Woodley, Cllr Debbie Smart and Cllr Lynwen Law would form this committee.

2022/111 – Finance Committee

It was agreed that Cllr Colin Woodley, Cllr Debbie Smart, Cllr Margaret Amos and Cllr Lynwen Law would form this committee.

2022/112 – Annual Report Committee

It was agreed that this committee would be appointed at our July meeting. **Action 12** – Executive Officer to add this to the July agenda.

2022/113 – Community Cllr Allowances

- The payment of £150 per year to each Cllr – This is a mandatory allowance but Cllrs can opt out. **Action 13** – Executive Officer to provide opt out forms for Cllrs who wish to refuse the allowance.
- The payment of £500 per year to up to 5 Cllrs in a Senior Role – This is an optional allowance which Cllrs rejected.
- The Reimbursement to Cllrs for travel costs for attending approved duties – This is an optional allowance which Cllrs agreed for approved council duties only.
- Reimbursement to Cllrs for subsistence where a duty requires an overnight stay – This is an optional allowance which Cllrs agreed for approved council duties only.
- Compensation for financial loss – This is an optional allowance which Cllrs agreed for approved council duties only.

- Attendance Allowance of up to £30 for each qualifying event attended – This is an optional allowance which Cllrs rejected.
- Reimbursement of the cost of care – This is a mandatory allowance which Cllrs accepted for approved council duties only.
- Chair/Vice Chair Honoraria – This is an optional allowance which Cllrs rejected.

2022/114 – Hirwaun Village Hall Trustees

It was agreed that Cllr Ceri Woodley and Cllr Jenny Edwards would remain as hall trustees. It was agreed that a third trustee would be appointed at our July meeting.

Action 14 – Executive Officer to add this to the July agenda.

2022/115 – Community Cllr Vacancies for Hirwaun Ward

Following the uncontested election there were seven vacancies for Cllrs for Hirwaun Ward. Cllrs agreed to advertise these for co-option. **Action 15** – Executive Officer to advertise the vacancies.

2022/116 – Executive Officer's report

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

Print Partnership - £9.95	Daisy Communications - £71.58
Zoom - £143.88	Clerk's expenses - £108.70

Consultations: None received.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. Update on Springfield Gardens for Vikki Howells MS.
2. Report from RCT on parking fines issued in Hirwaun since January. – Cllrs agreed on the format of the report going forward.
3. Local Nature for Places starter packs – Cllrs decided not to apply for this funding as there were no suitable locations that complied with the funding requirements.
4. Refill Wales – Welsh Government has made the decision to withdraw funding for this scheme. The Refill campaign is still ongoing but Refill Wales will no longer be signing up Refill Stations.
5. One Voice Wales – Welsh Government have offered free training places per core module for every Community Council plus free places for Code of Conduct. It was agreed that the core training modules would be offered to any new Cllrs co-opting on to the council. It was agreed that Cllr Ceri Woodley and Cllr Non Thomas would carry out the Code of Conduct training. **Action 16** – Executive Officer to book Cllrs onto the sessions, and to add the core training modules onto the July agenda.

Other:

1. Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom competition – The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on the organising of this competition. Cllrs agreed to ask former Cllr Richard Jones if he would be willing to help with the poster graphics as a volunteer. It was also agreed that Cllr Jenny Edwards would provide assistance on the day. **Action 17** – Executive Officer to continue with this.
2. Co-op Community Fund – Cllrs decided not to apply for this grant funding.
3. The Havens have asked if we can ask for volunteers on our Facebook page again to help with their gardening/watering. Cllrs agreed to do this but agreed that the Havens would need to be the point of contact to co-ordinate the volunteers themselves.
4. Celebrating Rural Wales event – Cllrs to book themselves on if they wish to attend.
5. Resident request for assistance with nettles coming in from the Cefndon playing fields into their adjacent garden. Cllr Non Thomas advised that the grass cutting in this area is left at these sections to improve biodiversity. **Action 18** – Executive Officer to contact RCT.
6. Cllrs agreed that the new Chair and Vice Chair should be announced via the Community Council Facebook page.

2022/117 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that the June meeting would be held as a hybrid meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.12pm.