

# **Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council**

## **Agreed Minutes of Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Present:** Cllr Colin Woodley (Chair), Cllr Adrian Harford (Vice Chair), Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Rhys Howells, Cllr James Woodward, Cllr Wendy Donovan, Cllr Zoe Goss, Cllr Non Thomas,

**Attending:** CBC Adam Rogers

**Apologies:** Cllr Eryl O'Neill, CBC Karen Morgan

### **2024/001 - Disclosures of Personal Interest**

There were no disclosures of interest.

### **2024/002 - PCSO report**

The PCSO provided the following written report:

Within the month of December there were several issues which were brought to the attention of the neighbourhood team. There were several thefts from stores on the High street with suspects identified and arrested for unrelated issues. Ongoing ASB in the village, patrols have been ongoing and residents engaged with. Youths have been identified and ASB referrals submitted. (So hopefully it stops as they have been the ones consistently doing it). Patrols conducted and checks made up the welfare ground and surrounding houses due to previous issues however we have not come across anything which is positive.

### **2024/003 – Defibrillators**

Cllr Adrian Harford provided an update on the defibrillators for Hirwaun. He confirmed that RCT Heart Heros will help with guardianship and financial support, and that Pen Y Cymoedd will cover the cost of the replacement pads and batteries when they need replacing every 5 years. However, they will not cover the cost of replacing any pads used in between. Discussions took place on the practicalities of the regular checks that need to be carried out to make sure that the machine remains in working order, and the pilot scheme taking place in the Rhondda where business sponsorship would cover the cost of replacement pads. Cllr Colin Woodley raised concerns that the Community Council would not be able to accurately budget for the cost of replacement pads as there was no way of knowing how often they would be used. He proposed that the Community Council carries out the monthly checks of the machines only, with no cost to the Community Council, which was agreed by full council.

**Action 1** – Cllr Adrian Harford to continue with this.

### **2024/004 – County Borough Cllr reports**

The County borough Cllrs provided the following written report:

#### **Heads of Valleys**

- Reported concerns of the road being very dirty heading towards Hirwaun, with road markings difficult to see.

#### **Litter, glass, flytipping**

- Reported litter gathered outside Ramoth Christian Centre, Hirwaun.
- Reported armchair that had been dumped at the bus stop on High Street, Hirwaun.
- Reported glass on footpath from High Street to Co-op.
- Reported glass opposite Prince of Wales, Hirwaun.
- Reported glass and litter on the Tramway, Hirwaun.



they should have been. It is the responsibility of the promoter to communicate and inform residents of such plans. Despite the many concerns, we were told that this project will need to go ahead this month.

#### **Save Rhigos Primary School**

- A "call-in" was requested and was considered today (January 11<sup>th</sup>) by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee which determined not to refer the matter back to Cabinet for reconsideration. We contributed along with other County Councillors and Rhigos residents. The process will continue with the Statutory Notice.

#### **RCT Council**

- Two consultations closed on January 8<sup>th</sup> which we have been strongly opposed to:

Continuation of Free Breakfast Club Provision in Primary and Special Schools with the Introduction of a Charge for the Additional Childcare Element

Consultation on the Council's Home to School Transport Policy

- Questions submitted to Council:

"It is a concern that many roads in RCT are patched over rather than given the much-needed investment of resurfacing. Can the relevant Cabinet Member share what support is available to residents when their vehicle is damaged on a Council maintained road due to its condition?"

The following matters were reported to the CBC's:

Cllr Zoe Goss advised that residents on Foundry Road are calling for an action group to deal with flooding. Two caravans have been stolen from Rhigos Road. And asked if the 20mph speed limit has been implemented for safety reasons – what is being done for Penderyn Primary School as all of the safety measures are being focused on Hirwaun. She concluded by reporting poor lighting/signage on the Heads of the Valleys road.

CBC Adam Rogers responded that the measures being installed in Hirwaun are part of the Safe Routes in Communities funding obtained by Hirwaun Primary School via an application process with Welsh Government. He advised that the 20mph speed limit has been set at Welsh Government level and that there will be a review after 6 months. There is unlikely to be a change in the speed limit on the main road in Penderyn. He concluded by advising that traffic issues should be reported to the police.

Cllr Non Thomas advised that the Heads of the Valleys Liaison Group have been pushing for crossings etc in the village since the group was formed as Hirwaun is so badly affected.

Cllr Wendy Donovan stated that Penderyn residents have been campaigning in relation to the traffic outside the school for the last 12 years.

Cllr Margaret Amos stated that parents park on the zig zag lines outside the school.

Cllr Non Thomas raised a query in relation to the Rhigos School closure consultation. It was advised that it would be considered under statutory notice, then cabinet report.

Cllr Margaret Amos queried the location of the dog waste bin that is due to be moved at Woodland Park, and stated that the bin at Llwyn Onn needs to be put back. It was advised that RCT have recently purchased new bins.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach queried why there were no street lights on at the approach to Keepers Lane. It was advised that the power cables had had to be removed due to the Heads of the Valleys dualling, and that tower lights had been installed instead.

## **2024/005 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Ceri Woodley, seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos and agreed nem con.

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

### **2024/006 – Community Climate Action Meeting**

Cllrs Rhys Howells, James Howells and Marguerite Courtney-Solbach provided an update on the Community Climate Action meeting that they had attended.

### **2024/007- Planning Applications**

1. Proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension – 72 Cae Felin Parc, Hirwaun.

### **2024/008 - Community Councillors reports:**

Cllr Rhys Howells advised that he had attended the Community Climate Action Meeting.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach advised that she had attended the Community Climate Action Meeting.

Cllr Ceri Woodley advised that she had attended the Soup Socials and the Festive Fish & Chips.

Cllr Zoe Goss advised that she would be attending the meeting with the Rhigos Road residents in relation to traffic issues, and that she has booked on to the Community Speed Watch webinar, and completed the Welsh Government Road Safety Strategy questionnaire. She went on to highlight the issues in relation to cars parking on junctions in Hirwaun, and the camper van causing an obstruction at the junction at Hirwaun Village Hall.

Cllr James Woodward advised that he had attended the Community Climate Action Meeting.

Cllr Non Thomas advised that she had attended the Festive Fish & Chips and the Soup Socials. It was agreed that Cllr Thomas would obtain a quote for the printing of the Garden Show Schedules.

Cllr Adrian Harford advised that he had carried out a litter pick in Hirwaun and was currently liaising with Keep Wales Tidy. He raised the issue of weeding the planters at the Welcome signs and it was agreed that they would be weeded as soon as the weather permits. Concerns were raised that the hollybush at the Penderyn planter had been stolen and it was advised that the PCSO had been spoken to.

### **2024/009– Vacancy for Penderyn Ward**

Cllrs discussed the application for the vacancy for Cllr for Penderyn Ward. There was no proposal to accept the application so Cllrs declined the application at this time. It was agreed that the vacancy would be readvertised in line with the Hirwaun vacancy.

#### **2024/010 – 2024/25 Precept**

Cllrs discussed the finance committee's recommendation to increase the precept by 5% which equates to an average increase of £2.12 per household, per year. It was advised that the Community Council has a legal obligation to balance the books and that we cannot avoid an increase in the precept. Cllr Colin Woodley proposed that this increase be agreed. This was seconded by Cllr Adrian Harford, and agreed with a vote of 9 Cllrs for the increase and 1 against.

#### **2024/011 – Community Council Committees**

It was agreed that the following committees be filled by:

- One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting – Cllr Non Thomas
- PACT Meeting for Penderyn – Cllr Wendy Donovan
- Sight Loss Champion – Vacant
- Finance Committee – Cllr Non Thomas plus 1 vacant position
- Standing Orders Working Group – Cllr Adrian Harford

It was agreed that the following committees would be dissolved:

- Annual Report Working Group
- Training Plan Working Group

#### **2024/012 – Cllrs Training Places**

The last of the free training places for Cllrs was discussed. No one put themselves forward to take this free training place.

#### **2024/013 – Health & Safety Policy**

Cllrs agreed to adopt the Health & Safety Policy. This was proposed by Cllr Margaret Amos, seconded by Cllr Non Thomas and agreed nem con.

#### **2023/014 – Sight Loss Awareness Pledges**

The Executive Officer advised that she is trying to make contact with Sight Cymru to ask for more information on this and to arrange training for Cllrs. **Action 2** – Executive Officer to add this to the February agenda.

#### **2024/015 – Easter Eggs for Schools**

Cllrs discussed alternatives to providing Easter eggs for the nursery and reception classes at Hirwaun Primary School and Penderyn Primary School. It was raised that for some children this would be the only Easter egg they receive due to the Cost of Living crisis. Cllr Rhys Howells proposed that Easter eggs continue to be provided. This was seconded by Cllr James Woodward, and agreed with a majority vote of 9 agreeing, and 1 voting against.

## 2024/016 – Executive Officer’s report

Daisy Communications - £81.62      Print Partnership - £10.56  
RCT CBC - £169.33                  Audit Wales – £290

### Consultations:

1. Road Safety consultation – **Action 3** – Cllrs to respond individually.
2. Powys Replacement LDP.
3. Consultation: Fiscal Intergovernmental Relations.
4. Consultation: Future Spending purposes for dormant assets funding in Wales – **Action 4** – Cllrs to respond individually.
5. RCT Corporate Plan 2024-2030.
6. RCT Flood Risk Management Notice of Intention to Adopt Land Drainage Byelaws.

### The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. Keep Wales Tidy email re topping up the starter pack for the Local Places for Nature project at the Butterfly Garden. Cllrs declined this offer at the top up pack is unsuitable for this area.
2. One Voice Wales Managing Green Spaces - Let’s Talk Wildflowers scheme – **Action 5** – Cllrs to book themselves on if they wish to attend.
3. Bug Life webinar – Managing Green Spaces for Pollinators – Guidance for Welsh Local Authorities – **Action 6** - Cllrs to book themselves on if they wish to attend.
4. Penderyn Welcome sign –email from RCT Traffic Management advising that a new sign is due to be installed.
5. Email from resident re replacement dog waste bin for Llwyn Onn.
6. Resident with concerns re Rhigos Rd – and lack of consultation on the safe routes funding.
7. One Voice Wales Digital Skill Training webinars – **Action 7** - Cllrs to book themselves on if they wish to attend.
8. GoSafe Community Speed Watch – **Action 8** - Cllrs to book themselves on if they wish to attend.

### Other:

1. Old Fire Station –
  - i) Roofing repairs – The Executive Officer advised that she has been unable to contact the contractor who had provided a quote for the repairs. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to obtain a quote from a new contractor.
  - ii) Lease – The Executive Officer advised that she has been unable to make contact with the person drafting the new lease. **Action 10** – Cllr Adrian Harford to make contact.
2. Martyn’s Law webinar – The Executive Officer provided an update on this.
3. Habitat box competition – The Executive Officer provided an update on this.

**2024/017 – Confidential Staffing Matter**

**2024/018- Urgent items at the Chair’s discretion**

None.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Agreed