

## **Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council**

### **Agreed Minutes of Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

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

**Attending:** CBC Adam Rogers

**Apologies:** Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Leah Foster, CBC Karen Morgan

#### **2024/019 - Disclosures of Personal Interest**

There were no disclosures of interest.

#### **2024/020 - PCSO report**

The PCSO provided the following written report:

A reduction in ASB reports from Hirwaun Village which is good news.

SWP have increased patrols and identified subjects, ASB referrals submitted and schools and parents made aware.

Reports of off road bikes- Intelligence to be collated to identify riders.

Theft of Caravans from yard- ongoing investigations.

Cllrs discussed the reinstatement of the PACT meetings. **Action 1** – Executive Officer to contact the PCSO's to ask if there are plans for the meetings to be reinstated.

#### **2024/021 – Defibrillators**

Cllr Adrian Harford provided an update on the defibrillators for Hirwaun. He advised that progress was slow but they are trying to move forward.

**Action 2** – Cllr Adrian Harford to continue with this.

#### **2024/022 – County Borough Cllr reports**

The County borough Cllrs provided the following written report:

##### **Police issues**

Reported drug use in the Ty Newydd lay-by. Names were given and other information was logged for further investigation.

##### **Future Valleys**

- Reported rocks around Rhigos roundabout.
- Reported two of the tower lights not working on the small Rhigos roundabout and the roundabout before the hill to Trewaun.

##### **Abnormal load**

- The load made its way through Hirwaun smoothly, taking less than two hours. Due to a number of factors the date of the move changed a few times. It was important for residents to have advance notice of the date and time through communication from those leading the project. We could not support the movement through the village if that was not done. We discussed the move with the companies involved and asked them to extend their letter reach, which they did.
- On the day we were informed that the buses would not be servicing Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos during the move. After the move, the haulage company got in touch with Stagecoach to make them aware that they had moved to site.

## **Save Rhigos Primary School**

There is currently a statutory notice period taking place. Any person is able to object to the closure of Rhigos Primary School. A group of us contributed to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, which gave other councillors the opportunity to refer the decision back to the Labour Cabinet. Unfortunately, all Labour councillors decided not to refer this back to them. This is the last opportunity for us to object to the closure of Rhigos Primary, not just for the children and teachers, but for the wider community of Rhigos.

## **Revised Local Development Plan (Preferred Strategy)**

- The LDP is the statutory land-use planning document for the County Borough (excluding the area in the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority). It identifies where development should take place and sets out planning policies on numerous topics, which then form the basis for decisions on planning applications.
- We asked where the future train stations for Hirwaun and Rhigos would be located, as proposed in this document. We asked if residents and councillors would be consulted on this too.
- And we expressed that village businesses need extra support in future. Local businesses are given limited support, despite having to put up with the disruptions of the roadworks and financial pressures.
- The land South of Hirwaun has been designated as a Potential Key Site. Being allocated for employment, tourism and the re-establishment of biodiversity and natural habitats.
- There will be a public consultation across RCT at a later date.

## **Safe Walking Routes scheme**

The Council hand-delivered copies of the plans and letters to any resident directly affected by the proposals. The information was also made available to view online. The Council has received 15 responses to the notice, 4 in support of the proposals and 11 in objection to the proposals.

## **Footpaths**

- We reported issues at a few footpaths last year. Resurfacing work has been completed on two footpaths- John's Lane to Swansea Road and Merthyr Road to Tramway.
- We have since requested if work could be carried out on the footpath between Maescynon and Cefndon- "I have attended to inspect this path again, it is in poor condition however, it is long standing and within our safety defect criteria. I will continue to monitor during my scheduled inspections."

## **Highways**

- Reported a collapsed wall on Church Road, Penderyn.
- Reported an unsecure brown sign leading to Penderyn.
- Reported an unsecure sign for "Rhigos Road", coming into the village.
- Reported a damaged Grade II listed sign outside St Cynog's Church, Penderyn.
- Requested the Council to clean the pavement and roads between the Future Valleys boundary near Rhigos roundabout to the Industrial Estate.
- Requested The Pandy, Hirwaun to be considered for adoption. The road has worsened and residents living on the road and near have expressed how bad the state of the road is.

## **Streetcare**

- Reported an unlit streetlight on Chapel Road, Penderyn- "I have issued a ticket for the overgrowth to be cut back and is currently on their list to work through, I am waiting for an email confirming completion of these works so I can issue a ticket to our contractor to replace the lantern."
- Reported litter up the Welfare and Caswell Close, Hirwaun.
- Requested moss to be removed in Caswell Close, Hirwaun.
- Requested if safety improvements could be made to the steps opposite the fire station, Hirwaun.

## **Storms/flooding**

- Shared several flood alerts and weather warnings (with important numbers and webpage links to report issues).
- Reported flooding leading to the Welfare and at Keeper's Lane, Hirwaun.
- Requested drains to be cleared in Caswell Close, Hirwaun.

## **Works in Hirwaun**

- Dwr Cymru were working on Merthyr Road, their signage was placed completely on the pavement, forcing residents to walk onto the road. We contacted the Highways Team and they went to assess pedestrian safety.
- Work has been carried out to remove a collapsed wall on Kendon Court/Davies Row. It has been replaced with a kerb line and high-visibility bollards.
- Work is being carried out through the Safe Walking Route scheme in different areas of Hirwaun.

## **Croesbychan**

- Requested a footway link between Croesbychan and Hirwaun- "It has been determined that it would not be possible to accommodate a footway within the existing highway limits (verge) and retain sufficient carriageway width for vehicles. Therefore, in order to provide a footway along this section of road, with its associated drainage and earthworks, it would need private land to be acquired."
- Requested if the public buses could pass through Croesbychan and Crematorium Road- "The 9 Service is run commercially by Stagecoach who register the routes and the Council have little or no influence on how these routes are operated. Stagecoach have advised the Council that they see no advantage in re-routing through these areas where there are little or no passenger travel, it will also add time onto journeys which are currently struggling to keep to their timetable due to ongoing works on the A465."

## **Questions to Council**

**January-** "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?"

**February-** "Can the relevant Cabinet Member share how this Council has invested in recreational activity for young residents in the Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos ward please?" The Cabinet Member listed the works that have been carried out. It was also an opportunity for us to raise our concerns that even though there has been investment, without lighting in some recreational areas for example the tennis courts and Welfare's football pitch, residents can not make full use of the investment which would benefit their health and well-being.

- "Has this council formally evaluated the public's views on the value of consultation exercises undertaken by the Council?"

The following matters were reported to the CBC's:

Cllr Ceri Woodley advised that the dog waste bin in Maescynon is severely damaged and in need of replacement.

Cllr Adrian Harford thanked CBC Rogers for his help in re-opening the public toilets following vandalism.

Cllr Wendy Donovan asked when the dog waste bin at Woodland Park will be moved?

Cllr Zoe Goss advised that the pathway at Maescynon to Cefndon needs widening to allow prams etc through, and that the surface needs repairing. It was also reported that the road at Croesbychan to Denbeigh Court has been flooded.

Cllr Colin Woodley asked if we could see the results of the traffic survey carried out in Penderyn.

### **2024/023 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were, subject to a minor amendment, proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Ceri Woodley, seconded by Cllr Non Thomas and agreed nem con.

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

#### **2024/024 – Roof Repairs – Old Fire Station**

The Executive Officer advised that the Garden Society had found a suitably qualified builder who would carry out the roofing repairs free of charge. Cllrs approved these works.

#### **2024/025 – Lease – Old Fire Station**

The Executive Officer advised that Cllr Adrian Harford is liaising with the person drafting the new lease on our behalf. **Action 3** – Executive Officer and Cllrs Colin Woodley and Adrian Harford to continue with this.

#### **2024/026- Planning Applications**

No planning applications were received.

#### **2024/027 - Community Councillors reports:**

Cllr Eryl O'Neill advised that she had attended the Soup Socials. She provided an update on the Monumental Welsh Women statue of Elizabeth Andrews, advising of the potential location for it to be sited.

Cllr Non Thomas advised that the quote for the printing for the Garden Show was due to be received and that grant funding would be applied for to cover the costs. It was also advised that a new judge had been found for the Garden Show following the retirement of the former judge.

Cllr Adrian Harford advised that he has attended The Council as an Employer training, and has met with Keep Wales Tidy in relation to litter issues in Hirwaun.

Cllr Ceri Woodley advised that she had attended the Soup Socials.

Cllr Zoe Goss advised that she had met with residents from Rhigos Road in relation to traffic issues on Rhigos Road, and that she is due to meet with CBC Rogers and local businesses shortly.

Cllr Wendy Donovan asked if she could be sent the One Voice Wales and RCT training modules. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to re-send these.

Cllr James Woodward advised that he has been developing projects for the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency, and that he has designed some stock graphic designs for Council use.

Cllr Rhys Howells advised that he has been developing projects for the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency.

Cllr Colin Woodley provided an update from the Heads of the Valleys Liaison Group meeting.

#### **2024/028– Community Youth Representative for Hirwaun Ward**

Cllrs discussed the application for the vacancy for Community Youth Representative for Hirwaun Ward. The Executive Officer advised that the Youth Representative does not have a vote on council matters but is there to be the voice of the youth in the community. Cllrs agreed to accept the application. This was proposed by Cllr Eryl O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Non Thomas and agreed nem con. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to advertise the Community Youth Rep role for Penderyn Ward.

#### **2024/029– Cllr Vacancy for Hirwaun Ward**

The Executive Officer advised that an election has been called for the Hirwaun vacancy and went on to provide an update on the costs involved and the election process.

#### **2023/030 – Sight Loss Awareness Pledges**

The Executive Officer advised that she is still trying to make contact with Sight Cymru to ask for more information on this and to arrange training for Cllrs. **Action 6**– Executive Officer to add this to the March agenda.

#### **2024/031 – Executive Officer's report**

Daisy Communications - £81.62      Print Partnership - £8.28  
Second life Products Wales Ltd - £4,737.60

Consultations:

1. RCT Budget consultation – **Action 7** – Cllrs to respond individually.
2. Rhigos Primary consultation report.
3. Rhigos Primary statutory notice.
4. Decision notice for the proposal to create a new 3 to 19 special school in RCT.
5. Living with Wildfire Survey.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. Audit Wales – Fee Scheme 2024-25.
2. OVW Governance and Policy Practice Development Officer introduction.
3. Email from resident re bus shelter on Tramway. It was advised that the Community Council has no statutory responsibility to install bus shelters. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to ask RCT to install the bus shelter. Request also to be made to have the bus shelter at Heol Uchel repainted.

4. Email from resident re path improvement. It was noted that CBC Adam Rogers is already dealing with this.
5. Heledd Fychan Cost of Living event invite.
6. RCT Safe Routes in Community update.

Other:

1. Habitat box competition – competition update.
2. How to use Graphic Design Software – Canva – SLCC Clerks webinar. **Action 9** – Cllr Rhys Howells to carry out this training with the Executive Officer instead.
3. Joint SLCC/OVW/Planning Aid Wales training webinar.
4. OVW free training – Use of IT, Websites and Social Media training. **Action 10** – Cllr Colin Woodley to complete.
5. UK Shared Prosperity Fund Round 3 now open. **Action 11** – Executive Officer to send this information to Cllrs Non Thomas, Rhys Howells, Marguerite Courtney-Solbach and James Woodward.
6. Arcway benches – it was advised that they have been delivered and are ready for installation when the weather improves.

**2024/032- Urgent items at the Chair's discretion**

None.

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.**