

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 14th March 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, Cllr Adam Rogers

Attending: Caitlyn Kochalski – Community Youth Representative

Apologies: Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Leah Foster

The Chair commenced the meeting by welcoming Cllr Adam Rogers as the new Community Cllr for Hirwaun Ward and Caitlyn Kochalski as the Community Youth Representative for Hirwaun Ward.

2024/032 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

2024/033 - PCSO report

No monthly report of issues in the village was provided by the PCSO.

In respect of the PACT meetings, the PCSO advised that these had stopped a few years ago with no plans to reinstate them. However, there is scope to organise a Cuppa with a Coppa.

There were no issues to report to the PCSO.

Cllr Zoe Goss arrived at 6.34pm.

2024/034 – Defibrillators

Cllr Adrian Harford provided an update on the defibrillators for Hirwaun including the locations of the defibrillators already in place, information on primary and secondary guardianship and the costs of replacement pads and batteries. Cllr Colin Woodley raised concerns in relation to the Community Council taking over guardianship of these defibrillators as the Council cannot commit to an unidentified amount of money, and that there is no money in the budget for this at present.

Action 1 – Cllr Adrian Harford to continue with this.

2024/035 – County Borough Cllr reports

The County borough Cllrs provided the following written report:

Police issues

Reported vehicles parking completely on pavement and obstructing in Woodland Park, Penderyn.

Future Valleys

- Reported several potholes between Rhigos roundabout to Croesbychan roundabout- “The carriageway is inspected twice daily and repairs carried out when defects reach the threshold for repair. I have identified your concerns to the team responsible for this and they assure me that they will continue to monitor the area closely.”
 - Reported flooding under the A465, where it leads to Welfare- “Future Valleys only responsibilities are potholes and winter maintenance. The project is putting in a new access to the playing fields of the detrunked A465.”
 - Expressed concerns for residents who are living close to the A465 that are affected by noise pollution and who are close to the road. Asked if barriers were able to be put up- “Noise barriers are placed according to legislation rather than personal preference. The new westbound carriageway is clear, and the existing carriageway will be rebuilt to

form the new eastbound carriageway. In the finished scheme, westbound traffic will be much further away from the residents.”

- RCT have acknowledged that the continuous patching outside Denbeigh Court is not enough, we expect to be contacted about some resurfacing on that stretch.
- Residents have asked about the re-opening of Brecon Road, and the response was that traffic is planned to be transferred onto the new road this summer, so then the bridge to/from Brecon Road can be completed.

Streetcare

- Reported flytipping:
 - At the back of Welfare, behind bowling green - Cwm Cadlan road
- Reported litter along the footpath from Penderyn Road, Hirwaun to the A4059
- The barrier that was placed where the damaged wall collapsed near Davies Row/Kendon Court, was pushed over. This has now been mended.
- Requested the dog fouling bin in Woodland Park to be placed back where it originally was.
- Reported a damaged fence on Penderyn Road, Hirwaun
- Requested a new sign at the entrance to Bryn-y-Gaer Cemetery.
- A few residents contacted us about the broken Grade II listed sign outside St Cynog's Church, Penderyn. RCT arranged for its mending.

Highways

- Requested kerb lines for part of Chapel Road, Penderyn and Elm Grove/Railway Terrace, Hirwaun.
- Requested a H bar on Merthyr Road, Hirwaun
- Reported potholes:
 - Chapel Road, Penderyn - Elm Grove/Railway Terrace, Hirwaun - Leading to Dolgynog from the Lamb - Cae Felin Parc, Hirwaun

Buses

- Requested several new bus shelters for Penderyn:
 - Woodland Park - Llwyn-Onn - x2 Pontpren

Speed concerns through Penderyn

Several residents have expressed concerns that drivers are coming through the village too fast and not following 20mph.

Made a few requests/queries:

- Requested if another speed indicator device could be placed.
- Queried if there has been a traffic count done in the last couple years at different locations in Penderyn.
- Asked if there has been any consideration of what Penderyn can have in future to act as a traffic calming measure.
- Asked what options/funding streams there are to make the village safer.
- Shared concerns that Church Road is 30mph. The width reduces from a road to a lane and it is used by many drivers. At the moment, remnants of a collapsed wall is still needed to be removed.

Hirwaun Power

It was requested for an extension of working days and hours on-site. We expressed that residents have contacted us in the past in regard to noise, the extension of work through the weekend is a concern. And working through the night is a further concern.

Fifth Avenue Guest House change of use planning application

The application was passed by the Planning Committee. We were not contacted by officers of the date of this planning meeting, so we were unable to contribute, even though we were interested in the progression of this application. The application was originally due to be determined under delegated power. Residents have asked if this application can be appealed. Planning officers have confirmed that it is not possible, only applicants can appeal in the case that their application is refused.

RAAC issue in Hirwaun

We were informed of the news on Monday afternoon, as expected, residents were very panicked. 77 properties contain RAAC, with 44 being in a more critical condition. Trivallis have advised residents to leave their properties so that a thorough assessment can be made of each individual property and so they can begin to make homes safer. Some houses in the estate are Trivallis and others are private. Those who are private have been advised to arrange their own independent surveys. We are concerned about everyone's individual needs and have asked the Council what support they can provide and what we can share to help residents at this time.

LATEST INFO- Trivallis' objective is to inspect every Trivallis home within the estate by the end of this week. Information about the outcome of each survey and its implications will be communicated to residents early next week. A new temporary office facility (blue cabin) has been established on site for tenants' convenience.

RCT Council

- RCT Labour voted to increase council tax by 4.99%. As Plaid Cymru councillors, we strongly opposed this proposal. After speaking with residents and reading social media posts, we felt that we couldn't ignore your views. Residents will be asked to contribute more in taxes whilst services are being cut and the Council's responses to important issues are slower. The Council does allow discounts and exemptions, and residents can appeal their tax band.
- Plaid Cymru want to express our support with educators and governing bodies who have concerns with the proposed change to breakfast clubs. 73% of respondents to the recent consultation opposed the proposal to introduce a charge for the childcare provision. Unions have been putting pressure on RCT to re-consider what was originally agreed.

Announcements

- We would like to join the whole community in sending our condolences to the family and friends of Kaylan Hipsley. So many have spoken highly of him. Many lovely tributes have been placed on Brecon Road, the family has expressed their appreciation for this. Rest in peace, Kaylan.
- Thoughts and condolences go to Councillor Karen Morgan and all her family, following the passing of her beloved husband, Gareth "Gags" Morgan. A lovely service was held for him last week at the Crematorium, followed by Bryn-y-Gaer Cemetery.

The following matters were reported to the CBC's:

Cllr Zoe Goss reported two vans who were contractors for the Safe Routes in Communities scheme parked on the pavement at Swansea Road/Springfield Gardens forcing pedestrians into the road. It was advised that the matter should be reported to the police. It was also reported that there was a metal bar protruding from the ground by the playground. Cllr Goss went on to report that the route into the village along the Cefndon Path is not suitable for dog walkers and push chairs as it is in need of repair, and concluded by reporting that children are being dropped off the school bus on the A4059 Rhigos Road to Penderyn and walking down into Fairview along the pathway.

Cllr Rhys Howells referred to issues that he would be reporting to Future Valleys via email and that he would copy Cllr Adam Rogers in as County borough Cllr, and Cllrs Colin Woodley and Non Thomas as Community Council liaison.

The Executive Officer raised a query on behalf of a resident asking why there was foliage removed, fencing erected and an excavator on site at the Station Road bridge. It was advised that the land was owned by the Catholic Church and the preparation works could be carried out prior to submitting a planning application.

Cllr Colin Woodley asked again if we could see the results of the traffic survey carried out in Penderyn. It was advised that CBC Rogers would chase again.

2024/036 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 8th February 2024 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr James Woodward, seconded by Cllr Eryl O'Neill and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2024/037 – Lease – Old Fire Station

Cllr Adrian Harford provided an update on this, advising that it was to be dealt with shortly. **Action 2** – Executive Officer and Cllr Colin Woodley to continue with this.

2024/038 – Bus Shelters

The Executive Officer advised that a request has been made to RCT to have a bus shelter installed on Tramway, and to have the Heol Uchel bus shelter repainted. It was advised that RCT have no money in the current budget but that the requests would be added to the improvements list. It was asked about the community benefits from the Heads of the Valleys works being allocated towards the installation of bus shelters in Hirwaun. Cllr Adam Rogers advised that any community benefits from Future Valleys would be awarded at the end of the contract.

2024/039 – Canva Training

The Executive Officer advised that this was ongoing. **Action 3** – Executive Officer and Cllr Rhys Howells to continue with this.

2024/040 – Use of IT, Websites and Social Media Update

The Executive Officer provided an update on this, advising Cllrs of the Councils, and Cllrs legal responsibilities. It was advised that our Social Media Policy was in need to review. It was agreed to delegate the updating of the policy to the Executive Officer. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2024/042 – UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The Executive Officer confirmed that an application had been submitted to fund on behalf of the Council.

2024/043- Planning Applications

1. Redesign and reconstruction of shop fronts and fascia, change of use of 36a High St to A3 use and incorporation within existing fish & chip shop, takeaway and restaurant, three storey rear extension to provide lower ground storage, ground floor restaurant extension and two first floor flats; demolition of rear garage blocks and erection of two new garages with 8 no parking spaces and widened vehicular access from Davies Row – 35a-36a High St, Hirwaun. – Concerns were raised in relation to access at Davies Row, along with access to the flat in the adjacent property, and the request that pavement access is maintained at the front. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to submit Cllrs comments.
2. Residential development of 41 no affordable dwellings and associated works – Land adjacent to Bryngelli Estate, Meadow Lane, Hirwaun.
3. BBNP – Formation of an Agricultural Access (Retrospective) – Land adjacent to Beili Helyg, Llwn-On Reservoir Back Road, Cefn Cadlan, Hirwaun
4. Proposed 2 bed bungalow – Rear of the Glancynon Inn – permission granted.

2024/044 - Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Eryl O'Neill advised that she had attended the Soup Socials and the Garden Show meeting. She advised that the Monumental Welsh Women statue project was ongoing.

Cllr Ceri Woodley advised that she had attended the Soup Socials and had undertaken the Use of IT, Websites and Social Media training.

Cllr Adam Rogers advised that the pathway from High Street to the Library car park might be gated off to stop the walkway through. Discussions took place to ascertain if a request could be made to make it a public footpath due to the length of time it has been used by the public. It was noted that a walkway used for more than 20 years by members of the public could be classed as a public right of way following receipt of written statements confirming that the walkway had been used as such. A discussion also took place in relation to Cllr Rogers, in his capacity as County Borough Cllr, requesting the installation of 4 bus shelters in Penderyn. It was advised that RCT practices had now changed and that any requests must also be notified to the Community Council.

Cllr Adrian Harford requested that tea/coffee and biscuits be made available for Council meetings.

He requested that urgent requests were made to Cllrs via text or Whats App. The Executive Officer advised that in very urgent cases contact was already being made in this way but that it was not practical for all matters due to the amount of information that needed to be conveyed. It was also advised that all urgent matters outside of council meeting must go through the Chair and Cllrs should not be organising matters themselves (such as the attendance on the Gower Estate with the RAAC issue) without prior consent from the Chair.

Cllr Harford raised concerns regarding the lack of public transport in the evenings leaving residents cut off at night. He advised that he has been liaising with Stagecoach who advised that the reduction in service was due to lack of footfall. He advised that taxis now need to do the knowledge test in order to get a licence. Cllr Adam Rogers, in his capacity of County Borough Cllr, advised that RCT has money earmarked for transport in their budget. Cllrs agreed that Cllr Harford could continue to investigate this matter further on behalf of the Community Council.

Cllr Rhys Howells advised that Hirwaun FC are holding their Football Festival on 11th and 12th May and requested to book out the litter picking kits for the clean up after the event.

Cllr James Woodward advised that he had attended the Garden Show meeting.

Cllr Non Thomas provided an update following the Heads of the Valleys Liaison meeting, advising that Brecon Road would reopen this year. She requested confirmation of the Christmas lighting repair bill. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to confirm this. She concluded by providing an update on the Garden Show meeting and advising that a new judge was required for the vegetable categories.

Cllr Zoe Goss referred to the issues raised to the County Borough Cllr for example, unsafe pavements on the walking routes throughout the village, flooding at Croesbychan, and the issue with the new pathway from Maescynon to the bus stop.

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that he had undertaken the Use of IT, Websites and Social Media training.

2024/044– Community Youth Representative Report:

The Executive Officer advised they are awaiting guidance on any updates on this role since the original guidance was given in 2016. It was suggested that an introductory profile be added to the Facebook page introducing Youth Rep Caitlyn Kochalski, and advertising the Penderyn Youth Rep vacancy. **Action 7** – Youth Rep Caitlyn Kochalski to provide the profile for the Executive Officer to add to the Facebook page.

2024/045– Cllr Vacancy for Hirwaun Ward

It was noted that Cllr Adam Rogers was now a member of the Community Council for Hirwaun Ward following an uncontested election. The Executive Officer advised that RCT had not yet notified us of the cost of this. Cllr James Underwood raised concerns regarding the cost of this process to the community, and the loss of another person from the community with their own ideas. Cllr Rogers responded that he wanted to have an active involvement with the Community Council.

2024/046 – Cllr Vacancy for Penderyn Ward

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

2024/047 – Community Council Insurance Policy

Cllrs agreed the renewal of the Community Council insurance policy following advice from the Executive Officer advising of our long term agreement of 3 years. This was proposed by Cllr Non Thomas, seconded by Cllr Ceri Woodley and agreed nem con.

2024/048 – £137 Grant Application

Cllrs reviewed the grant application made by Cylch Meithrin Penderyn to purchase Easter Eggs for the children attending their groups. Cllr Zoe Goss declared an interest at this point. The acceptance of this grant was proposed by Cllr Eryl O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Non Thomas and agreed nem con.

2024/049 – Litter Picking for Hirwaun

Cllr Adrian Harford thanked Cllr Adam Rogers in his capacity of County Borough Cllr for walking around the village to identify issues. It was agreed that Cllr Harford and Youth Rep Caitlyn Kochalski would attend the next walkabout. Discussions took place on residents already carrying out litter picks locally, and the option to encourage local groups to take over responsibility for certain streets. It was asked if RCT could arrange for their litter pickers to clear areas where they have cut back hedges to clear the rubbish collected there.

2024/050 – Traffic Safety Issues for Hirwaun

Cllr Zoe Goss raised concerns regarding continuing traffic issues in Hirwaun and the safety of its residents. Issues include parking on double yellow lines and poor visibility along High Street by the shops, and up past the Village Hall to Rhigos Road, along with the same issues at Brecon Road outside the Co-op. Cllrs all raised their concerns about safety in the village, agreeing that something must be done. **Action 8** – Cllr Goss to email her concerns to the Executive Officer who will forward them on to RCT and the PCSO.

2024/051 – Guidelines for Community Council Working Groups

The guidelines for the Community Council's Working Groups were discussed and agreed as: i) Guidelines to be set at the start of each Working Group, ii) the Working Group to make decisions on how they wish to proceed for that specific event before seeking approval from full council before going ahead, iii) Working Group to complete any grant application form before sending it to the Executive Officer to submit.

2024/052 – 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 9**– Executive Officer to add this to the April agenda.

2024/053 – Executive Officer's report

Print Partnership - £7.36

MP Garden Services - £150

Hirwaun Village Hall - £2,321

Daisy Communications - £83.99

Npower - £119.15

Zurich - £1,535.07

Consultations:

1. RCT Revised Local Development plan (2022-2037) – Preferred Strategy Consultation.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach left the meeting at 8.44pm.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. Keep Wales Tidy Gardening for Bugs.
2. IRP Annual Report – referring to Town & Community Cllrs allowance limits for 2024/25
3. CCLA bond account – it was advised that the signatories have been updated.

Other:

1. Cyber Security Awareness training - **Action 10** – Executive Office to obtain further information.
2. Wildlife Habitat Box competition – The Executive Officer provided an update on the competition, advising that BBNP had given permission to run this competition again

using the remaining unclaimed prizes which were grant funded by them. **Action 11** – Executive Officer to run the competition again when the weather improves.

3. SLCC Branch Meeting - The Executive Officer provided an update from the SLCC Branch meeting, along with an update on Martyn's Law, the Anti Terrorism Bill. It was also advised that Community Councils are entitled to free core membership of the National Cyber Security Centre. Cllrs agreed to take advantage of this free membership. **Action 12** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2024/054- Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

None.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.49pm.

Agreed