

# **Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council**

## **Agreed Minutes of Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> April 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, Cllr Margaret Amos,

**Attending:** Caitlyn Kochalski – Community Youth Representative

**Apologies:** CBC Karen Morgan

### **2024/055 - Disclosures of Personal Interest**

There were no disclosures of interest.

### **2024/056 - PCSO report**

The PCSO provided the following report:

I have just done a patrol with the wardens who took positive action with vehicles on High Street, after one lap more vehicles reappeared at location. No vehicles outside the co op. I have been to all motor garages in Hirwaun and Rhigos in relation to ongoing thefts from garages in the Caerphilly and Abercynon area to give preventative advice.

There were no issues to report to the PCSO.

### **2024/057 – Defibrillators**

Cllr Adrian Harford provided an update on the defibrillators for Hirwaun. He advised that Pen Y Cymoedd have agreed to cover the cost for the replacement defibrillator to replace the one lost in the post. Cllrs agreed that two of the defibrillators purchased by Pen Y Cymoedd would be installed at Hirwaun YMCA and at Station Road. Discussions took place on who is responsible for the defibrillators and it was agreed that Calon Hearts held responsibility as they submitted the grant application to Pen Y Cymoedd. It was agreed that Cllrs Adrian Harford and Adam Rogers would liaise with the homeowners who had agreed that the defibrillator could be installed outside their property, and that Calon Hearts would install them. **Action 1** – Cllr Adrian Harford to continue with this.

### **2024/058 – County Borough Cllr reports**

The County borough Cllrs provided the following written report:

#### **Police issues**

Took part in a door-knock in Hirwaun to discuss police issues. Main issues raised:

- Obstructions on High Street, outside the post office and outside the Co-op.
- Speed on Brecon Road. - PCSOs and PCs being more visible.
- The police station being open for the community to speak to someone.

#### **Future Valleys**

- Made Future Valleys aware that the lighting tower at the smaller Rhigos roundabout is not always on.
- We have been asking when the lighting from the Rhigos roundabout towards Trewaun will be back on. That date is unknown.
- The footpath from Glannant Street is to re-open when Brecon Road opens back up, still planned for the summer.

- Future Valleys have placed 'footpath closure' signs on the path which has been accessible between Tower Road and the Welfare. We were informed that the Welsh Government had made this call. This footpath was created by Future Valleys. Unfortunately, the official path that had been used for years was cut-off because of the works associated with the Heads of the Valleys. We have contacted the Council to ask if another path should be created, as well as what us and residents can do to protect our footpaths.
- Expressed concerns with the pollution that is affecting residents living in the Greenwood Drive estate.

## Highways

- Reported potholes:

Greenwood Drive                      Croesbychan to Crematorium Road                      Ty Bruce Lane  
Brecon Road                      Tramway                      John Street to John's Lane

- Reported the road surface from the top of Greenwood Drive to the Pines, and on the Tramway.
- It was asked if traffic monitoring has been undertaken with strips along the road in Penderyn. Officer response- "The Council doesn't hold a budget for routine Traffic monitoring and the Council only undertakes routine monitoring of its principal network at regular intervals. I have checked the data on file and there is no data from this process near Penderyn."
- Queried in February why Church Road in Penderyn is 30mph whilst the main stretch is 20mph. Officer response- "Upon review of the Council's maps this area is shown as out of scope on the Welsh Government mapping layer provided by Transport for Wales. This seems to be a clear error on the mapping and I will make arrangements for the 20mph limit to be extended at the earliest possible opportunity and the maps updated in respect to this change."
- Reported a hit STOP sign, Brecon Road in Hirwaun.

## Streetcare

- Expressed concerns with the footway in Meadow Close, Hirwaun being a trip hazard.
- Requested a section of pavement to be levelled, Cynon Terrace in Hirwaun
- Made the Council aware that on the main road outside Greenwood Drive, some of the fencing is sticking out (leading to Springfield Gardens).
- Requested that the pavement needs a clean outside Greenwood Drive, with some wood and stone needing to be taken away (leading to Denbeigh Court).
- Reported graffiti on the signage as you enter the Cefndon from the top.
- Reported that the fencing and one post has fallen down, at the top of the Cefndon.
- Reported glass/litter:

Glass as you enter Maescynon, Hirwaun.                      Glass in Tramway playground, Hirwaun.

Pieces of wood left on the side of Swansea Road, Hirwaun.                      Litter and bags in Bryncynon, Hirwaun.

Rubbish dumped in the vegetation along Chapel Road, Penderyn.

- There are two litter bins outside the Denbeigh Court estate (within a metre of each other). Requested one is moved to another location in the Ward.
- Queried if it is possible to replace the litter bins on Brecon Road and Station Road with ones with a lid. Birds and the overflow of rubbish are a problem here.
- Requested new dog fouling bins for Brecon Road, Hirwaun and Lamb Road, Penderyn.
- Requested the Council to clean the moss from the Maescynon bus stop and the windows of the Greenwood Drive bus stop.
- Made the Council aware of signage overgrowth in The Pines and Oakland Close, Hirwaun

## Scheduled monument

An area of land sold by the Catholic Church has been extensively cleared of greenery and trees. We expressed concerns that the new owners may not be aware of the scheduled monument status of the Trambridge and may unwittingly weaken or cause damage to the structure. We requested the Council to contact CADW and the new landowners.

### **Safe Routes in the Community scheme**

- Contacted RCT to express concerns with the inaccessibility of the pavement at Maescynon. Officer response- "From this afternoon, the works will include a designated pedestrian route through the construction zone which requires temporary traffic lights. It is anticipated this junction will be completed w/e 19<sup>th</sup> April."
- The public notice period for the Safe Routes in the Community Scheme has now ended. We have given our support to the proposals, believing there is a need to make our village safer and to act on what residents have shared and told us over the years.

### **Rivers/flooding**

- Reported litter that is in the river adjacent to Springfield Gardens, which flows under Swansea Road, Hirwaun
- Reported a fence that had come down into the river, adjacent to a property on Tramway. Officer response- "I called to inspect this issue today and problem confirmed, the fence, retaining wall and a section of the residents garden has slipped- partially blocking the water course... Please can you pass it to Flood Risk Management to inspect/assess."
- Reported drains that need clearing on Harris Street and Station Road.

### **RAAC in Hirwaun**

We are often sharing updates we receive with residents in the Gower estate. Trivallis have been carrying out structural surveys on their 60 properties, and we asked if it would have been possible to include the 17 private properties in this. It is our understanding that Trivallis may not be able to go ahead with significant works if their properties are adjoined to private ones. Trivallis responded- "While we are working with RCT to assist private owners, we are unable to provide safety advice for homes other than our own. As such, the structural surveys will need to be arranged by homeowners." Trivallis are taking sole responsibility for their properties, but we are concerned that RCT have not committed any support to those in private properties. We have requested joint meetings with RCT and Trivallis, but we have been ignored. There are two petitions on our Facebook page which could raise the awareness of this important issue. We will continue to press for Welsh Government support too.

### **Save Rhigos Primary School**

Cabinet will discuss the Objection Report at their meeting on 29th April 2024. The discussion papers will be available online a week prior to the meeting taking place, the report itself however won't be formally published and distributed to stakeholders until after the decision by Cabinet is made. We have asked if it will be possible for councillors and residents to address the meeting.

### **RCT Council**

- Question submitted:  
"Can the relevant Cabinet member share what contact the Council has made with the Trivallis tenants and private homeowners/renters of the Gower estate, following the news of RAAC in 77 Hirwaun properties?"
- Plaid Cymru's attempts to reverse the Labour Cabinet's decision to cut school transport unfortunately failed, following other Labour councillors defending the Cabinet's decision during a meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The Cabinet's decision to cut school transport will be in effect from 2025 for secondary schools and post-16 learners in English Medium, Welsh Medium and faith schools/colleges. 79% of respondents disagreed with these proposals during the consultation.

The following matters were reported to the CBC's:

Cllr Colin Woodley asked why there is no data to the traffic survey carried out in Penderyn. It was advised that the survey was not carried out by RCT.

Cllr Zoe Goss raised concerns about RCT being reactive rather than proactive in relation to traffic safety issues reported to them.

Cllr Ceri Woodley reported chippings on the pavement at Maescynon which are causing a tripping hazard.

Cllr Rhys Howells reported potholes at Croesbychan.

Cllr Margaret Amos reported a large puddle at the top end of the arcway, and asked for an update on the dog waste bin and bench on the main road.

Cllr Wendy Donovan referred to speeding issues in Penderyn and asked if residents were able to use their own hand held devices to monitor the speeds themselves. Cars parked on the pavement at Trebannog Tce were also reported, and it was advised that residents would be campaigning to have the speed limit put back up to 30mph.

### **2024/059 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Non Thomas, seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos and agreed nem con.

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

#### **2024/060 – Lease – Old Fire Station**

The Executive Officer advised that this was ongoing. **Action 2** – Executive Officer and Cllr Colin Woodley to continue with this.

#### **2024/061 – Canva Training**

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

#### **2024/062 – Christmas Lighting Repair Bill**

The Executive Officer confirmed the cost of the Christmas Lighting repair bill.

#### **2024/063 – Cyber Security Awareness Training**

It was agreed that a group training session would be organised for full council. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to arrange this.

#### **2024/064 – National Cyber Security Centre Membership**

The Executive Officer advised that no response had been received. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to chase.

#### **2024/065- Planning Applications**

- i) The installation of a new sharable 25m lattice mast which is collocated with 1no electricity transmission tower. The proposal also includes the installation of 7no cabinets, 6no antennas on 1no headframe, 2no 600mm diameter transmission link dishes and ancillary development thereto. The new base station is required due to the existing mast being unsuitable for the necessary upgrade of equipment. Additionally, the proposed mast will future proof the site as it has the capacity to host multiple operators' equipment and the ability to host 5G technologies – Land near Aberdare Pylon, Ger Y Nant Farm, Hirwaun. No comment was made by Cllrs.

## **2024/066 - Community Councillors reports:**

Cllr Zoe Goss advised that she wished to join the Garden Show Working Group.

Cllr Non Thomas provided an update from the Heads of the Valleys Liaison meeting, advising that there have been delays due to the weather but the Brecon Road entrance into the village is due to re-open this summer. Cllr Thomas also advised that a new judge for the vegetable section of the Garden Show has been secured, and provided an update from the recent Garden Show Working Group meeting.

Cllr James Woodward advised that he had attended the Garden Show Working Group meeting, and had been working on the Council's declaration of a climate emergency.

Cllr Adrian Harford advised that he has been out litter picking in the village and has been liaising with RCT's Street Cleansing Operative to discuss the hot spots in the village.

Cllr Rhys Howells advised that he has been working on the Council's declaration of a climate emergency, and that RCT CBC has not yet declared a climate emergency. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to check the SLCC website for more information on the declaration of a climate emergency.

Cllr Adam Rogers advised that he had attended the Garden Show Working Group meeting.

Cllr Wendy Donovan raised a query in relation to the basic training module for Cllrs.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach asked if the Council could run the Walking Festival again this year. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to add this to the May agenda for further discussion.

Cllr Eryl O'Neill advised that she had run the Soup Social and Community Buffet, and had been liaising with Cllr Harford in relation to the defibrillators.

Cllr Ceri Woodley advised that she had run the Soup Social and Community Buffet.

## **2024/067– Community Youth Representative Report:**

There was no report for this month.

## **2024/068 – Cllr Vacancy for Penderyn Ward**

Cllrs reviewed and discussed the application received for the vacancy for Penderyn Ward. Cllr Eryl O'Neill proposed that this application was accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Non Thomas and approved with a majority vote.

### **2024/069 – Traffic Safety Liaison Group**

Cllrs discussed the setting up of a Traffic Safety Liaison Working Group, discussing traffic issues and concerns for both villages. It was agreed that the working group could gather evidence, compile reports and discuss ideas on how things could improve for the better. It was agreed that Cllr Wendy Donovan would lead this group.

### **2024/070 – One Voice Wales Membership**

Cllrs agreed to renew the Council's membership of One Voice Wales. This was proposed by Cllr Ceri Woodley, seconded by Cllr Non Thomas and approved nem con.

### **2024/071 – Social Media Policy**

Cllrs approved the updated Social Media Policy. This was proposed by Cllr Margaret Amos, seconded by Cllr Eryl O'Neill and approved nem con. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to add it to the website.

### **2024/072 – Welcome Signage Project**

The Executive Officer advised that the Council has been awarded a partial grant to purchase new Welcome signage from the Sustain Spaces Fund with Pen Y Cymoedd. It was advised that the grant application had been submitted requesting funding to allow the Council to purchase and install three Welcome signs for Hirwaun and two Welcome signs for Penderyn. It was advised that the partial grant awarded would enable the Council to purchase two signs if the Council made up the shortfall. Cllrs discussed the costs of the signage and agreed to purchase two Welcome signs for Hirwaun with the Council making up the shortfall. It was agreed that further grant funding would be sought for the remaining Hirwaun Welcome sign, and the two Penderyn Welcome signs. Discussions also took place on collaborating with BBNP for the Penderyn signage, and Future Valleys Construction for the remaining Hirwaun sign. This was proposed by Cllr Adam Rogers, seconded by Cllr Rhys Howells and agreed with a majority vote. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

### **2024/073 – Sight Loss Awareness Pledges**

The Executive Officer advised on the format of the Sight Loss training session. Cllrs agreed to take this forward. **Action 10**– Executive Officer to organise this.

### **2024/074 – Executive Officer's report**

Print Partnership - £35.92

Centregreat - £3,594.00

Vision ICT - £185.26

Daisy Communications - £91.31

One Voice Wales - £959

Information Commissioners Office - £35

### **Consultations:**

- Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill – **Action 11** – Cllrs to respond individually.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. Introduction from Ross Evans, Fly-tipping Action Wales – **Action 12** – Executive Officer to invite him to the June meeting.
2. Update from Zion Baptist Church.
3. One Voice Wales – Annual Financial Timetable of Actions.
4. One Voice Wales – Pre-election Period Timetable of Actions.
5. Heledd Fychan Cost of Living event.
6. Nature Recovery Funding & Information session – **Action 13** – Cllrs Marguerite Courtney-Solbach and Eryl O’Neill, and the Executive Officer to attend.
7. Connecting Communities in Cynon Networking event – **Action 14** – Executive Officer to circulate to Cllrs.
8. External Audit – Letter from Audit Wales.

Other:

1. Shared Prosperity Fund – The Executive Officer advised that we were successful in our grant application to cover the cost of our 2024 council events.
2. The Executive Officer provided an update following attendance at the One Voice Wales Bee Friendly seminar where an update was provided to other Councils on the work we have done to achieve our Bee Friendly status.
3. Resident query asking if there any volunteering roles within the council – **Action 15** - Executive Officer to respond.
4. The Executive Officer advised that we need a judge for our Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom competition. **Action 16** – Cllr Rhys Howells advised that he may have a contact. Executive Officer to continue with this.
5. The Executive Officer advised that the Cuppa with a Coppa for Hirwaun was due to be held at Hirwaun Village Hall.
6. The Executive Officer advised that an Equality and Diversity Policy and a Volunteer Policy is required for grant funding. **Action 17** – Executive Officer to add it to the May agenda for approval.
7. The Executive Officer advised that the RCT LGPS end of year exercise is due to be completed.
8. The Executive Officer advised that there has been a decrease in employer contributions for the staff pension scheme.

**2024/075- Urgent items at the Chair’s discretion**

None.

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.37pm.**