

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 13th June 2024

Present: Cllr Colin Woodley (Chair), Cllr James Woodward (Vice Chair), Cllr Adrian Harford, Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Rhys Howells, Cllr Wendy Donovan, Cllr Zoe Goss, Cllr Adam Rogers, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Eryl O'Neill,

Attending: N/A

Excused: Cllr Non Thomas

Apologies: Cllr Lynley Gregory, Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Caitlyn Kochalski –

2024/104 - Ross Evans – Fly-tipping Action Wales

An update was provided on the work carried out by Fly-tipping Action Wales which includes enforcement, surveillance, education and working with community groups. It was advised that RCT is top of the list for enforcement action against fly-tipping and that offenders initially receive fines, before going to court/receiving prison sentences.

2024/105 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

2024/106 - PCSO report

The PCSO did not provide a written report. **Action 1** – Executive Officer to email the PSCO asking for a report to be provided in future.

2024/107 – Defibrillators

Cllr Adrian Harford provided an update on the defibrillators for Hirwaun. An update was given on the installation of the defibrillators at the YMCA and Station Road, and a discussion took place in relation to the Bute Tce/Fairview defibrillator with Cllrs being advised that the potential Fairview site is 1,000 metres to the nearest defibrillator. The potential running costs were discussed along with who will take up guardianship.

Action 2– Cllr Adrian Harford to continue with this.

2024/108 – County Borough Cllr reports

The County borough Cllrs provided the following written report:

Hirwaun and Penderyn report-13.06.24 [Read more on Hirwaun and Penderyn and Rhigos Matters \(Facebook\)](#)

Future Valleys

Expressed concerns with the bumps/ramps on Rhigos roundabout. Asked if these will be smoothed.

Asked what the Council's response to flooding since Storm Dennis has been

- Completed the S19 Flood Investigation Report- Engaged a consultant that undertook public engagement with those areas affected.
- Undertaken approximately 1km of asset infrastructure surveys to establish the serviceable and structural condition of the networks- As part of which over 200tons of debris were removed.
- Two number culvert upgrades along Rhigos Road have been completed – Near Tower entrance. Installed remote telemetry camera unit to support maintenance and operational response.
- Undertook Culvert rehabilitation works to the Swansea road inlet – conveys through Cae Felin Parc / Llys Cynon.

- Offered PFR measures (Flood Gates, Air vents and flood Sax) to Cae Felin Parc / Llys Cynon (on behalf of NRW) – 19 properties took up the offer.
- The Council has created a Central control room to compliment the Council’s contact centre and CCTV centre.
- Expanded the FRM Team to incorporate an enforcement officer and Flooding support and awareness officer.
- Updated Council Webpages related to FRM to support residents. Link - <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Roadspavementsandpaths/FloodAlleviation/FloodRiskManagement/FloodRiskManagement.aspx>

20MPH

- Residents have expressed concerns with possibly the two Penderyn signs having a current still going through with no illumination- Officer- “I can confirm that both sign posts are still connected to the mains supply following the 20mph de illumination scheme in Penderyn...Our Traffic Services Department may be able to advise if further works to disconnect both sign posts will be carried out in the future bearing in mind the original process is under review.”
- We still have intentions to survey Penderyn residents about the change to the speed limit through the village and if there are other traffic concerns you may have. With the upcoming election, we will postpone the survey to next month.
- The Welsh Government are asking residents to share your views on streets/roads that you feel the 20mph has not been applied correctly to the local authority.

Overgrowth

- Requested the following areas to have overgrowth cut back:
 - Top gate of the Cefndon
 - Woodland Park, Penderyn sign
 - The edge of the Maescynon green, along Swansea Road
 - Outside the Greenwood Drive estate, along Swansea Road

Highways

- Requested the street cleaner to clean from High Street to the beginning of Station Road, Hirwaun
- Expressed concerns with the wall along Church Road, Penderyn. More debris has fallen and nothing has been done to make it safe.
- Reported potholes:
 - Church Road, Penderyn - Top of Station Road, Hirwaun - Railway Terrace, Hirwaun
 - Garth Grove, Hirwaun - Cae Felin Parc, Hirwaun
 - Ty Newydd lay-by. “I have attended to inspect the Ty-newydd lay-by and although the entrance carriageway is in poor condition it is still within our safety defect criteria at the moment. This section of the lay-by has already been identified and marked up for resurfacing in July.
 - Pontpren, Penderyn. “At Pontpren a patch was identified at the junction of Bryn Onnen and issued for repair and both junctions to enter Pontpren have been added to the list for consideration of resurfacing.”
 - Gower Estate, Hirwaun. “Gower Estate has now been inspected and actioned”.

Streetcare

- Following concerns from residents in Llwyn-Onn about dropped curbs not being properly to the ground and some pavements needing attention- Officer “I have issued a works ticket to re-profile the tarmac at four of these locations which will improve disabled/pram access.”
- Requested if dropped curbs could be installed in Cae Felin Parc.
- Expressed concerns with the pavements in Cae Felin Parc, not all areas are suitable for everyone to walk on/move on.
- Asked for an update on possible maintenance/improvement to the bench along Pontpren/Chapel Road, Penderyn

- A sign for the 'Cynon Trail' on Hirwaun's High Street was last week at eye-level to some residents- It has now been lifted and turned.

Litter/Fly-tipping

- Reported fly-tipping:
 - in the Gower estate, Hirwaun
 - Metal pipe, High Street, Hirwaun
 - Ty-Newydd lay-by

Playgrounds

- Asked if it was possible for the playground in Springfield Gardens to have improvements, equipment for older children in the estate for example. This estate has recently been adopted by RCT.
- Made the Council aware of a collapsed wall that has had debris fall on to the Cefndon playground.

Trivallis

- Reported the missing/damaged sleepers around the green in the Gower estate, Hirwaun. Officer- "I have attended to inspect the area and problem confirmed. There are twelve sleepers in total damaged or missing, I have attached some photos... Please can you pass to Trivallis as this area falls under their remit."
- Queried if Trivallis would be doing anything with the green in the Gower estate. We were told it was a play area years ago, but it has been left to deteriorate.

Penderyn Quarry

- Shared blasting notifications

Footpaths

- Expressed further concerns with the footpath between Hirwaun and Penderyn, on The Line. There has been subsiding and deterioration of the path. Some work has been done by the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, but we have asked if more will be done to address issues.
- We have asked for further updates on the footpath between the Welfare and Tower Road. We have not received some answers to our questions and it has not been confirmed if an alternative will be created.

Nant-y-Bwlch watercourse

We expressed concerns to the Rights of Ways Officer about the likely impact that future developments would have on the Nant-y-Bwlch. There will be further consultation on the Revised Local Development Plan in January/February 2025. That would be the community's opportunity to share concerns about the future of the watercourse.

Our Wildlife

We are arranging a meeting with RCT's biodiversity officer who will take a look at areas which could possibly be protected from cutting and weed killers in future.

Is RCT Council taking away the large wheelie bins?

Following posts from concerned residents about it possibly happening, we contacted RCT. They responded with:

"Unless residents receive formal written correspondence from the Council, waste and recycling collections remain unchanged. If there are any future changes to waste collections, these will be communicated to residents via post as well as digital communication. There are no plans to make residents give up their wheelie bins."

Update on trains to Hirwaun and Industrial Estate

We asked the Council to share an update on the trains that are expected to come up to Hirwaun and the Industrial Estate. It is mentioned in the Revised Local Development Plan that there could be two stations. We have asked a few times the exact locations of them and the need for the community to be consulted.

The following matters were reported to the CBC's:

Cllr Adrian Harford raised a query with regard to the sleeper repair in the report. It was advised that they are being repaired as they are falling down.

Cllr James Woodward asked why the partnership working with the Community Council in relation to biodiversity was not mentioned in the report. It was advised that this was due to space limitations and that the full information would be on the Facebook page.

Cllr Zoe Goss asked for an update on the Metro extension to Hirwaun. It was advised that no further update has been received from RCT.

Cllr Eryl O'Neill asked for an update in relation to the footpath from the Welfare Ground to Tower Road. It was advised that no answers have been received as yet.

Cllr Wendy Donovan asked how the 20mph survey of Penderyn would be carried out. It was advised that each household would receive a paper form to fill in.

Cllr Margaret Amos advised that the cattle grid at the reservoir is overgrown and residents can't walk past it.

Cllr Colin Woodley reported dangerous potholes on the Ystradfellte Road between the A4059 and the cattle grid.

2024/109 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 9th May 2024 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr James Woodward, seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2024/110 – Grass Verge Working Group

The Working Group advised that areas had been identified within Hirwaun following a walkaround the village. The group has been advised by RCT that more notice will need to be given to alter their mowing regimes and unfortunately the grass in these areas has been cut. The Executive Officer advised that an email had been sent to RCT on behalf of the Community Council supporting the County Borough Cllrs request to alter the mowing regime. An update on the mowing regimes of other Community Council areas was also discussed. Cllr James Woodward advised that he had contacted the building site who had confirmed that they will be keeping the well-established tree at its entrance. **Action 3** – Working Group to continue to liaise with RCT.

Cllr Zoe Goss left the meeting at 7.25pm.

2024/111 – Old Fire Station Lease

Cllr Adrian Harford provided an update and the technical difficulties with the document were discussed. **Action 4** - Executive Officer to continue with this.

2024/112 – Cyber Security Awareness Training

The Executive Officer advised that this was ongoing. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2024/113 – National Cyber Security Centre Membership

The Executive Officer advised that this was ongoing. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to chase.

2024/114 – Nature Recovery Grant

The Executive Officer advised that permissions were being sought in relation to the planting of trees before the grant application can be submitted. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2024/115 – D-DAY 80 Ceremony

Cllrs approved the cost of new clips to secure the flags. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to purchase.

2024/116 – Walking Festival

The Executive Officer advised that BBNP were no longer able to assist with leading the walking festival. Cllr Rhys Howells offered to make contact with Signpost Cymru to see if they are able to help. **Action 9** – Cllr Rhys Howells to contact Signpost Cymru.

2024/117 – Sight Loss Awareness Training

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that the training session was not able to go ahead due to technical difficulties. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to rearrange.

2024/118 – Cllrs Training

An update was provided on the free training places funded by Welsh Government.

2024/119 – Biodiversity Seminar

The Executive Officer provided an update following the seminar and circulated the following documents to Cllrs – i) Biodiversity and Local Planning Applications, ii) Nature Recovery Guide for Community and Town Councils.

2024/120 – BBNP Safety in the Hill Course

It was advised that this course was fully booked.

2024/121 – Village Green Project

The Executive Officer advised that this is ongoing. **Action 11** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2024/122 – Ladybird Benches

The Executive Officer advised that the vandalism has been reported to the PCSO who had made further enquiries. A Facebook post was also added asking for more information. Unfortunately, no information has come to light. It was advised that the manufacturers

had been contacted for information on how best to repair but no response has been received.

2024/123 – Hirwaun 1st Scouts Grant

The Executive Officer advised that they weren't able to carry out any extra fundraising this year due to time constraints but they would usually raise money via sponsored events or curry and quiz nights.

2024/124- Planning Applications

- i) Detached dormer bungalow including relocation of drive for no. 114 Brecon Road, Hirwaun,.
- ii) First floor extension – 12 Manchester Place, Hirwaun.
- iii) Proposed single storey extension and single domestic garage – 6 Rhosyfryn, Chapel Road, Penderyn. Decision Notice – permission granted.
- iv) Telephone mast – Land near Aberdare Pylon, Ger y Nant Farm, Hirwaun – application withdrawn.

2024/125 - Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Ceri Woodley advised that she had attended the Garden Show meeting and the D-Day 80 ceremony.

Cllr James Woodward advised that he had attended the D-Day 80 ceremony and the Garden Show meeting. He advised that he had attended the Grass Verge Working Group site visit, and had planted the plants in the two planters at the Hirwaun Welcome sign. He suggested changing to more bee friendly plants moving forward.

Cllr Adrian Harford apologised for not being able to attend the High Sherriff award ceremony. He advised that he has been dealing with the defibrillators, and that he had attended the Grass Verge Working Group site visit, and had planted the plants in the two planters at the Hirwaun Welcome sign.

Cllr Rhys Howells advised that he had attended the D-Day 80 ceremony and was part of the Grass Verge Working Group. He asked that the Climate Emergency be added to the July meeting agenda for discussion by full council. **Action 12** – Executive Officer to add this to the July agenda.

Cllr Wendy Donovan advised that she had attended the D-Day 80 ceremony and that she is in the process of organising a meeting of the Road Safety Working Group. She also advised that she has offered Hirwaun Primary School the use of St Elvan's children's wildlife cameras for their summer fair.

Cllr Margaret Amos advised that she had attended the Garden Show meeting and had planted the plants in the planter at the Welcome to Penderyn sign.

Cllr Adam Rogers advised that he had attended the High Sherriff Award at Penderyn Community Centre, the D-Day 80 ceremony and had attended the Grass Verge Working Group site visit.

Cllr Eryl O'Neill advised that she had attended the D-Day 80 ceremony and the Garden Show meeting.

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that he had attended the Waterfalls Partnership meeting where BBNP have proposed the installation of a carpark at Pontneddfechan which will hopefully alleviate the parking issues in the waterfalls area. He advised that a traffic survey had been carried out showing that during weekends and Bank Holidays the traffic in these areas doubles to the waterfalls via Pontneddfechan, and trebles via Penderyn to the waterfalls. An update was provided from the Wardens on visitor behaviour, and the suggested shuttlebus has been ruled out at present.

2024/126- Community Youth Representative Report:

In her absence, it was advised that Caitlyn Kochalski had carried out a litter pick with Hirwaun Primary as part of Volunteering Week. She has been volunteering at the YMCA in the garden and has collected 9 bags of litter from the Hirwaun area. She has also carried out the planting at the two planters at the Welcome to Hirwaun signs.

2024/127 - Request to be Excused

The Executive Officer advised that Cllr Non Thomas had made the request to be excused for a period of 6 months due to medical reasons. The Executive Officer recommended that this request be approved. This was proposed by Cllr Eryl O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Ceri Woodley and agreed nem con.

2024/128 - Bank Signatory

It was agreed that Cllr Adam Rogers be added as an additional bank signatory on the Community Council's bank account. **Action 13** - Executive Officer to deal with this.

2024/129 - Finance Committee

It was agreed that Cllr James Woodward would sit on the finance committee. This was proposed by Cllr Rhys Howells, seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos and agreed nem con.

2024/130 - Volunteering Policy

Cllrs approved the draft Volunteering Policy. It was proposed by Cllr Ceri Woodley, seconded by Cllr Adrian Harford and agreed nem con. **Action 14** - Executive Officer to add this to the website.

2024/131- Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom Competition

The Executive Officer advised that the Garden Society had confirmed that we can offer prize vouchers for the Garden Shop again this year. It was advised that Cllr Wendy Donovan would be judging the competition this year. **Action 15** - Executive Officer to continue with this.

2024/132 – Kids Seed Bomb Event

The Executive Officer provided an update on this year's event. **Action 16** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2024/133 – Garden Show

An update was provided on the organising of the Garden Show. It was advised that the County Borough Cllrs had made a request to advertise their contact details in the schedule. The Executive Officer referred to pre-election guidance for the General Election. It was agreed that the advert could be placed as long as it doesn't mention the political party and as long as the schedules are not circulated before the election. **Action 17** – Cash holder for prize money to be agreed at the July meeting.

2024/134 – Executive Officer's report

Print Partnership - £6.73

Daisy Communications - £91.31

Boverton Nurseries - £2,485.20

Audit Wales (2022/23) - £210.00

RBL Poppy Appeal - £25.00

Consultations:

None received.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. Email from resident – request to install a zebra crossing by the two bus stops by Bryn Y Gaer cemetery – **Action 18** Executive Officer to forward the request on to RCT.
2. RCT Food Summit.
3. Letter from Ken Skates MS re 20mph.
4. Safe Routes in Communities expressions of interest. It was noted that Hirwaun has already successful in receiving money for upgrades.
5. Civility and Respect Newsletter.
6. OVW Digital Guidance to Hybrid Meetings.

Other:

None.

2024/135 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

None.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.