

## Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

### Agreed Minutes of Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Adrian Harford, Cllr Viktoria Williams, Cllr Adam Rogers,

#### **2024/158 - Disclosures of Personal Interest**

Cllr Margaret Amos disclosed an interest in Agenda item 15.

#### **2024/159 - PCSO report**

The PCSO provided the following written report:

We have had 6 Anti-Social Behaviour calls reported where ASB referrals were sent out and positive action was taken. Co-op – Several calls to us regarding shoplifting. They are getting hit with the theft of meat/steak. If you hear of anyone selling meat around the village, please let us know. 1 report of Dogs being not under control up the Welfare ground. 1 owner was visited by police and a warning letter was issued. We have also had an email from our Go Safe department who have re looked at Rhigos Road. They are looking to adopt both Rhigos Rd and Brecon Rd as 'GoSafe motorcycle sites'. We have sent an email to them this week to notify them that the bridge is now open therefore more traffic coming through onto Brecon Road now. Other than that, unfortunately our team are stretched with numbers. We have not had an intake of PCSO's in over a year and some of our PCSO's have left to become PC's. We will try our very best to get through as many issues as we can with our small numbers and just hope our new government will open recruitment for new PCSO's very soon!

#### **2024/160 – Defibrillators**

Cllr Colin Woodley provided an update on the defibrillators for Hirwaun from a written report provided by Cllr Adrian Harford. It was noted that no decision has been made by council to collect funds for the replacement pads and batteries for the defibrillators. It had been agreed that we would help to raise the funds which would be held by Heart Heroes. It was advised that Heart Heroes still have funds available for these consumables, along with schemes in place to raise the funds. Cllr Woodley plans to meet with Heart Heroes to ask if they can make a grant application to purchase a defibrillator for Woodland Park. **Action 1**– Cllr Colin Woodley and Cllr Adrian Harford to continue with this.

#### **2024/161 – County Borough Cllr reports**

The County borough Cllrs provided the following written report:

##### **Police issues**

- Shared dash camera footage of dangerous driving on Rhigos Road and Brecon Road, Hirwaun.
- Reported dangerous driving on Glannant Street. Also, contacted the care agency who responded that they would speak to their staff.
- Made the PCSOs aware of a lot of noise and a lot of mess left one night in an area of the Village Green.
- Made PCSOs aware of a damaged vehicle on Cross Street, Hirwaun.

## Future Valleys

- Reported the ramps on the A465 around Hirwaun following residents' concerns- "I believe the team feel there is adequate signage in place, however I will forward your concerns and ask them to review again... Much like the Rhigos roundabout, the ramps will be smoothed at a later date."
- Made Future Valleys aware that the path from the Welfare to Tower Road had a lot of wooden posts and fencing spread on the floor, expressed that they could be dangerous.
- Asked if they could remove lamppost signage which was put up when the Brecon Road underpass was closed- "We have been to Cynon Terrace this morning and removed the signs from the lamppost."
- Contacted them to ask if signage on the junction from Brecon Road to Cynon Terrace could be removed as residents felt they were obstructing the view of traffic- "We also checked the visibility at the junction which was clear when we stopped at the stop line."
- Asked if a 20mph sign and a 40mph sign would be placed on the Trewaun roundabout- "There will be a 40mph sign placed from Trewaun to Rhigos roundabout. There is no plan to install 20mph signs on Brecon Road as the speed limit on the roundabout is already 20mph and therefore doesn't change."

## Cuts to winter fuel payments

Labour's policy will affect 400,000 pensioners in Wales. We encourage residents to apply for Pension Credit through <https://orlo.uk/w5dOX> or by calling 0800 99 1234. If you are eligible for an extra £1 it means you are eligible for the Winter fuel payments.

## Changes to waste collection

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September is the last wheelie bin collection before the change to black bags needing to be placed on the kerbside from the 30<sup>th</sup> September. Residents should expect a letter through the post with information of this change. From the 30<sup>th</sup>, the Council will consider more applications for Assisted Collection and for Extra Bag Allowances. Before this decision was made, we shared our concerns with this proposal to the Cabinet, but it was passed. Shortly after, Plaid Cymru joined with other parties (except Labour) to request formally that this change is halted and that it should be re-considered as we could clearly see that there was strong opposition from residents. If there are rips in bags creating a mess or bags obstructing the pavements, we ask that residents take pictures and send to us please.

## The Welfare, Hirwaun

- Requested inappropriate graffiti to be removed from a few locations.
- Following our request to fix some of the bars around the sports pitches, RCT have completed this.
- We contacted RCT about a common mess made on the tennis courts. RCT responded that they have been cleaning this mess but that there was a drainage issue from the bowling green above.
- A young resident was bit by a dog-lead in the Welfare playground. There are visible signs sharing that dog owners should have their dog under control and shouldn't be in play areas. We have requested dog patrols up the Welfare and the Cefndon in Hirwaun to raise awareness and make sure that signs are being adhered. One warning sign on the Welfare Grounds needs to be replaced because of damage.
- Reported a damaged wall that looked like it could have collapsed.

## Planning Applications

Land adjacent to Bryngelli Industrial Estate, 41 No. affordable houses and associated works:

We attended a site visit with the Planning Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> August and shared concerns. Local residents were present to share their concerns too. This month we were informed that the application would be re-started and that there would be re-consultation with residents, following information that the applicant's land ownership was not accurate. Residents are welcome to share their views with RCT.

## Highways

- Reported blocked drains on Station Road, Hirwaun
- Reported a damaged cattle grid on the Cwm Cadlan Road- "I have placed ramp signs out to warn oncoming vehicles and issued a works ticket for a replacement."
- Reported the road surface at- The top of Station Road, Hirwaun      Beacons Park, Penderyn
- We were in regular communication with RCT when it was noticed that signage was placed incorrectly on multiple streets in relation to Dwr Cymru works.
- Asked when Church Road in Penderyn will become 20mph as it is 30mph due to an error- "RCTCBC only received the updated place making criteria last week and therefore it will take us some time to form a strategy for the implementation of proposed changes on our network."
- We were asked what additional traffic calming measures could be placed near and outside Penderyn Primary- "The school already has 'thumps' in place along the A4059."
- Residents have queried if it is possible to put in place a 'resident parking' area, as those who drop children off to school and pick-up, park outside the houses in the Pontpren lay-by opposite the school- "This area doesn't meet the Council's criteria for the introduction of residents parking."
- Asked about the possibility of another SID being placed in Penderyn- "Unfortunately, this stock has been redeployed to other sections of the highway network and whilst I can add this site back into our rotation list I cannot provide a timescale as to when a unit can be erected at this location as we currently have a backlog of requests caused by the Covid-19 pandemic."

### **Streetcare**

- Litter bin requests- Brecon Road, Hirwaun Long Meadow Close, Hirwaun
- Dog fouling bin requests- Brecon Road, Hirwaun
- Overgrowth to cut back- Llwyn-Onn, Penderyn Along Swansea Road, Hirwaun  
Along Station Road, Hirwaun Footpath between Swansea Road to John's Lane, Hirwaun  
Tramway, Hirwaun Tower Road bridge, Hirwaun Signage leading to Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos on A4059
- Reported the handrail being unsecure again on footpath between High Street and Brecon Road.
- Reported a wall on the footpath between High Street and Brecon Road that has significant cracks visible.
- Reported a flytipped tyre in the Lamb Road/Dolgynog, Penderyn playground.

### **Footpaths**

- Mineral Line- Further resurfacing work has been completed. It is much better than what it was! The bridge near the memorial in Penderyn is due to have more work done to it.
- A465 Tower Colliery Footbridge- A temporary closure is necessary to facilitate bridge deck refurbishment scheme. 23<sup>rd</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

### **River Cynon**

- Reported pollution and foul smells to NRW and RCT near Merthyr Road, Hirwaun.
- Requested a large tree branch to be removed from river.

### **RAAC in Hirwaun**

- Trivallis conducted home visits for all Trivallis tenants on Thursday 22 August. During these visits, they talked through the specific works that will be undertaken, provided tenants with an understanding of the expected timelines, and discussed how these activities may impact their daily routine.
- Trivallis plan to fit a wooden safety deck under the RAAC panels in each home to keep them secure. This will permanently stop the risk of the panels collapsing and protect the roof, electrical wiring, insulation, and decoration in their home.
- This work is being done to one vacant property, all residents on the estate will be welcome to see the completed work.
- RCT Council are managing communications about the solution with homeowners and private renters on the estate and will be contacting them directly.

### **Recognitions**

- Well done to the Community Council for holding another successful Garden Show. There were impressive entries!
- Thank you to Hirwaun Community Events for another fun-filled day with their duck race at the Glancynon.
- Thank you to the Penderyn Village Group for arranging a visit to the Bannau Brycheiniog Visitors Centre.
- Thank you to Dr Khanna of Hirwaun Medical Centre, we appreciate your work here for over 13 years.

The following matters were reported to the CBC's:

Cllr Wendy Donovan reported road safety issues at Penderyn.

Cllr Ceri Woodley reported that the path from Cefndon to Maescynon had only been half cleared and that the Maescynon end was still overgrown.

Cllr Zoe Goss reported the lack of 20mph signage on the A4059 to Brecon Road, and that the red pole was still sticking up out of the group at the Cefndon playing fields.

### **2024/162 – Walking Festival**

It was agreed to move this agenda item to the February meeting. **Action 2** - Executive Officer to add this to the February agenda.

### **2024/163 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Zoe Goss, seconded by Cllr Lynley Gregory and agreed nem con.

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

### **2024/164 – Cyber Security Awareness Training**

The Executive Officer advised that the training has had to be rearranged for another date.

**Action 3** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

### **2024/165 – Flag Clips**

The Executive Officer advised that these have now been purchased.

### **2024/166 – Village Green Project**

The Executive Officer advised that this is ongoing. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

### **2024/167 – Bank Signatory**

The Executive Officer advised that the bank had requested further documentation.

**Action 5** - Executive Officer to continue with this.

### **2024/168 – Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom**

The Executive Officer advised that the competition went well and thanked Cllr Wendy Donovan for her expertise in judging the competition.

### **2024/167 – Planters and Trees**

The Executive Officer advised that we have been successful in our grant submitted to BBNP for four new planters for Hirwaun/Penderyn. We have also been successful in our application to The Woodland Trust for trees for Hirwaun.

### **2024/168 – Local Places for Nature**

The Executive Officer provided an update on the top up package applied for our Butterfly Garden at Hirwaun Public Toilets. Cllrs agreed to apply for the two raised beds plus orchard trees. Community Youth Representative offered the support of the Guides for the planting of these beds. **Action 6** - Executive Officer to seek the necessary permissions for this and to continue with the application.

The option of applying for a second starter package was discussed, along with the locations suggested by the Grass Verge working group. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to seek the necessary permissions for this and to seek the views of the residents living directly adjacent to the proposed site.

Finally, the changes to next year's Local Places for Nature packages were also discussed.

### **2024/167 - Eisteddfod Spotlight on Hirwaun & Penderyn**

The Executive Officer provided feedback on the Spotlight campaign.

### **2024/168- Planning Applications**

1. Permission granted – Formation of an agricultural access (retrospective) – Land adjacent to Beili Helyg, Llwyn Onn reservoir back road, Cefn Cadlan, Hirwaun.

2. Permission granted – Conversion of a workshop store and the replacement of a blockwork garage to form a single bedroom annex attached to the host dwelling via a discrete glass link – Penyrithin Farm, Church Rd, Penderyn.
3. Residential development of 41 affordable dwellings and associated works (amended plans) (amended ownership certificate) – Land adjacent to Bryngelli Industrial Estate, Meadow Lane, Hirwaun.

## **2024/169 - Community Councillors reports:**

Cllr Eryl O'Neill advised that Hirwaun Library has now been designated a Safe Place for under the Safe places Scheme and that she has passed the information on to Hirwaun YMCA. She has attended the Neighbourhood Network meeting where period dignity was discussed. She also advised that she attended the Sight Loss Awareness training along with the Garden Show working group meetings.

Cllr Margaret Amos advised that she had attended the Garden Show and the Garden Show working group meetings.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach advised that she had attended the Garden Show and the Garden Show working group meetings.

Cllr Non Thomas advised that she had attended the Garden Show, and thanked Cllrs Margaret Amos, Eryl O'Neill and Marguerite Courtney-Solbach for their help in organising the Garden Show. Cllr Colin Woodley added his thanks to the entire working group.

Cllr Wendy Donovan advised that she had attended the Kids Seed Bomb event and had judged the Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom competition.

Cllr Lynley Gregory advised that she has attended the Sight Loss Awareness training and has completed the One Voice Wales basic training modules. She also attended the Kids Seed Bomb event.

Cllr Rhys Howells advised that he attended the Sight Loss Awareness training and had sold raffle tickets for the Garden Show.

Cllr James Woodward advised that he had attended the Garden Show and the Garden Show working group meetings.

Cllr Ceri Woodley advised that she had attended the Garden Show and the Garden Show working group meetings, along with the Kids Seed Bomb event. She has also attended the Sight Loss Awareness training.

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that he has attended the Marsh Fritillary awareness training and has cleared the graffiti off our ladybird benches.

### **2024/170– Community Youth Representative Report:**

Caitlyn Kochalski – Community Youth Representative for Hirwaun advised that she has completed 5 litter picks in Hirwaun and has attended the Kids Seed Bomb event and the Garden Show.

### **2024/171 – Standing Orders**

The Executive Officer advised that the updated model Standing Orders had been reviewed by the Standing Orders working group. Cllr Colin Woodley proposed that Cllrs accept the working group's recommendation to accept the updated standing orders. This was seconded by Cllr Rhys Howells and agreed nem con.

### **2024/172 – Climate Emergency**

Cllrs Rhys Howells and James Woodward proposed that the council runs a 'One Small Change' campaign from January onwards as part of our Climate Emergency plans. Cllrs agreed to the purchase of water bottles via grant funding as part of this. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to add the purchase of the water bottles to the Wishlist and to add the Climate Emergency to the November agenda for further discussion.

### **2024/173 – Method of Payment to HMRC**

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs on the change in payments to HMRC. Cllrs agreed to pay via direct debit moving forward. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to set up the direct debit.

### **2024/174 – 2023/24 External Audit**

The Executive Officer advised that the Finance Committee had met to conduct a full review of the accounts for the 2023/24 audit, and that it was the finance committee's recommendation that Cllrs approve the annual return. This was proposed by Cllr Colin Woodley, seconded by Cllr Eryl O'Neill and agreed nem con. Cllr Margaret Amos refrained from voting due to her declared interest. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to submit the annual return to Audit Wales.

### **2024/175 – Garden Society Lease of The Old Fire Station**

The Executive Officer advised that the lease for The Old Fire Station was ongoing. Cllr Colin Woodley advised that the Garden Society is in need of volunteers to help run the Garden Shop moving forward, and will be operating on reduced hours. Cllr Woodley advised that the Garden Society had requested that the driveway/grounds be tarmacked to assist them with the unloading of deliveries. Cllrs agreed to the Garden Society completing these works and directed them to Pen y Cymoedd for grant funding. **Action 11** - Cllr Colin Woodley and the Executive Officer to continue with this.

### **2024/176 – Valuation of Community Council Buildings**

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on the process so far to obtain a valuation of The Old Fire Station and Hirwaun Village Hall for insurance purposes. Cllrs accepted the quote. This was proposed by Cllr Eryl O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Ceri Woodley and agreed nem con. **Action 12** – Executive Officer to arrange.

### **2024/177 – Right of Way Access, High Street**

Cllrs Zoe Goss, Eryl O'Neill and Colin Woodley provided an update on this issue. It was noted that the pathway is private property and appears on the definitive map. Cllrs agreed to drop the matter.

### **2024/178 – Road Safety Working Group**

It was advised that Cllr Wendy Donovan was stepping down as the leader of this working group. It was agreed that Cllrs would investigate road safety awareness groups to get their advice and to invite them to a Special Meeting. Cllr Lynley Gregory thanked Cllr Donovan for her work on the group. **Acton 13** – Cllrs to continue with this.

### **2024/179 – Sight Loss Awareness**

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs that we had been asked to become a Sight Friendly Town. Cllrs agreed that we were unable to take this forward.

### **2024/180 – Cynon Gateway North**

Cllrs discussed the proposals to reinstate the plans for the Cynon Gateway North. Cllrs raised concerns in relation to the rivers and wildlife that would be affected by these plans.

### **2024/181 – Executive Officer's report**

#### August

Print Partnership - £6.05

Internal Audit - £450.00

APC Printers - £533.00

Bella Rosa - £240.00

Daisy Communications - £91.31

Signs of the Times – £4,228.80

MP Garden Services - £1,880

#### September

Print Partnership - £6.05

APC Printers - £115.00

Daisy Communications - £91.31

Audit Wales 2020/21 audit fees - £200

#### Consultations:

1. RCT draft Adult Services Strategy.
2. RCT Heritage Strategy consultation.
3. Powys County Council Replacement Local Development Plan – Notice of Revised Delivery Agreement.
4. Powys County Council Replacement Local Development Plan – Notice of Pre-deposit (Preferred Strategy).

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. An update was provided from BBNP in respect of the Arcway repairs.
2. Welsh Government request to identify retailers in our area with a story to tell. It was advised that Penaluna's Famous Fish & Chips had been nominated to be put forward.
3. Community and Town Council Audits 2022-23 – Key themes and lessons learned.
4. Marsh Fritillary Talk.

5. BBNP Sustainable Development Fund grant panel representatives wanted. Cllrs agreed to nominate Cllr Colin Woodley. **Action 14** – Executive Officer to submit the nomination.
6. Keep Wales Tidy/McDonald's litter picking hub – It was advised that the Chair had authorised Keep Wales Tidy request to allow McDonald's to sponsor our litter picking hub as part of their initiative to sponsor 200 hubs in Wales. After liaising with our litter champions, a litter pick has been arranged with Cllr Margaret Amos and the children from Penderyn Primary as a reward to the children for working so hard to improve the village.
7. Keep Wales Tidy Wildflowers of Wales webinar.
8. One Voice Wales Launch of the Digital User Community for Community and Town Councils.
9. Guide to the 2026 review of Senedd constituencies.
10. The Pensions Regulator. Auto enrolment update.
11. Cllrs agreed to hold a ceremony for VE Day 80. **Action 15** – Executive Officer to invite the pupils from Hirwaun Primary School to come along to sing, and to enquire about booking in the army vehicles.
12. Budget/Precept – 2025/26 – RCT timetable.
13. One Voice Wales Free resources to help tackle fly-tipping in your communities.
14. BBNP – Dark Sky Festival.
15. Public Sector deposit account – Bond signatories need updating. **Action 16** – Executive Officer to deal with this.

Other:

1. Requests to RCT:
  - i) Grass to be cut – lane between Hirwaun Village Hall and Old Vicarage leading to 4 High Street, Hirwaun, and Tower Road.
  - ii) Brambles/nettles overgrowing from the Cefndon Playing Fields to adjacent property at Johns Lane.
  - iii) Glass on tennis courts at Welfare Ground.
  - iv) Strong smell of cannabis – High Street, Hirwaun.
  - v) Broken glass – bridge adjacent to Glancynon.
  - vi) Flytipping: i) outside library, ii) at the toilets, iii) grassy area Swansea Rd by new path to One Stop Shop.
  - vii) Request for flood lights on tennis courts at Welfare Grounds to be switched on in the evenings over the winter to allow residents to play tennis after work
2. A grant has been applied for:
  - i) SLCC Educational Trust – Executive Officer's training.
3. One Voice Wales National Conference – Cllrs approved the cost of the Executive Officer attending this conference. **Action 17** – Executive Officer to book on.
4. Joint One Voice Wales/Society of Local Council Clerks conference - Cllrs approved the cost of the Executive Officer attending this conference. **Action 18** - Executive Officer to book on.
5. OVW Practice Development note – 6 month rule.
6. OVW Practice Development note – Policies and Powers.
7. OVW Practice Development note – Code of Conduct.



8. Civility & Respect newsletter.
9. Civility & Respect Pledge – It was advised that former MP Beth Winter had signed up to support us on this by signing up to the Early Day Motion to be discussed at Parliament. Cllrs agreed to ask Gerald Jones MP to also sign up for this motion to be discussed.
10. Kids Lantern Making. An update was provided on the organising of this event.  
**Action 19** – Executive Officer to continue with this.
11. Remembrance Parade and Service. It was advised that this is now in the process of being organised. **Action 20** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

#### **2024/182 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion**

Cllr Colin Woodley raised concerns in relation to the letters received by residents advising them that the dentist in Hirwaun would no longer be taking NHS patients.  
**Action 21** – Executive Officer to add this to the October agenda.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.