

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 10th October 2024

Present: Cllr Colin Woodley (Chair), Cllr James Woodward (Vice Chair), Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Rhys Howells, Cllr Wendy Donovan, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Cllr Non Thomas, Cllr Eryl O'Neill, Cllr Adrian Harford, Cllr Viktoria Williams, Cllr Adam Rogers,

Attending: Caitlyn Kochalski – Community Youth Representative

Apologies: Cllr Zoe Goss, Cllr Lynley Gregory, CBC Karen Morgan

Cllr Colin Woodley commenced the meeting by welcoming Cllr Viktoria Williams to the Council and introductions were made.

2024/183 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

Cllr Margaret Amos disclosed an interest in Agenda item 12.

2024/184 - PCSO report

The PCSO provided the following written report:

Feedback from the traffic operation which ran in Penderyn:

600 cars were recorded; 23 vehicles were pulled over and given educational courses.

Cllr Ceri Woodley arrived at 6,35pm.

2024/185 – Defibrillators

Cllr Adrian Harford provided an update on the defibrillators for Hirwaun. It was noted that any monies collected for defibrillators in Hirwaun would be ringfenced by Heart Heroes so that the money would be spent in Hirwaun. It was again noted that there were still two defibrillators to be installed in Hirwaun and that while the Community Council had agreed to help fundraise, there had been no agreement for the Council to fund electricity costs or consumables. It was advised that Cllr Wendy Donovan was trying to secure a location for a defibrillator to be installed at Woodland Park. **Action 1**–Cllr Adrian Harford to continue with this.

2024/186 – County Borough Cllr reports

The County borough Cllrs provided the following written report:

Police issues

- Contacted PCSOs with concerns about parking in Denbeigh Court. Residents there have expressed that it may be an issue if emergency services are needed.

Future Valleys

- Queried when the Blue Bridge footpath (Hirwaun to Trenant) and Johnson's Park footpath will be re-opened and asked if notices of this information can be put up on-site.
- We have asked if it is known when the works behind the Welfare will be completed and if there is any intention of re-opening that footpath between the Welfare and Tower Road.
- A resident queried what will be happening following the completion of the roadworks behind the Greenwood Drive estate- "Once the works are completed in the area, there is extensive replanting works to be carried out in the area. We expect planting to commence this winter."

Streetcare

- Reported flytipping on Cross Street

- Reported overgrowth and the need to clean pavements in Hirwaun Industrial Estate's Main Avenue
- Requested pavement cleaning:
Merthyr Road bridge Station Road Bethel Place
- Took part in a litter pick with Penderyn Community Centre

Highways

- We have been informed that the construction works of the two new zebra crossings and one zebra crossing upgrading are due to commence towards the end of October and will run through until February. Actual dates to be confirmed once agreed.
- We were informed of a fence that was erected in Penderyn which is causing an obstruction to the view of the highway- Highways- "I can confirm that it is obstructing the vision splay on at least one of the corners, It measures 1.95m in height." Planning- "The fence would require planning permission. However, the application is within the boundary of the Beacons National Park. I will forward your email to planning services Beacons National Park for comment."
- We contacted RCT with concerns about parking outside the Co-op. We asked about the possibility of railings or some other barrier that would prevent further parking- "I have discussed this issue with our depot manager who has confirmed that we are unable to cover the additional cost and maintenance of pedestrian guard rails along this section of footpath. Please can this be passed to parking enforcement to investigate/monitor."
- Reported a damaged cattle grid on Cwm Cadlan- It has now been fixed. We shared concerns that the Council workers may have left the horse access gate open.
- Reported damaged Greenwood Drive sign.
- Reported potholes- John's Street

Play areas/Recreation

- Asked about the possibility of an additional skate ramp/s but smaller for those who are more beginners to skateboarding.
- Reported faded and unreadable signage on the Welfare grounds.
- We were asked to look into the possibility of having the tower lights on in the evenings up the Welfare, so that residents could use the tennis courts when the evenings are darker- "So I arranged for an electrician to inspect the floodlights as they didn't seem to be working and met him on site. Basically, some time ago they have been disconnected, not sure by who or when, but he seemed to think it was possibly due to a fault with the lights themselves. He estimated that the costs to get these floodlights back working again would be around £15-20k+. Which at present I don't believe there is a budget for." Improvements to this area were only undertaken last year, we have asked if the floodlights could be repaired so that the investment made can be used fully.

Public Transport

- Residents have contacted us about buses that run after the Stagecoach buses finish. We have asked RCT to confirm the times and routes of these buses.
- We have asked again if the Number 9 bus from Hirwaun to Merthyr could be re-routed through Croesbychan and Crematorium Road to service those residents living along this route and to allow more residents to visit the Crematorium.

Changes to waste collection

Friday 11th is the first of the new waste collection changes in our Ward. Despite our opposition, Labour's policy change has been implemented despite the many concerns from residents. Residents are asked to place three black bags on the kerbside. There has been no mention of weight limits for each bag.

Residents are able to apply for:

- An extra bag allowance- <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/RecyclingandWaste/AdditionalBlackBagAllowance/AdditionalBlackBagAllowances.aspx>
- Assisted collection- <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/RecyclingandWaste/AssistedCollections.aspx>

Please read the Frequently Asked Questions-

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/GetInvolved/Campaigns/BinstoBags/BinstoBagsFAQs.aspx>

We encourage residents to share any comments/complaints directly to RCT. We are hoping that a review is formally approved, for this we are wanting to share any evidence; ripped bags, presence of vermin, black bags obstructing the pavement etc. which shows the true impact of these changes.

Footpaths

- Footpath Hirwaun 6 re-opened. Future Valleys has removed their barrier at the request of RCT. The Rights of Ways officer has inspected the path and added the essential clearance work to the work programme. Clearance work has since taken place.
- Emergency closure of Tower Road Bridge. The order is necessary to allow for bridge deck refurbishment. Emergency closure- 30th September to 20th October. To be immediately followed by a temporary closure from 21st October to 29th November.

Full Council meeting

- Question to Cabinet- "Can the relevant Cabinet Member share what the Council will do in response to the closure of public footpaths in and around Hirwaun, following the completion of the Heads of the Valleys roadworks?"
- Plaid Cymru demands more from Labour to secure peace in Middle East- We could not support RCT Labour's notice of motion which did not go far enough in condemning the actions which have taken place there. We proposed that RCT "initiates the process of discussions necessary to achieve the aim of divesting all our pension funds that are supporting companies linked to the Israeli Government's oppression of Palestinians."
- RCT Labour voted against calls to reverse the cuts to winter fuel payments- The Labour group refused to support Plaid Cymru's urgent notice of motion. We do not know how this winter will be. But, thousands of pensioners who are our residents too, will have their much-needed support cut. Labour members at their conference voted to reverse the UK Government's decision. Local Labour councillors chose to ignore them. Instead, they voted for their own amended, watered-down version, which was more about party politics than protecting pensioners.

Recognitions

- A lot of Halloween events are being promoted in the Ward. They can be seen on Facebook. Let's support our great groups and venues!
- A public meeting has been arranged for proposals for a statue of Elizabeth Andrews. Born locally, she was a campaigner for pit head baths, a suffragist and founded one of the first nurseries in Wales. 24th October, 7pm at Hirwaun village Hall.

The following matters were reported to the CBC's:

A discussion took place in relation to the lights at the tennis court at the Welfare Ground which are no longer working.

Cllr Rhys Howells reported that the 5G mast for Hirwaun is in need of repair but land access is an issue.

2024/187 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 12th September 2024 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Eryl O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Non Thomas and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2024/188 – Cyber Security Awareness Training

It was agreed that the training would be rearranged for January. **Action 2** – Executive Officer to arrange.

2024/189 – Village Green Project

The Executive Officer advised that this is ongoing. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2024/190 – Bank Signatory

The Executive Officer advised that the further documentation had been submitted to the bank. **Action 4** - Executive Officer to continue with this.

2024/191 – Local Places for Nature

Butterfly Garden – Cllr Eryl O'Neill advised that Ramoth Church owned the land that we wished to plant the trees on. **Action 5** – Cllr O'Neill to forward the contact details for Ramoth on to the Executive Officer. Executive Officer to seek permission to plant the trees.

Bethel Place – The Executive Officer advised that she had contact Trivallis but that no response had been received. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to chase.

2024/192 – Climate Emergency

The Executive Officer advised that a grant had been applied for with the Dwr Cymru Community Fund to purchase water bottles to give out to the Community as part of our Climate Emergency plans.

2024/193 – Lease for Old Fire Station

An update was provided on the lease. **Action 7** – Executive Officer plus Cllrs Colin Woodley and Adrian Harford to continue with this.

2024/194 – Road Safety Working Group

Cllrs advised that this was ongoing. **Action 8** – Cllrs to investigate road safety awareness groups to ask their advice and to invite them to a Special Meeting.

2024/195 – Valuation of Council Buildings

The Executive Officer advised that the valuation report was in the process of being drafted and would be released in due course.

2024/196 – BBNP Sustainable Fund Grant Panel Representative

The Executive Officer confirmed that Cllr Colin Woodley had been nominated to sit on this panel.

2024/197 – VE Day 80 Ceremony

The Executive Officer advised that Hirwaun Primary School has been invited for the pupils to come down to sing. It was agreed that the Bugler would accompany them.

2024/198 – Bond Account

The Executive Officer advised that the updated signatories for the bond account was ongoing. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2024/199 – Kids Lantern Making

The Executive Officer provided an update on the organising of this event. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to continue organising this.

2024/200 – Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremony

The Executive Officer provided an update on the organising of this event. This included that the Hirwaun Branch of the British Legion had now folded due to lack of members and all monies had been returned to head office. This means that there are now no funds to purchase the pop and crisps for the children who had taken part in the parade. Cllrs agreed to cover the cost of this from the monies made at the Garden Show, with this being budgeted for in next year's budget. It was also advised that RCT will cover the costs of the road closure for this year's ceremony. **Action 11** – Executive Officer to continue organising.

2024/201- Planning Applications

1. Residential development – 41 houses (amended red line boundary) – Land adjacent to Bryngelli Estate, Meadow Lane, Hirwaun. **Action 12** – Executive Officer to re-send the Council's original comments.
2. Demolition of conservatory and reconstruction as an extension together with forming a dormer to the rear – 31 Bryn Onnen, Penderyn.
3. Decision notice – Removal of the conservatory to be replaced with a two storey side extension – Glan yr Afon, 29 Pontpren, Penderyn – decision granted.

2024/202 - Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Ceri Woodley advised that she had attended the wash up session for the Garden Show.

Cllr James Woodward advised that he had attended the Remembrance Parade meeting and the How to Help Hedgehogs webinar. He also attended the Garden Show wash up and the Climate Emergency working group meetings.

Cllr Rhys Howells advised that he had attended the Climate Emergency working group meetings.

Cllr Wendy Donovan advised that she had attended Code of Conduct training and had been working with Cllr Harford in relation to the defibrillator for Woodland Park.

Cllr Adrian Harford advised that he had attended the Garden Show wash up meeting plus the Keep Wales Tidy event where our litter picking hub was acknowledged as the Best in Wales. Cllrs thanked the Executive Officer for her efforts in updating the portal.

Cllr Adam Rogers advised that he had attended the Penderyn Community Centre litter pick.

Cllr Non Thomas advised that she had attended the Garden Show wash up meeting.

Cllr Eryl O'Neill advised that she had attended the Garden Show wash up, along with the How to Help Hedgehogs webinar. She also provided an update on the Monumental Welsh Women statues, and the public meeting to be held to discuss the statue of Elizabeth Andrews.

Cllr Margaret Amos advised that she had attended the Garden Show wash up meeting, and had carried out a litter pick with the children from Penderyn Primary School and Hywel from Keep Wales Tidy.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach advised that she had attended the Garden Show wash up meeting, and the One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting.

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that he has been successful in his nomination to sit on the Brecon Beacons National Park Local Access Forum, and that he had attended the Remembrance meeting.

2024/203– Community Youth Representative Report:

Caitlyn Kochalski – Community Youth Representative for Hirwaun advised that she has completed 5 litter picks in Hirwaun.

2024/204 – NHS Dental Provision for Hirwaun

Cllrs discussed the NHS dental provision for Hirwaun ceasing and concerns were raised. It was agreed that Cllr Eryl O’Neill would contact the Practice Manager at Hirwaun Health Centre to see if the dental space there is still available. If there is, Cwm Taff Morgannwg would be contacted about providing provision there. **Action 13** – Cllr Eryl O’Neill to make contact with the Health Centre.

2024/205 – S137 Grant Applications

Grant applications were made by the following:

Cylch Meithrin Penderyn – Selection boxes for the children.

Penderyn Village Group – Transport to the pantomime.

Both grant applications were reviewed and discussed by Cllrs, taking into account the budget spent and monies left. It was acknowledged that Hirwaun Community Events would not be submitting a grant application for Christmas Around the Clock and Cllr Adam Rogers declared an interest at this point as a member of the committee.

Cllr Non Thomas proposed that the full amounts requested be awarded to both groups. This was seconded by Cllr Eryl O’Neill and agreed nem con. Cllr Margaret Amos refrained from the discussion and voting due to her declared interest.

It was agreed that next year, any groups awarded grants would need to acknowledge the grant via their social media channels and provide monitoring information including photos to the council.

2024/206 – Executive Officer’s report

Print Partnership - £33.06

Daisy Communications - £91.31

Garden Show Cake judge - £25

One Voice Wales - £95.00

Amberol - £1,896.70

DWPS Chartered Surveyors - £420.00

Hirwaun & District Garden Society - £391 SLCC - £39.00

Consultations:

1. Police & Crime Commissioner.
2. Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024.
3. Scrutiny of the Welsh Government draft budget 2025-26.
4. Learning Support class consultation. **Action 14** – Cllrs to email the Executive Officer with their responses. Executive Officer to collate the responses and circulate to full council before submitting the response.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. Invite - Cost of Living network. **Action 15** – Executive Officer to circulate to Cllrs to book themselves on.
2. Pen y Cymoedd Micro Fund – Grant application for Penderyn Welcome signs. Application not successful.
3. SLCC Educational Trust –Partial grant awarded for 3 training sessions i) Climate Action, ii) The Council as a Landlord, iii) Social Media Engagement.
4. Asian Hornet email. **Action 16** – Executive Officer to add the information to Facebook.
5. Ron Bailey – Lithium-Ion Battery campaign update.
6. Gerald Jones MP – Response to request to sign Early Day Motion.
7. Keep Wales Tidy – How to Help Hedgehogs webinar.
8. Participation in the Rural Housing Action Guide for Wales Project.
9. Senedd Inquiry into the role, governance and accountability of the Community and Town Council sector – Invitation to submit a response to the enquiry. **Action 17** – Executive Officer and Cllr Colin Woodley to submit a response.

Other:

1. Shared Prosperity Grant Monitoring feedback. The Executive Officer provided feedback from the Shared Prosperity Fund.
2. OVW Free training places – The Executive Officer advised that some places have been lost through non attendance by Cllrs. The remaining Cllrs were encouraged to book on to their sessions.
3. Daffodil Bulbs – Six bags have been donated by Garden Shop to be planted in Penderyn. Three bags to the school for school grounds, and three bags for the village. **Action 18** – Cllr Margaret Amos agreed to work with Penderyn Primary to plant the bulbs at the school and at our wooden planters. Cllr Wendy Donovan agreed to plant some bulbs at Woodland Park.
4. New planters – It was agreed that the four new planters would be installed in the coming weeks. One at the Penderyn Welcome sign, one at the Hirwaun Welcome sign (Springfield) and two at the Cadet Hut. It was advised that peat free compost and bee friendly plants had been ordered, and that the daffs and crocuses were at the hall ready. **Action 19** – Cllr Colin Woodley to co-ordinate the installation of these planters.

2024/207 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

None.

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