

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 9th January 2025

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

Attending: CBC Karen Morgan,

Apologies: Cllr Lynley Gregory, Caitlyn Kochalski – Community Youth Representative, Judith Major – Tenovus Cancer Care

2025/001 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of personal interest.

2025/002 - PCSO report

There was no report from the PCSO.

2025/003 – Defibrillators

Cllr Adrian Harford provided an update on the continuing difficulties in the installation of the last two defibrillators for Hirwaun, along with the difficulties in securing a location to site a defibrillator at Woodland Park. It was agreed that i) a Facebook post showing the locations of all of the defibrillators within the Ward would be published, ii) education sessions would be organised, iii) that Cllrs would monitor the defibrillators to ensure that they are working, iv) that CPR/defibrillator training would be organised.

Action 1–Cllr Adrian Harford to continue with this.

2025/004 – County Borough Cllr reports

The County Borough Cllrs provided the following written report:

Hirwaun and Penderyn report- 09/01/2025 Facebook- Hirwaun and Penderyn and Rhigos Matters

Future Valleys

- The blue bridge between Hirwaun and Tenant is now back open.
- Met with contractors who will be responsible for the maintenance of the A465 when it is completed.

Streetcare

- Asked the Council to clean the Hirwaun Welfare tennis courts.
- Reported flytipping and glass on the lane from High Street to Brecon Road in Hirwaun.
- Reported domestic waste not correctly disposed of on the Gower estate in Hirwaun.
- Reported used needles on the Cwm Cadlan road near the Llwyn-Onn Reservoir
- Reported full dog bin:
Start of the Mineral Line/Arcway Cae Felin Parc Tramway

Trees

- Asked for an update on the trees on the lane from Llwyn-On to Woodland Park, Penderyn. We have contacted the Council in the past as some trees were marked for work. Requested if the Council can inspect these trees again as their height and possible danger are a concern.

Highways

- Temporary road closure on Cwm Cadlan road. Necessary to allow works on behalf of Openreach. Daytime closures, Monday to Fridays only- 9am to 6pm. From 03/02/2025 to 24/02/2025. Access maintained to premises.
- Temporary road closure and temporary one way system on Harris Street, Hirwaun. Necessary to allow works in connection with the Hirwaun Safe Routes in the Community Highways scheme. Temporary One Way Traffic- From 31st January 2025 to 8th February 2025 and from 10th February 2025 to 21st February 2025. Temporary Road Closure- Sunday 9th February 2025. Access will be maintained to premises.
We have asked how the public buses will be affected who use Harris Street as their route from Merthyr through the village.
- Requested a grit bin for Tower Road and requested the grit bin on Meadow Lane/Manchester Place to be re-stocked
- Safe Routes in the Community:
 - Work has started on the zebra crossing for Rhigos Road which is expected to be completed at the end of January.
We have relayed concerns about the traffic management, including; signage being blocked by vehicles, contractors' vehicles obstructing the view of highway, the positioning of the traffic lights.
 - Work is not yet fully complete on the High Street, Hirwaun
- We met with a traffic officer and discussed a number of issues:
 - The possibility of a safe crossing point on the bridge side of Brecon Road. An island crossing is a possibility, which would benefit children and their parents crossing over to the school. Surveys and statistics would need to be gathered to justify the need.
 - Discussed improvements to Harris Street. The possibility of a one way system, a model would need to be designed. The estimated cost of the change would be between £50,000-£100,000. There have been concerns by residents of the crossing point before and after school. The School Crossing Patrol are to be contacted. Each school that requests a School Crossing Patrol must meet the set criteria, an assessment will be undertaken, including a vehicle and pedestrian count.
 - Speed concerns in Penderyn were discussed. The Council will be looking at the possibility of changing the speed. Welsh Government guidelines wouldn't allow outside the primary school to be 30, we wouldn't support that either. Asked what traffic calming measures could be placed, specifically near the lay-by close to the school where there are houses and at the bottom of Church Road. The Council will be looking at options.

Flooding

- There has been regular flooding on Rhigos Road/A4061, between the entrance to Tower Colliery and Rhigos roundabout. We have met with an officer from the Flood Risk Management team who has been surprised by this flooding. The Flood department doesn't understand how weather events following Storm Bert has resulted in this flooding when rainfall has not been as extreme. There will be an investigation.
- We have been told that there is no fixed date for the completion of the River Cynon Modelling scheme.
- Raised concerns with the flooding in Cae Felin Parc from the drains outside several properties. Requested that the Council in future conversations with Dwr Cymru discuss this issue in Cae Felin and Penmark Row to try and fix the issue which is affecting residential properties.

Trivallis

- Liaising with Trivallis regarding mould issues at Bethel Place

Council

- We have queried with the Council and asked if they are still doing free pick-ups of the large wheelie bins. We have seen that some have been quoted that £20 would be needed for this collection. The Council have not publicised that the free collections have ceased.
- Questions to Cabinet

1/ "In this new year, can we get a clear commitment from the RCT Labour Cabinet that they will not just read the consultation responses they receive but also act with consideration to what our residents want and feel they need?"

2/ "How much in total has this council paid to external consultants for the years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-present date?"

Recognitions

Our thoughts are with the family of Colin Shaw, Chairman of the Hirwaun YMCA. He will be remembered by the community for his years of involvement with the YMCA and positive work with the community.

CBC Karen Morgan advised that Heart Heros have agreed to provide CPR training.

2025/005 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 12th December 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:

2025/006 – Village Green Project

The Executive Officer advised that this is ongoing. **Action 2** – Action for Hirwaun to be invited to a council meeting to discuss moving the project forward.

2025/007 – Local Places for Nature

Butterfly Garden – The Executive Officer advised that the trees have been delivered and that we are awaiting delivery of the plants. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to proceed with the LPfN package installation.

Bethel Place – The Executive Officer advised that the meeting with Trivallis was due to take place shortly. **Action 4** – Executive Officer and Cllr Harford to attend the meeting.

2025/008 – Lease for Old Fire Station

It was advised that this is ongoing. **Action 5** – Executive Officer plus Cllrs Colin Woodley and Adrian Harford to continue with this.

2025/009– Bond Account

The Executive Officer advised that the form is in the process of being updated. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2025/010 – Wooden Boxes

The Executive Officer advised that an email had been sent the YMCA to enquire about the Men's Shed making the wooden boxes for the crosses but a response has not been received. **Action 7** – Cllr Colin Woodley to contact the YMCA.

2025/011 – NHS Dental Provision for Hirwaun

Cllrs noted the letter from Jeremy Miles MS.

2025/012 – Community Engagement

Cllr Zoe Goss proposed that the council run a community engagement event in June. Cllrs discussed the format of the event and agreed that Cllr Goss will run it moving forward. **Action 8** – To be added to the agenda each month as a standing item for discussion.

2025/013 – Christmas Lighting

The Executive Officer answered a question raised at the December meeting, responding that the Christmas lighting had been switched on early due to the lighting contractors being diverted elsewhere due to Storm Burt. Damage to the Christmas lights following the storms was discussed and concerns were raised that some of the lights were still not working over Christmas despite Centrgreat advising that they had been repaired. Cllrs also discussed the reason for the different style Christmas lighting in each village. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to ask for a reduction of the lighting invoice due to several of the lights not being on over the Christmas period.

2025/014 – Road Safety Working Group

Cllrs advised that this was ongoing. **Action 10** – Cllrs to continue with this.

2025/015 – Vikki Howells MS

Cllrs declined the request made by Vikki Howells MS to attend a council meeting due to political concerns.

2025/016 – Wellbeing Walks and Leader Training

The Executive Officer informed Cllrs of the training options available through BBNP. Cllrs agreed that Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach would organise a group session, and that Cllrs would pay for their own place if they wished to attend. **Action 11** – Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach to continue with this.

2025/017- Planning Applications

1. Change of use from a Tanning Bed Salon (Sui Generis) to a Nail Beautician (Sui Generis) – 57 High Street, Hirwaun,
2. T1-T6 Horse Chestnuts: Remove epicormics whilst on site to aid future inspections; continue to monitor the occlusion of the torsional cracks. Crown reduce the west lateral branches on T2 by 2-3 metres back to suitable growth points; reduce the encroaching branch on T6 by 2 metres back to suitable growth points. All tree works shall be in accordance with the British Standard Recommendations for Tree Works BS 3998: 2010 and industry best practice – 25 Bryncynon, Hirwaun.

2025/018 - Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Eryl O'Neill advised that she had attended the Festive Fish & Chips and the Soup Socials at Hirwaun Village Hall.

Cllr Non Thomas advised that she had attended the Festive Fish & Chips at Hirwaun Village Hall.

Cllr Wendy Donovan advised that she has been dealing with the defibrillator for Woodland Park.

Cllr Margaret Amos advised that she had carried out a litter pick with Penderyn Primary School.

Cllr James Woodward advised that he had volunteered at the Foodbank stand at Tesco, had attended the Senedd Local Places for Nature event plus the charity concert at Ramoth Christian Centre, and judged the Christmas Painting competition.

Cllr Ceri Woodley advised that she had attended the Soup Socials and Festive Fish & Chips at Hirwaun Village Hall.

Cllr Adam Rogers asked where the staffing policies can be found. The Executive Officer advised that all policies can be found on the council's website.

2025/019- Community Youth Representative Report:

There was no report for this month.

2025/020 – SLCC Membership

Cllrs agreed to renew the council's membership of The Society of Local Council Clerks.

Action 12 – Executive Officer renew the membership.

2025/021- Social Media Policy

Cllrs discussed the social media policy and agreed to update it so that it included Cllrs, staff and Community Youth Representatives. **Action 13** – Executive Officer to update.

2025/022- 2025/25 Precept

Cllrs agreed to increase the precept by 3.2% which equates to an additional average of £1.34 per household per year. Cllr Colin Woodley proposed the increase, which was seconded by Cllr Adrian Harford. This was agreed with 10 votes for and 2 votes against. Cllr Adam Rogers asked that his vote against be recorded.

2025/023- Executive Officer's report

Print Partnership - £9.12

Daisy Communications - £91.31

Consultations:

1. Review of Senedd Constituencies. **Action 14** – Cllrs to respond individually.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. Neighbourhood Network Meeting – **Action 15** – Cllrs Colin Woodley and James Woodward to attend in the Executive Officer's place.
2. Invite to Penderyn Cllrs to attend Ty Croeso.

Cllrs were reminded to forward any photos taken at events where they act in their capacity as Cllr to the Executive Officer for the Facebook page.

Other:

1. OVW C&TC's Guidance – Using Cloud Storage for Managing Documents.
2. OVW Digital Health Report.

Cllrs agreed that it would be prudent to look into the use of Cloud storage. **Action 16**
– Executive Officer to look into this.

3. The Executive Officer advised that Cllr Viktoria Williams had resigned as Cllr for Hirwaun Ward. **Action 17** – Executive Officer to advise RCT of the vacancy.

2025/024 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

Cllr Colin Woodley discussed the running of the Garden Show with Cllrs and proposed that a constituted community group be set up to take over the running of the Garden Show.

Cllr Margaret Amos left the meeting at 8.16pm.

Cllrs discussed the proposal which was seconded by Cllr Rhys Howells and agreed nem con.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.22pm.