

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 13th March 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 Wendy Donovan, Cllr Non Thomas, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Adam Rogers,

Attending: CBC Karen Morgan, Caitlyn Kochalski – Community Youth Representative

Apologies: Cllr Rhys Howells, Cllr Lynley Gregory, Cllr Zoe Goss,

2025/050 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of personal interest.

2025/051 - PCSO report

There was no report from the PCSO.

2025/052 – County Borough Cllr reports

The following report was provided by the County Borough Cllrs:

Lambing Season

With the start of lambing season, it is always a concern at this time of year when dogs are walked off-lead, please be considerate when walking dogs around local fields. Horses can get startled too.

Highways

- Potholes reported:

Hirwaun Industrial Estate Brecon Road Rhigos Road High Street
Station Road Welfare road Tramway
Outside Penderyn Community Centre Pontpren/start of Llwyn-Onn Church Road
Outside the playground at Llwyn-Onn/Bryn Onnen

- Progress is being made on the Safe Walking Routes scheme. Beacons are being placed on the new zebra crossings and lines will be added at a later date. The Rhigos Road crossing will have the beacons and streetlights sharing the same pole.
- Reported turned signage on Cynon Terrace and Davies Row
- We have shared concerns with RCT that a 30mph sign was placed at the beginning of Hirwaun, near Denbeigh Court. All of Hirwaun is 20mph and the speed cameras are now the responsibility of South Wales Police. RCT has contacted Future Valleys to put the correct signage up. We also requested reminder 20mph signage throughout the village but RCT responded that they cannot be placed.

Streetcare

- Requested a litter pick on the old A465 road/A4059
- Reported flytipping on Brecon Road, Hirwaun
- Requested RCT to clean the pavements throughout the Hirwaun Industrial Estate
- Following the fall of an elderly woman on Manchester Place, we asked RCT to inspect the pavements- "There was two sections of crazed tarmac caused by vehicle over run so I have issued a works register ticket to get those repaired."
- Requested new dog fouling bins- Top of Rhigos Road and Brecon Road near new bridge
- Requested dog patrols- Station Road and Cefndon
- Reported full litter bins:
Rhigos Road Station Road Outside Hirwaun Primary
- Following residents' concerns we reported unsafe building material not appropriately stored on Station Road- officer attended site and a skip was soon placed
- Following residents' concerns we reported garden works that were overspilling onto the pavement on Swansea Road whilst there were no workers present
- Requested additional street lighting for the residents at the Llwyn-Onn bungalows
- Reported rats being an issue for residents at the Llwyn-Onn bungalows

Trees

- Shared concerns with leaning trees along the A4059 towards Penderyn- An officer walked the route and marked up any dangerous trees

Flooding

- Shared amber weather warnings and emergency numbers on social media.
- Reported flooding in February on Rhigos Road/A4061 on two separate days. We have asked if there has been any progress with the investigation of possible cause(s) at this flooding location.
- Reported a lot of litter and debris in the ditches along Rhigos Road. Concerned it may impact the drainage and increase the likelihood of flooding during bad weather.

Footpaths

- Subsidence on Mineral line. We have contacted the BB National Park Authority to report this subsidence- "I have spoken to the Area Warden regarding the damage to the surface of the Arcway... He has confirmed that he plans to clean out the ditches prior to repairing the surface to reduce the risk of water washing out the new surface. He is waiting for the weather and ground conditions to improve before carrying out the work."
- We have asked RCT for an update on the footpaths around the Heads of the Valleys. We have shared residents' concerns on pedestrian access and not being able to walk to the Welfare through Tower Road. We have asked when the temporarily closed footpaths will all be re-opened. Future Valleys have begun handing back areas to the relevant authorities.

Statutory notices- Education

- Relocate the Learning Support Class (LSC) for pupils Academic Years 3-6 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) from Penywaun Primary School to Hirwaun Primary School.
- Establish an Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision at Hirwaun Primary School by providing 8 places for Reception - Year 2 pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Implementation of the proposals will be on 1st September 2025.

Council

Questions to Cabinet Members:

- Councillor Karen Morgan- "Taking into account real terms budget cuts and stretched services, is the Cabinet Member confident that service standards, from burial to ongoing maintenance, including mole/pest management, are being adhered to in our Council Cemeteries?"
- Councillor Adam Owain Rogers- "Can the relevant Cabinet Member share which unadopted lanes and roads have been identified in the Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos ward for adoption, and when will they be done please?"

Labour's council tax increase

A majority of RCT councillors voted in favour of increasing council tax by 4.7%. The Plaid Cymru group voted against this proposal. The Labour proposal is higher than what RCT financial officers proposed.

- We make no apology for standing up for RCT residents who have been hit by the cost-of-living crisis, increasing utility bills and cuts by Labour governments at all levels.
- We tried reducing the pressures by putting forward a proposed amendment to use more of our reserves to decrease the percentage increase. An officer report states- "Processes are sufficiently well embedded to ensure that savings are achieved in-year, and that this reserve can continue to be replenished." Labour voted against our proposal.

Notice of motion for the devolution of the Crown Estate

- Plaid Cymru's proposed NOM was successful in passing with cross-party support. Over half of Welsh councils have supported similar notices of motion.
- Any profits generated by the Crown Estate, here on Welsh lands and waters, should remain in Wales, for the benefit of our residents and communities.
- RCT Council requests that:
 - The Leader writes to the Welsh Government outlining our support to the campaign and asks that Welsh Government continues to present the case for devolution of these responsibilities to Wales.
 - The Leader writes to the UK Prime Minister supporting the Welsh Government's calls to devolve the assets and revenue of the Crown Estates in Wales to the Welsh Government as a matter of urgency.

Notice of motion in support of WASPI campaign

- Another Plaid Cymru proposed NOM was successful in February. 12,800 women in RCT have been affected by this State Pension Injustice.
- On December 17th, the new UK Labour government announced they would not give compensation to those women who lost out on thousands of pounds when those born in the 1950s were not properly informed of the rise in state pension.
- It has been approved that the Leader of the Council writes to the UK Prime Minister and calls upon him to commit to the full, fair and fast implementation of appropriate compensation.
- There will be a debate in Parliament on March 17th, we urge residents to contact our MP to give his support to the campaign.

Cllrs reported the following matters to the County borough Cllrs:

The Executive Officer reported an issue with dog faeces at the Hirwaun end of the Arcway.

Cllr Colin Woodley referred to the issue of the potholes on the Cwm Cadlan Road along with drainage issues and flytipping. Cllr Adam Rogers advised that this has been reported and Cllr Woodley offered to liaise with officers to show them the issue.

Cllr Non Thomas arrived at the meeting at 6.39pm.

2025/053 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 13th February 2025 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr James Woodward, seconded by Cllr Eryl O’Neill and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2025/054 – Village Green Project

The Executive Officer advised that this is ongoing and that a meeting between the Working Group and Action for Hirwaun was due to be arranged. **Action 1** – Working group to take this forward.

2025/055 – Local Places for Nature

Butterfly Garden – Cllr Colin Woodley advised that the new flower beds have been installed and that the dead Copper Beech has been replaced with a Rowan. **Action 2** – Cllr Colin Woodley to repair the original flower bed. Area around toilets to be weeded/pruned.

Bethel Place – The Executive Officer advised that the meeting with Trivallis was due to take place shortly. **Action 3** – Executive Officer and Cllr Harford to attend the meeting.

2025/056 – Lease for Old Fire Station

It was advised that this is ongoing but progress had been made with help from Cllr Adrian Harford. **Action 4** – Executive Officer plus Cllrs Colin Woodley and Adrian Harford to continue with this.

2025/057– Bond Account

The Executive Officer advised that the form has now been completed.

2025/058 – Wooden Boxes

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that this is ongoing. **Action 5** – Cllr Colin Woodley to chase the Men’s Sheds.

2025/059 – Road Safety Working Group

The Executive Officer advised that Penderyn Primary School had advised that they would appreciate help with parking issues outside of the school. Cllrs discussed contacting Road

Safety Wales to see if they can offer any suggestions. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to contact Road Safety Wales, and to contact the Police to ask if a Senior Officer could write to the parents at the school in relation to road safety.

2025/060 – Wellbeing Walks and Leader Training

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach advised that the training had been completed but that it was more of an information session rather than a training session. It was advised that full training is costly and that we would still need a leader to lead the walks for us. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to publish a post on Facebook asking if anyone with the relevant training could lead a walk for us.

2025/061 – Cloud Storage

The Executive Officer advised that this is ongoing. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2025/062 – Hirwaun Cllr Vacancy

The Executive Officer advised that the deadline for application is next week. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2025/063 – Wales in Bloom

The Grass Verge Working Group advised that this is ongoing. **Action 10** – Working Group to continue with this.

2025/064 – Welsh Government Community Cohesion Meeting

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach advised that she had not heard from them to arrange the meeting. **Action 11** – Cllr Courtney-Solbach to chase.

2025/065 – Great British Spring Clean

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach advised that herself and Cllr Adrian Harford would be organising a litter pick. **Action 12** – Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach and Cllr Adrian Harford to continue with this.

2025/066 – One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting Survey

The Executive Officer advised that a response was unable to be submitted as the Area Committee Rep had not sent their answers through.

2025/067- Planning Applications

1. Dropped curb at the property to allow vehicular access – Kia Mena, Chapel Road, Penderyn. – No comment.
2. Proposed MOT bay (use class B2) – Unit 9 Husseys Autos, Bryngelli Industrial Estate, Hirwaun. CBC Karen Morgan highlighted parking issues on the estate. **Action 13** – Executive Officer to raise concerns in relation to parking issues on the estate potentially overflowing into the residential area.
3. Demolition of conservatory and reconstruction as an extension together with forming a dormer to the rear – 31 Bryn Onnen, Penderyn – Application Withdrawn.

2025/068- Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Margaret Amos advised that she had carried out a litter pick in Penderyn.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach advised that she had conducted the Walk Leader Training.

Cllr Wendy Donovan advised that she has completed the defibrillator training, attended the defibrillator working group meeting and has spoken to the Penderyn Village Group in relation to applying for grant funding for the Penderyn defibrillator.

Cllr Non Thomas advised that she attended the A465 Liaison group meeting where they advised that the roadworks may finish early.

Cllr Adam Rogers advised that he had attended the defibrillator training.

Cllr Eryl O'Neill advised that she had attended the Village Hall's Soup Socials and the Community Buffet. She had attended the Community Council's Kids Daffodil/Leek Making and the defibrillator working group meeting. She has also attended a Food Hygiene course. She concluded by providing an update on the progress of the Monumental Welsh Women statue of Elizabeth Andrews, advising that it is likely that it will now go to Rhondda Heritage Park, but that they hope to create a memorial plaque to be installed in Hirwaun.

Cllr James Woodward advised that he attended the Community Council's Kids Daffodil/Leek Making and the defibrillator training. He also designed the defibrillator posters and helped to install the new flower beds at the Butterfly Garden.

Cllr Ceri Woodley advised that she had attended the Village Hall's Soup Socials and Community Buffet. She also attended the Community Council's Kids String Puppet Making and the defibrillator training.

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that he had attended the Heads of the Valley meeting, the defibrillator training session, plus the defibrillator working group meeting, and he helped to install the new flower beds at the Butterfly Garden.

2025/069- Community Youth Representative Report:

Caitlyn Kochalski – Community Youth Rep advised that she had attended the Walk Leader training and had carried out 4 litter picks in the village. She raised concerns in relation to digger tracks on a grass verge at Denbeigh Court which were a trip hazard and had caused a man to fall over them. Cllr Adam Rogers to deal with this.

2025/070 – Renewal of Community Council Insurance Policy

Cllrs agreed to renew the Community Council's insurance policy with Zurich. This was proposed by Cllr Colin Woodley, seconded by Cllr Eryl O'Neill and agreed nem con.
Action 14 – Executive Officer to renew the policy.

Cllr Adrian Harford arrived at 7.27pm.

2025/071- Renewal of the Community Council's Membership of One Voice Wales

Cllrs discussed the renewal of the Community Council's membership of One Voice Wales following the Executive Officer's recommendation to renew. Cllr Ceri Woodley proposed that the membership be renewed. This was seconded by Cllr Colin Woodley. Cllr Adam Rogers proposed that the membership is not renewed. There was no seconder. Cllrs agreed to renewed the membership with one Cllr abstaining, one voting against and 8 Cllrs voting to renew. **Action 15** – Executive Officer to renew the membership.

2025/072 – Defibrillators for Hirwaun and Penderyn

Cllrs Adrian Harford and Wendy Donovan provided an update on the defibrillators for Hirwaun and Penderyn, advising that they had completed a leaflet drop in order to try to secure suitable locations for the remaining defibrillators at Fairview and Station Road, along with Woodland Park. These locations have now been secured and will be checked by an electrician to confirm their suitability. The defibrillator educational sessions were discussed and it was agreed that the Facebook graphics confirming the locations of the defibrillators in both villages would be published once the last two defibrillators have been installed. The Executive Officer advised that we had been unsuccessful in our grant application to purchase a defibrillator for Woodland Park. Cllr Colin Woodley advised that a request had been made to the quarry to ask if they could provide a grant for the purchase cost. **Action 16** – Cllrs Adrian Harford, Wendy Donovan and the Working Group to continue with this.

Cllr Margaret Amos left the meeting at 7.44pm.

Cllrs discussed the possibility of a small thank you event for the residents who have helped with the defibrillators.

2025/073 – Community Cllrs Report

Cllr Adrian Harford advised that he has attended the Walk Leader and defibrillator training sessions, he had helped to install the new flower beds at the Butterfly Garden and with the lease for the Old Fire Station, and that he will arrange a litter pick for the Spring Clean.

2025/074- Executive Officer's report

Print Partnership - £19.32

Daisy Communications - £91.31

Bella Rosa - £330.00

Hirwaun Village Hall - £273.00

Consultations:

1. Electoral review Programme 2025.
2. Diversity and inclusion guidance for registered political parties – Summary of responses to consultation.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report.
2. Role, Governance and Accountability of the Community and Town Council Sector.
3. Letter from Cwmpas –**Action 17** – Executive Officer to invite them to the June council meeting.
4. Keep Wales Tidy invite to Guinness World Record attempt for the most participants for a river clean up.
5. Email from Heledd Fychan MS in relation to dental provision for Hirwaun.

Other:

1. One Voice Wales Meetings Administration.
2. One Voice Wales Asset Register.
3. One Voice Wales Organising a Successful Event.
4. One Voice Wales Using Office Collaboration Tools.
5. One Voice Wales Using Social Media.
6. One Voice Wales Free Online Digital Training.
7. Report monitoring completed for grants received from Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and the UK Shared Prosperity.
8. Garden Show – The Executive Officer advised that there is one invoice still outstanding for payment, plus two uncashed cheques.
9. The Executive Officer advised that Rhigos Community Council had agreed to cover the cost of the Easter Eggs for the children who have transferred to Hirwaun Primary School and Penderyn Primary School from Rhigos Primary School.

2025/075 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

Cllrs discussed the request made by Cllr Lynley Gregory to be excused due to family circumstances. Cllrs agreed to excuse Cllr Gregory for a period of 6 months. Cllrs also agreed to send flowers to Cllr Gregory. **Action 18** – Executive Officer to arrange for flowers to be sent.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.11pm.