

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 10th April 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 Adam Rogers, Cllr Rhys Howells, Cllr Zoe Goss,

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

Apologies: Cllr Margaret Amos

2025/076 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

Cllr Adam Rogers declared an interest in the Community Review of the RCT Principal Area.

Cllrs Non Thomas, Eryl O'Neill, Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Adrian Harford and Adam Rogers declared an interest Agenda Item 12.

2025/077 - PCSO report

There was no report from the PCSO.

2025/078 - Defibrillators

Cllr Adrian Harford provided an update on installation of the defibrillators for Fairview and Station Road in Hirwaun. Cllr Wendy Donovan provided an update in relation to grant funding for Woodland Park.

2025/079 – County Borough Cllr reports

The following report was provided by the County Borough Cllrs:

Planning- Bryngelli Estate

- Care facility- Attended the ground breaking ceremony. Firm is keen for future residents to integrate with community.
- Initial Problems with housing site. Site Manager assures future deliveries will be staggered to minimise disruption to businesses and residents. The ownership of the two parcels of land on site is a private matter.

Highways

- Potholes reported:

Railway Terrace/Elm Grove

Swansea Road by Fire Station

Welfare

- We are pleased to share that residential highways that have needed priority investment for some time have been approved for works. We have been persistent in reporting issues with; regular potholes, terrible surfacing and lack of drainage which causes further issues for our residents. We have been working with residents by gathering evidence to support our reports. This is a big win for residents!

Officers recommended:

- £92k for works to John's Lane, Hirwaun
- £30k for works on Hirwaun Industrial Estate
- And at long last- The Adoption of The Pandy!
- Temporary road closure- Road between Halt Road, Rhigos to Church Road, Penderyn. 24 Hour Closure, 17/04/2025 - 18/04/2025. Road closure to Install Air Valve - On Existing Main. Access will be maintained to premises.
- North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent are carrying out essential carriageway surfacing repairs on the A465 Glynneath between 24 March to 5 June [week nights only]. Diversion route is through Rhigos, on Rhigos Road down the Glynneath Bank.
- The Safe Routes in the Community scheme has been completed. Work has included:
 - An extension of the 'prohibition of waiting at any time' restrictions on Harris Street, by introducing double yellow lines, to ensure the safety of the public on the approach to the new pedestrian crossing
 - An upgrade of the existing pedestrian crossing at the junction of Brecon Road and Harris Street.
 - Implementation of two new zebra crossings at the scheme's other two main work locations, at High Street and Rhigos Road.

We have informed RCT and the police of drivers already ignoring the street lines, being important for safety. Requested more traffic wardens.

Barriers were left at the sites and we contacted RCT several times for these barriers to be removed.

We removed barriers blocking the highway in the early hours of one morning. They had been intentionally placed. Contractors have apologised for the chaos and inconvenience in the village as resurfacing work needed to be done. There was no advanced warning or appropriate signage making residents aware of these works.

Streetcare

- Requested dog wardens to patrol Mineral Line after complaints of dog mess.
- We are aware that many have been fined by dog wardens. We have received feedback and have requested RCT to place more signage near our pitches to make it clearer where dogs can and cannot be walked. Not all entrances into the Cefndon and Welfare have signage, with some signs being small for residents to read.
- Joined with Community Councillors and residents for the Spring Clean litter pick in Hirwaun. Requested the bags to be collected.
- Supported a report of glass on Ramoth Hill, Hirwaun
- Supported a report of a bike in the stream between Maescynon and Springfield Gardens.
- Reported full litter bins outside Hirwaun Primary school- refreshed
- Reported the flytipping of tyres, Rhigos Road in Hirwaun
- We have been made aware of a flytipping incident in Penderyn along Cwm Cadlan.
- From mid March, green waste recycling has returned to weekly collections for registered residents and will be collected in your green, re-useable sack from your kerbside. You do not need to book for a collection.

Trees/Overgrowth

- Reported trees leaning over Rhigos Road, Hirwaun- Council cut back
- Requested trees to be cut that are covering street lights in Redhill Close
- Reported overgrowth on Railway Terrace

Welfare Grounds

- Council have been working on damaged walls we reported- A safer wall has been constructed at the beginning of the Welfare
- Reported barriers that have been left around the pitches
- Reported exposed wiring at a couple locations
- Asked RCT to clean the tennis courts

Pollution of rivers/streams

Reported discolouring of the Nant-y-Cnapiau stream

Public transport

- During Easter, the single bus journeys will be £1 for all journeys that start and end within RCT. April 12-27
- We have been consulted about a new bus stop being considered for opposite the Lamb. We have shared concerns that the stop will remove parking spaces for those that use the shop and go to the Lamb. We are unsure why a stop is needed here as the public buses do not drive where the stop is proposed.

Footpaths

We requested an update on the footpaths around the Heads of the Valleys Road, especially highlighting the need for an alternative path from Tower Road to the Welfare which has been taken away:

"With respect to the provision of an alternative path connecting HIR/43 to Tower Road, since it was removed by WG's Variation Order and WG confirming that there are no available funds, as far as I am aware there has been no further discussion with them on this matter. The Council has an extensive network of paths with several damaged bridges on a prioritisation list awaiting repair or replacement. In addition, we have not identified sufficient funds to create a replacement path and construct any necessary structures." Please see our Facebook page for more information.

Council

Questions to Council

- Councillor Adam Owain Rogers- "Specifically, when it comes to traffic at the beginning and end of the school day. What work has been done by the Council to make it safe for children and residents outside the gates of Hirwaun and Penderyn Primary Schools?"
- Councillor Karen Morgan- "Thousands of parents and pupils are still anxiously waiting to hear whether they will no longer be eligible for free home to school transport or no longer able to purchase a seat to travel safely to school. When will the results of the safe walking routes assessments be made available so that parents are given a reasonable timescale to appeal decisions or to make alternative arrangements for travel to support their children's health and wellbeing and attendance at school?"

Committee Questions- Questioned the Cabinet Member of Environment & Leisure/RCT Officers regarding the changes to waste collection.

- Asked if the Cabinet Member would support an anonymous survey of bin collectors- Supported a survey but didn't feel it needed to be anonymous as bin collectors have a good relationship with their managers.
- The Council has said that more needs to be done to improve our recycling rate. Conwy and Denbeighshire Councils have a better recycling rate and collect once every 4 weeks. Questioned if our Cabinet is considering this for the remainder of the council term- Cabinet Member said that a four-weekly collection is not being considered.
- Shared concerns with bottle banks taking a while to be refreshed. Expressed support for a rewards system to encourage glass recycling. This may help prevent glass from being dumped or not recycled. The Welsh Government are looking into a similar system.

- We see that many waste/recycling bags are put out early and more than the number allowed. Communal collection points in social housing areas can be in a terrible state. Would the Cabinet Member and officers support bags having numbers on to identify whose waste is dumped so that enforcement can be done easier? They thought it was a good suggestion and agreed it shouldn't be ruled out.

Recognitions

Congratulations to Rachael's Playhouse Hirwaun for winning the title of Setting of the Year at the Rhondda Cynon Taff celebration awards day.

Cllrs reported the following matters to the County borough Cllrs:

Cllr Wendy Donovan asked for an update on when the dangerous trees on the main road in Penderyn would be cut down. She also reported difficulties for cars pulling out of the junction at Woodland Park in relation to cars speeding up at the 20mph sign.

Cllr Non Thomas reported that the dog waste bin at John's Lane to the Glancynon is in need of replacing as it is rusty and doesn't close.

Cllr Rhys Howells reported that the lane behind the houses at Glannant St is overgrown. It was discussed if the lane to Brecon Road is on the list for adoption. He also requested a new dog waste bin on the roundabout by Croesbychan.

Cllr Eryl O'Neill reported a stench coming from the river by the Glancynon.

Cllr James Woodward reported that a litter bin is needed by the Cadet Hut as our planters are being used as bins, and that litter bins are also needed at the entrance to the Village Green adjacent to the Police Station.

Cllr Colin Woodley asked who had conducted the Penderyn traffic survey, and if we could have sight of the results. He also reported that some repairs had been made to the pot holes on the Cwm Cadlan road but the potholes were still there.

2025/080 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 13th March 2025 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Ceri Woodley, seconded by Cllr Non Thomas and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2025/081 – Village Green Project

The Executive Officer advised that the meeting is due to take place shortly. **Action 1** – Working group to report back after meeting.

2025/082 – Local Places for Nature

Butterfly Garden – Cllr Colin Woodley advised that the original planter has been repaired. **Action 2** – Original planter to be reinstalled. Area around toilets to be weeded/pruned. Bethel Place – The Executive Officer advised that the meeting with Trivallis did not go ahead and needed to be rearranged. **Action 3** – Executive Officer and Cllr Harford to attend the meeting.

2025/083 – Lease for Old Fire Station

It was advised that this is ongoing. **Action 4** – Executive Officer plus Cllrs Colin Woodley and Adrian Harford to continue with this.

2025/084 – Wooden Boxes

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

2025/085 – Wellbeing Walks and Leader Training

The Executive Officer advised that two offers of Walk leader had been made. Cllrs discussed both options and asked if both leaders could work together to lead a half day walk organised by the working group during June. This was proposed by Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach and seconded by Cllr Non Thomas. It was agreed that the working group would consist of Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Cllr Adrian Harford, Cllr Adam Rogers and Community Youth Rep Caitlyn Kochalski. **Action 6** – Working Group to take this forward.

2025/086 – Cloud Storage

The Executive Officer advised the council of the cost of Cloud storage for our records. Cllr Non Thomas proposed the agreement of this cost. This was seconded by Cllr Eryl O'Neill and agreed nem con. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2025/087 – Wales in Bloom

The Executive Officer asked if Cllrs were aware of what, if anything, was due to be planted at the grass verge at the Hirwaun side of the Trenant Bridge and suggested that daffodils or wildflowers might look nice there. **Action 8** – Cllr Non Thomas to ask Future Valleys at the next liaison meeting.

2025/088 – Welsh Government Community Cohesion Meeting

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach advised that she had not heard from them to arrange the meeting. **Action 9** – Cllr Courtney-Solbach to chase.

2025/089 – Cwmpas

The Executive Officer advised that Cwmpas would be attending the July meeting.

2025/090 – Cllr Gregory Excused

The Executive Officer advised that Cllr Gregory has moved out of our boundary area and as now lost her place. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to start the process to advertise the vacancy.

2025/091- Planning Applications

1. Build outhouse to the side of the property – 46 Llys Cynon, Hirwaun.

2025/092- Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Adam Rogers advised that he had attended the litter pick and had helped out at the Community Buffet at Hirwaun Village Hall.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach advised that she had attended the litter pick.

Cllr Eryl O'Neill advised that she had attended both Community Buffets at Hirwaun Village Hall. She has also attended the Neighbourhood Network meeting. She advised that the Elizabeth Andrews statue would like to use stones from Hirwaun as part of its plinth.

Cllr Wendy Donovan advised that she has been conducting research in relation to grants for the Woodland Park defibrillator, and suggested the Eden Project grant to purchase plants for our planters.

Cllr Adrian Harford advised that he had attended the litter pick, and had watered the new flower beds at Hirwaun Public Toilets.

Cllr James Woodward advised that he had attended the Keep Wales Tidy webinar. He asked if Cllrs could carry out a monthly litter pick. He also asked if it could be discussed at the next meeting about turning the grass verges adjacent to Hirwaun Clock into flower beds. **Action 11** – Executive Officer to add this to the May agenda for discussion.

Cllr Ceri Woodley advised that she had attended both Community Buffets at Hirwaun Village Hall.

2025/093– Community Youth Representative Report:

Caitlyn Kochalski – Community Youth Rep advised that she had carried out a litter pick in the village, and reported that there has been a fridge dumped in the lane behind the doctors. This was reported to CBC Adam Rogers.

2025/094 – Hirwaun Cllr Vacancy

Cllrs discussed the applications received with the successful applicant being accepted with 7 votes for and 4 votes against. **Action 12** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2025/095– Garden Show Assets

Cllrs discussed and agreed the request for the Garden Show Assets (table cloths, wooden blocks, prize cards) to be transferred to the newly formed Garden Show Group.

2025/096 – Road Safety Working Group

The Executive Officer provided an update following her meeting with RCT/Road Safety Wales. **Action 13** – Cllr Wendy Donovan to contact them further in relation to education classes.

2025/097- Executive Officer's report

Print Partnership - £14.27
Vision ICT - £185.26

Daisy Communications - £101.00
Hirwaun Village Hall – £2,043

Consultations:

1. Sustainable Food Strategy consultation.
2. Regional Transport Plan.
3. Community Review of the RCT Principal Council area.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. Audit Wales – audit pack for the 2024/25 audit received.
2. RCT end of year pension exercise.

Cllr Ceri Woodley left the meeting at 8.15pm.

3. Email from resident in relation to the green in front of Maescynon. **Action 14** – Executive Officer and CBC Adam Rogers to contact the Biodiversity Officer at RCT.
4. Email from resident in relation to overgrowth Parc Hirwaun. It was acknowledged that this is private land and that the Community Council is unable to help in this instance.
5. Welsh Government Democratic Engagement grant.
6. Local Nature Partnership meeting.
7. One Voice Wales Legal Topic Notes:
 - Data Protection
 - Device Management
 - Digital Guidance Conducting Council Business Digitally
 - Digital Security Tips
 - Digitising Service Delivery
 - Document Retention Considerations
 - Management of Council Information Technology
 - Using QR Codes in Community and Town Councils in Wales

Other:

1. OVW Area Committee meeting survey. It was advised that the deadline had extended and that Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach has now completed this in conjunction with the Executive Officer.
2. Biodiversity and Ecosystems Resilience Duty – Section 6 report. The Executive Officer provided an update on this, advising on the council's reporting requirements.
3. The Executive Officer advised that the VE Day 80 ceremony will take place on 8th May with a ceremony at Hirwaun Clock followed by songs sung by the children from Hirwaun Primary School. It was acknowledged that there is no budget

within the council to organise a social event in addition to the ceremony at the clock. **Action 15** – It was agreed that Cllr Adam Rogers would liaise with local groups to try to organise an afternoon social event, and that Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach would look into arranging bunting.

4. The review of the Financial Standing Orders is due to take place shortly.
5. The Pensions Regulator – re-declaration completed.
6. The last outstanding uncashed cheque from the Garden Show was queried.

2025/098 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

None.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.37pm.