

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 10th July 2025

Present: Cllr Adam Rogers (Chair), Cllr Colin Woodley, Cllr James Woodward, Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Cllr Zoe Goss, Cllr Karen Morgan, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Adrian Harford, Cllr Non Thomas,

Attending: Caitlyn Kochalski – Community Youth Representative

Apologies: Cllr Eryl O'Neill (Vice Chair), Cllr Rhys Howells, Cllr Wendy Donovan,

2025/157 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

Cllr Karen Morgan disclosed a prejudicial interest in agenda item 9.

2025/158 – Tom Bateman – Cwmpas

An update was provided in relation to how Cwmpas helps those with social housing issues. It was advised that there are currently 170,000 people in Wales on the waiting list for housing, and 11,000 homeless people still in B&B's since covid. There is a lack of suitable housing in the area with more 3 bedroom homes rather than 1 or 2 bedroom. Cwmpas offers free support to anyone needing assistance with community led housing. Cllrs asked questions in relation to parking issues for churches being converted into housing, and if anything could be done to convert the boarded up houses within the village into community housing.

2025/159 - PCSO report

There was no report from the PCSO. Cllr Adam Rogers provided a staffing update on the PCSO's.

2025/160 – Defibrillators

Cllr Adrian Harford provided an update in relation to the defibrillators for Hirwaun, advising that the guardianship of the defibrillator at the YMCA is being transferred to the YMCA themselves. An update was provided for the Farview and Station Road defibrillators stating that Pen y Cymoedd would need to approve the additional cost of the armoured cable before installation can take place.

In relation to the Woodland Park defibrillator, it was noted that the defibrillator should be on the main road but that there were no suitable properties, which would mean the need for a freestanding cabinet which would need its own electrical supply. The costs of this were discussed and it was agreed that there is a need to consult with the community to decide on how to move forward. Concerns were raised in relation to traffic issues at the crossing point to where the defibrillator would be located. Cllr Colin Woodley advised that he had asked for a grant of £2,000 from the quarry, and the costs of the electricity for a freestanding defibrillator would be £40-£50 per year. **Action 1** - Cllr Adrian Harford to continue with this.

2025/161– County Borough Cllr reports

The following report was provided by the County Borough Cllrs:

Police

We had a meeting with an Aberdare Police representative and other councillors, from that meeting we can share:

1. One of our PCSOs is to return from maternity leave and we will be having an additional PCSO joining her. We would like to thank Chelsea who has helped us here but will be placed in another area.
2. We asked about the future of Hirwaun Police Station. It is not deemed as fit for purpose, so the police are considering using an office in the Fire Station. We hope that any move of the PCSOs will not have a negative impact on policing for our villages.

Highways

-Reported potholes: *Cwm Cadlan Road, Penderyn* *Tramway, Hirwaun* *Top of Rhigos Road/Redhill Close, Hirwaun*
Beginning of Station Road, Hirwaun *Lamb Road, Penderyn (outside Red Lion)*
Lamb Road/Chapel Road, Penderyn (Outside the Lamb Hotel)

-Temporary road closure of Cwm Cadlan Road, Penderyn. Order is necessary for laying of duct in the carriageway on behalf of Openreach. Full closure from 28/07/2025 to 20/10/2025. Access to premises will be maintained.

-Wales & West roadworks, Hirwaun Works have been taking place on Harris Street and High Street to replace the gas main and services. We were concerned to see that the bus stop at the Library was closed without notice and a 'Temporary bus stop' sign placed on the zig-zags on the opposite side of the road. RCT have responded:

"This programme has been ongoing for many years and must be completed by 2031. Wales and West do their own risk assessments and priorities their replacement programme based on the condition of their pipes, where they are working now has been deemed necessary to be completed this year... I have spoken to Wales and West and asked them to adjust the location of the temporary bus stop so that it is not on the zig zag lines of the Zebra crossing. This gas works have to be carried out for safety reasons, the only other options available regarding the bus stops is to suspend them so no buses stop there, temporary bus stops was thought to be the least disruptive option for residents."

These works have sadly disrupted the school buses that pick-up and drop-off on Station Road and Auburn Rise. We have relayed this issue to RCT. Also, we do not feel that the sign placed at the junction to Station Road is safe and appropriate. We encouraged residents on social media to use the nearest alternative stops.

-We have been asking for improved signage in Penderyn, along with residents, to deter HGV drivers from using Church Road. Some signage has been placed but a 'Unsuitable for HGVs' sign is not deemed necessary. RCT have responded- We remain committed to monitoring the situation and will continue to assess the effectiveness of the measures in place. However, at this time, we consider that all reasonable avenues have been exhausted in addressing the matter as originally presented."

Streetcare

-We have been persistent in asking the Council for better bins in our villages. Recently, the litter bin outside Hirwaun Primary has been replaced. We hope that the regular mess will now stop. Along with this, new bins have slowly been placed in other locations. Full litter and dog bins can be reported online here- <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Contactus/Reportit.aspx>

-Reported locations that need a pavement/street clean: *Chapel Road, Penderyn (just after Penderyn Primary school)* *Rhigos Road, Hirwaun* *Brecon Road, Hirwaun (Zebra Crossing)* *Harris Street, Hirwaun*

Trees/Overgrowth

-Reported overgrowth: *Lane between Maescynon to Cefndon, Hirwaun* *John's Lane, Hirwaun*
Top of Rhigos Road, Hirwaun *Bryn Onnen, Penderyn* *Lane between Llwyn-Onn to Woodland Park, Penderyn*

Public Buses

-Cheaper travel during Summer holidays. For all journeys that start and end in RCT, single fares will be a maximum of £1.50 from Saturday 19th July to Sunday 31st August.

-We shared that some bus stops in Hirwaun had missing timetables. Stagecoach have replaced these.

Aftermath of bad weather in June

As residents know, we had a bad downpour of rain recently. We have been contacted by residents and saw issues on our walkabouts. Reported issues include:

RCT Council -A lot of debris gathered in Nant-y-Bwlch watercourse at Rhigos Road bridge. RCT have cleared. We asked for a clean-up of the litter.

-Street cleaning needed on the road leading to Welfare Grounds, Hirwaun

-Street cleaning needed at Chapel Road/Lamb Road, Penderyn

-Street cleaning needed in Woodland Park, Penderyn

Bannau Brycheiniog NPA -Shared images to National Park. The Mineral Line/ Arcway has been eroded following the resurfacing works they did on the footpath. Drainage issue needs addressing.

Dwr Cymru -Lifted manhole on the lane between Chapel Road/ Beacons Park- Manhole was put back in place safely

-Reported flooding at Penmark Row, Hirwaun. Dwr Cymru have acknowledged liability for the flooding at Penmark Row and intend to carry out remedial works.

Trivallis

-Asked for an update on the damaged wall outside the Kendon Court flats- "I have spoken with the Contract Manager, who has confirmed that the permanent repair is scheduled for completion within this financial year. Due to the current workload being managed on a priority basis, we are unable to provide a specific date at this time. However, I can assure you that the repair is included in the programme of works and is planned to be completed within the next six months... The scope of the work includes making good the existing wall and installing a new fence on top."

-Requested the tree outside the Kendon Court flats to be cut back- "Thank you for contacting us with this request. I can confirm that our Estates team manager is currently arranging for a cut back of the area."

- Reported an unsecure and rusted fence outside the Heol Uchel flats- "Thank you for your enquiry. We have arranged for the fence to be assessed for required repairs on 21.07.25."

Footpaths

Huge thanks to GJS Contractors and RCT Public Rights of Way for our new path through our muddiest route into the Village Green from Lisburn Rise. Work we have long been asking for. Contractors also fixed the damaged bench!

Dwr Cymru

We requested a meeting with Dwr Cymru representatives to discuss the recent increase in water-related issues in Penderyn. Dwr Cymru have responded:

"We would like to sincerely apologise for the recent number of pump outages experienced over the past few months. The majority of these disruptions have been caused by power supply issues affecting our pumping station, originating from the National Grid. To address this, we've taken several steps to improve reliability and reduce the likelihood of future outages:

1. We've upgraded to a more robust communication line to enhance connectivity.
2. A secondary EE SIM card has been added to the station, providing a backup and reducing the risk of failures.
3. Improvements have also been made to our electric points and pump drivers to ensure more stable and efficient operation.

We have telemetry alarms on the pumps which notify us immediately of any power or pump issues which may affect the water supply to residents. Hopefully, this will resolve all issues, but we are closely monitoring the pumping station. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to strengthen the resilience of our systems."

RCT Council

1. Councillor Karen Morgan- "This Council has publicly stated that it is supporting the private homeowners who face financial hardship or losing their homes because of the discovery of RAAC in their properties by assisting them with access to grant funding. In reality the restrictive criteria means that only 2 homeowners in Hirwaun are eligible to apply for this support and private landlords are completely excluded from the available schemes. Given the devastating impact and urgency of the situation what effective support will this Council give to these residents who feel they have been dismissed and abandoned by all?"

Response from Cabinet Member for Public Health & Protection- The required works to remove RAAC and replace with a permanent solution are the responsibility of private homeowners. The Council have offered grants and loans for remedial works. There is a dedicated support worker to offer advice. Public health officers are also available for private sector landlords and homeowners. The Housing Standards Team have served legal notices on the landlords to engage structural engineers to inspect their properties. Once reports were received, housing act prohibition orders were served on them and one family was re-housed as a priority.

Supplementary from Councillor Morgan- All grants that were listed are not eligible for all our residents. Many of them are pensioners. Both RCT and Welsh Government are passing the buck on this issue. Will the Cabinet Member contact the Welsh Government to urge them to provide support as they did many years ago to private homeowners with the issue of previous council homes of non-standard construction and asbestos?

2nd response from Cabinet Member- Happy to take Councillor Morgan's point to Welsh Government and via the Cabinet Office.

2. Councillor Adam Owain Rogers- "Highway restrictions are only as good as the enforcement of them. Unfortunately, the new pedestrian crossings in Hirwaun are not safe as some drivers are choosing to park on the zig zags and double yellow lines. The crossings are being parked on too! Will the Cabinet Member commit to increasing traffic enforcement for the safety of our residents?"

Cllrs reported the following matters to the County Borough Cllrs:

Cllr Non Thomas thanked Action for Hirwaun for the pathway repair to the Ironworks. She also reported that the dog waste bin in the lane to the Glancynon needs replacing.

Cllr Margaret Amos reported that the dog waste bin in Llwyn Onn is rusted and that the litter bin outside the school is too small.

Cllr James Woodward requested a dog waste bin for the pathway to the village green adjacent to the police station.

Cllr Zoe Goss requested a dog waste bin on the road towards Croesbychan. She reported that household waste is being dumped at Denbeigh Court, and requested a larger litter bin. She asked that the grass be cut around the Welcome Planter at Denbeigh Court. **Action 2** – Cllr Adrian Harford offered to cut this back.

In her absence, Cllr Wendy Donovan reported that the pathway from Woodland Park to Llwyn Onn was in need of being cut back and this had been reported to RCT by a

resident. There is an issue in relation to overhanging trees on the A4059, and that the chippings have still not been cleared at Llwyn Onn.

Cllr Adam Rogers advised that the dedication of the Penderyn War Memorial will take place in September and invites to attend will be sent to the Community Council.

2025/162 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 12th June 2025 were proposed to be true and accurate, subject to a few minor amendments, by Cllr Margaret Amos, seconded by Cllr James Woodward and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2025/163 – Recognition of Achievements

Cllr Non Thomas advised that the child in question did not want to have their achievement publicised.

2025/164 – Local Places for Nature

It was advised that the contact details for Trivallis had been sent to the Executive Officer.

Action 3 – Executive Officer to arrange a meeting.

2025/165 – 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.

2025/166 – Wooden Boxes

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that the boxes were ready to install. **Action 5** – Cllr Margaret Amos to install the Penderyn box and the Village Hall Caretaker to install the Hirwaun box.

2025/167 – Grass Verge Adjacent to Hirwaun Clock

It was advised that this was still ongoing. Discussions took place about the possibility of installing a Poppy Mural on the wall adjacent to the verge at the Cardiff Arms. **Action 6** – Grass Verge Working Group to assess the suitability of the verge adjacent to the Rugby Club to be converted to a flower bed. The grass verge adjacent to the Cardiff Arms also to be converted if possible.

2025/168 – Old Fire Station

The Executive Officer advised that she had been informed by the Garden Society that this was ongoing. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to chase.

2025/169 – Butterfly Garden

It was advised that this area has now been tidied up.

2025/170 – Shared Prosperity Fund

The Executive Officer advised that we have been successful in this grant application.

2025/171- Planning Applications

- i) Erection of a detached dwelling and associated infrastructure – Land to the rear of 41-50 Maescynon, Hirwaun, CCF44 9PG,
- ii) Fitting of a first-floor balcony to rear of property. Changing existing large window to bi-folding door for access to balcony measuring 2.8m x1.8m – 21 Richmond Drive, Hirwaun, CF44 9UA.
- iii) Proposed rear extension with flat roof – 80 Tramway, Hirwaun, CF44 9NY

2025/172- Community Councillors reports:

Cllr James Woodward advised that he had cut back the shrubs by the toilets and had carried out a litter pick. He had reported broken glass at Cynon Tce and reported parking concerns by The Lamb. A resident had made a request to him to have a bin installed by the toilets/bus stop.

Cllr Adrian Harford advised that he had helped level up the Welcome planter in Penderyn, had cut the shrubs back at the toilets and has helped with the organisation of the Walking Festival.

Cllr Non Thomas advised that cars parking on the bend at the rugby club on the weekend are a danger. She also requested that a Staff and Admin Committee be set up.
Action 8 – Executive Officer to add this to the September agenda for discussion.

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that he had been dealing with the wooden boxes for Remembrance, had levelled the Penderyn Welcome planter and had attended the quarry meeting in relation to the noticeboard that they have donated to the community, advising that this is due to be installed soon.

Cllr Margaret Amos advised that she had carried out 2 litter picks in Penderyn and had planted the bedding plants in the wooden planters.

Cllr Zoe Goss advised that she had attended the Ironworx Fun Run.

Cllr Adam Rogers reported that he had been involved in the organising of the Walking Festival and had carried out a litter pick.

In her absence, Cllr Wendy Donovan reported that she had completed the Deaf Awareness training and attended the Celtic Wildflowers nursery tour.

2025/173– Community Youth Representative Report:

The Community Youth Rep had carried out a litter pick in the village, collecting 16 bags of litter and had planted plants at the Scout Hall which had been donated by the Garden Society.

2025/174 – Penderyn Vacancy

Cllrs discussed the application for the Penderyn Cllr vacancy. It was proposed by Cllr Karen Morgan that the application be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr James Woodward and agreed nem con.

2025/175 – 2023/24 External Auditor's Report

Cllrs noted the external auditor's report for 2023/24. Cllrs agreed that in addition to the statutory publication requirements that the first page of the audit notice would also be displayed on the Community Council's Facebook page. This was proposed by Cllr Karen Morgan, seconded by Cllr Non Thomas and agreed nem com. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to publish the report.

2025/176 – Cllr Training

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs of the free training places made available by Welsh Government through One Voice Wales, advising Cllrs as per the training plan. The places were allocated to Cllrs. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to book Cllrs onto the training sessions.

2025/177 – One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting

Cllrs discussed the vacancy to sit on the OVW Area Committee Meeting. Cllrs agreed that Cllr Adrian Harford would sit on the committee alongside Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach. **Action 11** – Executive Officer to inform One Voice Wales.

2025/178 – Walking Festival

An update was provided on the organising of the walking festival. **Action 12** – Cllrs Adam Rogers, Adrian Harford and Marguerite Courtney-Solbach to continue with this.

2025/179 – Seed Bomb and Paper Windmill Children's Events

An update was provided on these events. It was agreed that these events would be referred to as Children's events moving forward. **Action 13** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2025/180 – Village Green Grant Application

This grant application to purchase signage for the village green was discussed by Cllrs. It was agreed that Cllr Karen Morgan would deal with the application in conjunction with the Executive Officer. **Action 14** – Cllr Karen Morgan and Executive Officer to continue with this.

2025/181 – VJ Day 80

An update was provided on the organisation of the VJ Day 80 ceremony. **Action 15** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2025/182 – Grass Verge Working Group for Penderyn

It was agreed that this agenda item would be deferred to the September meeting so that Cllr Wendy Donovan can be part of the discussion. **Action 16** - Executive Officer to add this to the September agenda.

2025/183 – Poppy Seeds for Penderyn

Cllrs discussed Cllr Wendy Donovan's request to plant poppy seeds in Penderyn. It was agreed that we would need to consult the Historical Society before a decision is made. **Action 17** – Historical Society to be consulted.

2025/184 – Easter Eggs for Schools

Cllrs discussed the continuation of providing Easter Eggs for the nursery and reception classes at both primary schools. It was proposed by Cllr Ceri Woodley and seconded by Cllr James Woodward that we continue to provide them. A counter proposal was made by Cllr Karen Morgan to make a donation to the Parent Teacher Associations instead. This was seconded by Cllr Colin Woodley if the donation is made in proportion to the size of the school. Cllr Margaret Amos declared an interest at this point and refrained from voting, along with one other Cllr who abstained. Cllrs agreed to make a donation to the schools, proportionate to the size of the school, the amount of which will be set by the finance committee.

2025/185– Executive Officer's report

Daisy Communications - £101.00	Hirwaun and Area Men's Shed - £65.52
One Voice Wales - £109	MP Garden Services - £2,100
Amberol £246	

Consultations:

1. South Wales Fire and Rescue Service – Have your say.
2. Consolidation of Planning Law in Wales – publication of draft Planning Wales Bill.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. A465 Side Order variation number 5. Cllr Karen Morgan advised Cllrs that she would be meeting with the Rights of Way Officer at RCT CBC to discuss the Tower Road and Welfare paths being reinstated.
2. OVW Constitution and Governance Framework. Cllrs had no comments on this consultation and no one put themselves forward to attend.
3. OVW bulletins 4 & 5.
4. Free Dangoes Financial Awareness training.
5. Poverty in Wales Cost of Living network.
6. SPW Learn, Share and Network event.
7. Free digital skills training.
8. Meadow St community garden visit.
9. Tidy Wales Awards.

Other:

1. Suggestion from Penderyn resident in relation to the care of our orchard trees in Penderyn. **Action 18** – Cllr Colin Woodley will have a look at the trees.
2. Request from Penderyn resident to leave a strip of wildflowers on the grass verge at Pont Pren. **Action 19** – Refer matter to the grass verge working group.
3. Concerns were raised in relation to the donated trees condition for planting. **Action 20** – Cllrs to look after them in the hope they can be planted.

Cllr Karen Morgan left the meeting at 9.01pm.

4. It was advised that following the Executive Officer's Chair that a repair was required. Cllrs agreed to the cost of the repair. **Action 21** – Executive Officer to arrange for the repair to be carried out.
5. Garden Show invoice – It was advised that there was still an invoice outstanding for payment from last year's Garden Show despite 4 emails being sent. It was advised that a letter had been sent chasing payment before further action is taken. **Action 22** – Executive Officer to report back at the September meeting.
6. The Executive Officer provided an update on the 2024/25 audit.

2025/186 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

It was advised that our contractor had received a parking fine whilst in the process of watering our flower baskets and that despite us providing supporting documents to his appeal the fine still stands. It was agreed that the Community Council would cover the fine, with this being proposed by Cllr Ceri Woodley, seconded by Cllr Adrian Harford and agreed nem con. It was also agreed that the council's small watering device would be given on loan to help with difficult to reach areas moving forward.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.