

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 18th September 2025

Present: Cllr Eryl O'Neill (Vice Chair), Cllr Colin Woodley, Cllr James Woodward, Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Cllr Zoe Goss, Cllr Karen Morgan, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr John Mullaney, Cllr Wendy Donovan,

Attending: Mr T Jenkins – Hirwaun Resident

Apologies: Cllr Adam Rogers (Chair), Cllr Adrian Harford, Caitlyn Kochalski – Community Youth Representative

Cllr Eryl O'Neill chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chair.

Cllr O'Neill welcomed Cllr John Mullaney to the Community Council and introductions were made.

Cllr O'Neill also welcomed Hirwaun Resident Mr T Jenkins.

2025/187 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of personal interest.

2025/188 – Mr T Jenkins – Hirwaun Resident

Mr Jenkins provided Cllrs with an update on the traffic issues occurring on Rhigos Road. Statistics obtained by Mr Jenkins from RCT CBC showed that 85% of cars travelling through Rhigos Road are speeding, with speeds ranging from 27mph to 55 mph. He requested that traffic calming measures be installed in this area. Cllrs agreed to transfer this matter to the Road Safety Working Group for further discussion. It was agreed that Cllrs Wendy Donovan, Zoe Goss, Adam Rogers, Eryl O'Neill and Marguerite Courtney-Solbach would sit on this working group. **Action 1** – Working Group to take this forward.

Cllr Karen Morgan advised that there were currently no statistics to support traffic calming measures being installed on Rhigos Road.

2025/189 - PCSO report

The Executive Officer advised that she had not been provided with the contact details for the new PCSO'S. Contact details were provided.

2025/190 – Defibrillators

Cllr Adrian Harford provided written update in his absence in relation to the defibrillators for Hirwaun. Cllr Colin Woodley provided an update on the grant request from the Quarry to purchase a defibrillator for Woodland Park. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed further next month when Cllr Harford was present.

Action 2 - Cllr Adrian Harford to continue with this.

2025/191- County Borough Cllr reports

The following report was provided by the County Borough Cllrs:

Police

Vehicle arson has taken place on Railway Terrace, Hirwaun. Arrests have been made.

We have met with the new local PCSOs, Aaron and Danielle. We discussed several issues that residents have contacted us about. Please contact 101 to report issues which will then be given to PCSOs to action.

Highways

20mph update- The Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Committee received an Officer report which has identified 26 roads for possible reversion back to 30mph, subject to a public consultation. Councillor Adam Owain Rogers sits on the Committee as the Plaid Cymru representative. He expressed his support for giving residents the opportunity to share their views on the roads that they live on and drive on regularly. Residents should have been consulted prior to the implementation of the default 20mph. Whether roads are 20mph or 30mph, there should be a visible police presence to make sure our roads are safe, enforcing when needed. Merthyr and Swansea Road in Hirwaun, Hirwaun Industrial Estate and the A4059 in Penderyn are all being considered... A date is yet to be fixed for the consultation, it is likely to begin in the next few weeks.

We've had complaints about the condition of the stretch of the old A465 (running between Rhigos roundabout and Trewaun). SWTRA currently retains responsibility for the section between Trewaun and Rhigos. Discussions and development for this stretch are still at an early stage, and the necessary works still need to be agreed upon, however progress is being made.

We have again shared concerns with the white lines on both the Rhigos roundabouts. The Rhigos junction (roundabouts) have not yet been handed over to RCTCBC but FVC will be contacted to investigate this and get the works completed as part of their remedial works.

We received complaints on the lack of signage leading to Keepers Lane. RCT has been contacted to address this issue.

Reported potholes- *Vole Road, Penderyn to Rhigos* *Lamb Road, Penderyn* *Redhill Close, Hirwaun.*

We were monitoring the top of Station Road, Hirwaun and sharing concerns with RCT over a number of months. On July 22nd, 120 square metres of resurfacing works were carried out.

We have informed RCT that signage which should have been removed along the A4059 is still up, showing the previous layout of the Rhigos roundabout. RCT has confirmed that it will now be removed.

Concerns were relayed to us about the difficulties parents/carers with prams have been having with the barriers right outside Hirwaun Primary School at nursery/school drop-off and pick-up times. We contacted RCT about the issues. RCT responded- "I have attended to inspect the barriers which no longer comply with British standard regulations, I will be replacing them with a single bollard resulting in 1.2m clearance for prams, mobility aids etc."

Streetcare

Requested new dog bins to be installed in Springfield Gardens, Hirwaun and along Rhigos Road, Hirwaun.

Reported rusty dog fouling bins on the lane between Swansea Road to John's Lane, Hirwaun and Llwyn-Onn, Penderyn.

Requested a new litter bin to be put back outside the Cardiff Arms, Hirwaun. Requested a larger litter bin for outside Penderyn Primary School.

We met with officers from Trivallis and RCT at Bethel Place to discuss the continuing issues of waste and recycling being put out too early for collection day, contamination of bags and furniture being dumped for long periods. Many residents are having to live amongst these issues which is not healthy... On Friday 14th November there will be an Estate Day. The aim of this project is to make sheds useable for proper storage of waste until collection day, along with identifying whether a bin storage area in the communal space would be a more effective solution. A letter drop will take place before... Us and residents often report flytipping and the large amount of bags that are put out too early at Bethel Place, Heol Uchel, Kendon Court and the Gower Estate. Please consider your neighbours when sorting your waste and recycling. Upcoming black waste collection days- Friday October 3rd and Friday October 24th

Flytipping

Shared concerns with dumping along Cwm Cadlan Road.

Reported flytipping at the top of the Welfare.

Tree/Overgrowth

Reported the Japanese knotweed that is encroaching on the lane to the Vole, Rhigos to Penderyn. RCT responded- "Will call out and add to treatment programme, to be treated around Sept time."

Reported a covered parent/child walking sign on Swansea Road.

Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru

Reported the leak on the High Street of Hirwaun, opposite Cardiff Arms.

Flooding

Reported a drain full of silt in the Fairview estate, the local authority have cleaned it and water is draining away with no flooding.

Reported blocked drains- *Along Station Road, Hirwaun* *Beginning of Nant Celyn, Hirwaun*

We have asked for an update on the flooding of the zebra crossings. RCT met to investigate the issues but it is still happening.

Public toilets

Queried the opening times of the public toilets in Hirwaun following a resident reporting to us that they have closed early in the day. RCT responded- "These particular conveniences are currently open between 9.00 and 14.30 Monday to Friday and Close at 13.00 on Saturdays. Closed all day Sunday... Unfortunately we currently close these earlier as we have experienced vandalism and misuse. After a length of time closing early with no problems, we then re-open to the normal hours, unfortunately within 2 days, the toilets were vandalised again. Due to the ongoing problem the decision was made again to shut down the toilets earlier in the day, which has helped to prevent any further problems."

Home to School Transport

We took part in the Save the School Transport group's demonstration to oppose the recent cuts that have been made. We walked two routes, identifying hazards that are being experienced on the walks to school- Karen walked from Fairview to YG Rhydywaun and Adam walked from Denbeigh Court. We wouldn't want to walk these routes twice a day! Issues included; Several junctions (including 3-way to manoeuvre), crossing busy roads, narrowed pavements, overgrowth covering signage, narrow and unlit lanes, speeding vehicles on all roads, size and weight of school bags. There is a Save the School Transport meeting scheduled for Saturday 4th October in YMa, Pontypridd at 11am.

For those parents who have managed to purchase a surplus seat, the bus coming from Rhigos and Penderyn will only be travelling through Rhigos Road and Brecon Road. RCT Council have agreed to add another stop by the Prince of Wales.

Questions submitted to Council's Cabinet

Councillor Karen Morgan- "As Leader of this Council, you have recently stated in the media that 'it is unlikely that the cuts to home to school transport will be reversed without extra funding from Welsh Government'. This matter should not be delayed pending the recent extension of the Welsh Government Learner travel operational guidance 2025 consultation. As Leader of this Council will you write to the Minister Ken Skates MS conveying the feedback from all those affected regarding the negative impact of the cuts, and request the funding needed as a matter of urgency"

Councillor Adam Owain Rogers- "We have all seen on social media and tv the negative impact of the school transport cuts made by the Council's Cabinet. Will the Cabinet Member provide a response to those awful experiences of students and their parents, following the cuts that started at the beginning of this school term?"

Cllrs reported the following matters to the County Borough Cllrs:

Cllr Zoe Goss reported concerns that children are being dropped off the school bus at the Prince of Wales bus stop inches from the crossing/junction. She also asked why there are no white lines on the road at Brecon Road.

2025/192 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 10th July 2025 were proposed to be true and accurate, subject to a few minor amendments, by Cllr Zoe Goss, seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2025/193 – Welcome Planter Denbeigh Court

It was noted that Cllr Adrian Harford had cut the grass back around the planter.

2025/194 – Lease for Old Fire Station

It was advised that this is ongoing. **Action 3** – Executive Officer plus Cllrs Colin Woodley and Adrian Harford to continue with this.

2025/195 – Wooden Boxes for Remembrance

It was noted that the wooden boxes had been installed at Hirwaun Clock and Penderyn War Memorial.

2025/196 – Grass Verge Adjacent to Hirwaun Clock

It was advised that Cllr Adrian Harford cut the grass back on both grass verges adjacent to the clock. It was noted that The Cardiff Arms were having extensive renovations carried out so it was agreed to hold off on seeking permission to convert this grass verge until the renovations were complete.

2025/197 – Old Fire Station

The Executive Officer advised that the Garden Society no longer wish to remove the fence at this location.

2025/198– External Auditors Report

It was advised that this had been published on the website, noticeboards and on the Facebook page.

2025/199 – Cllrs Training

The Executive Officer advised that most of the training places allocated had been completed. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to check for any outstanding sessions and allocate accordingly.

2025/200 – OVW Area Committee Meeting

It was advised that OVW had been informed that Cllr Adrian Harford is now a representative on this committee with Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach.

2025/201 – Summer Events

It was noted that VJ Day 80, Walking Festival, Seed Bomb Event and Paper Windmill Making had taken place and were well attended.

2025/202 – Orchard Trees - Penderyn

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that no remedial works were required at the site of the trees in Penderyn.

2025/203 – Wildflower Strip for Penderyn

It was noted that this had been referred to the grass verge working group. **Action 5** – Grass Verge Working Group to continue with this.

2025/204 – Donated Trees

It was noted that these trees had been planted at the Scout Hut.

2025/205 – Officer Chair Repair

It was advised that this was ongoing pending payment of invoice.

2025/206 – Outstanding Invoice for Garden Show

The Executive Officer advised that there was still an outstanding invoice for the Garden Show. **Action 6** – Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach to chase payment.

2025/207- Planning Applications

- i) Demolition of the existing conservatory and reconstruction as a single storey pitched roof extension together with forming a dormer to the rear – 31 Bryn Onnen, Penderyn.
- ii) Reduction works to trees including T5 Yew (Lift low foliage to 2.5m over tarmac areas, T4 Lime (Remove epicormic shoots to 4m, remove dead sections from crown and prune back from roof by up to 1.5m), T3 Horse Chestnut (Lift foliage to 3m, remove dead sections from crown and reduce crown by up to 2m ASLB, G1 Yew/Lime/Holly (Lift foliage over paths to 3m, prune back from building by up to 1.5m, remove dead, rubbing or excessively damaged branches) – St Lleurwg's Church, Station Road, Hirwaun.

2025/208- Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Zoe Goss asked for an update on the Maescynon grass verge from the Grass Verge Working Group.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach reported that she attended the One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting, along with the Community Council's litter pick, the Walking Festival, the YMA event, Penderyn Community Centre's Open Day and The Council as an Employer training.

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that he had repaired and reinstalled the original planter at Hirwaun Public Toilets.

Cllr Karen Morgan advised that she had carried out a litter pick on the Arcway.

Cllr Margaret Amos advised that she had attended the Penderyn Community Centre Open Day, the dedication ceremony for Penderyn War Memorial, the Walking Festival and The Council as an Employer training.

Cllr James Woodward advised that he has attended the Penderyn Community Centre Open Day, the Walking Festival, Penderyn Community Centre's Market, the VJ Day 80 ceremony, the Butterfly Conservation event in Penderyn for the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and the dedication ceremony for Penderyn War Memorial. He also designed the Village in Bloom prize vouchers, the Water Sources for Bees graphic and the Butterfly Emergency graphic. Cllr Woodward also helped to install the new planters at Hirwaun Public Toilets and topped them up with compost at a later date. He planted daffodil bulbs at the Welfare Ground roundabout and on the verge adjacent to the Ironworx Gym. Cllr Woodward reported children standing on the roof of the toilets, and information from a resident in relation to the bus stop signage at Nant Celyn and Rhigos Rd bus stops being the wrong way around.

Cllr Ceri Woodley advised that she had attended the Walking Festival, the Seed Bomb Event, VJ Day 80 and the dedication ceremony at Penderyn War Memorial.

Cllr Eryl O'Neill reported that she had attended Charing Skills training and the Helping Councils Make an Impact webinar. She attended the Meadow St Community Event, the Celtic Wildflowers event, the Butterfly Conservation event in Penderyn for the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly, the Seed Bomb event, and the Paper Windmill Making. Cllr O'Neill attended the site visit with the electrician for the Fairview defibrillator, the Elizabeth Andrews meetings, the dedication of Penderyn War Memorial, the Neighbourhood Network meeting and the YMA event.

2025/209– Community Youth Representative Report:

In her absence, the Community Youth Rep reported that she had collected 30 bags of litter from August until early September. She also attended the Seed Bomb event, the Community Council's litter pick, planted daffodil bulbs in the village and nominated the Scout Hall for the Village in Bloom competition where they won first prize for Best Business/Community Building.

2025/210 – Shared Charter between RCT CBC and the Town & Community Councils.

Cllrs formally approved the Charter document. This was proposed by Cllr Margert Amos, seconded by Cllr James Woodward and agreed nem con.

2025/211 – Appointment of Trustee for Hirwaun Village Hall

Cllr James Woodward put himself forward as a Trustee of Hirwaun Village Hall. This was approved by full council.

2025/212 – Vacancy for the Finance Committee

It was noted that Cllr Wendy Donovan had expressed an interest in sitting on the finance committee. It was also noted that she was in the process of undertaking the necessary training. Cllrs approved the request for Cllr Donovan to fill the vacancy for this committee.

2025/213 – Bank Signatory

Cllr Zoe Goss expressed an interest in acting as bank signatory for the Community Council's bank accounts. Cllrs approved the request. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to complete the necessary forms.

2025/214 – Staff and Admin Committee

Cllrs discussed setting up a Staff and Admin Committee. The Executive Officer advised that such a committee would also need an Appeals Committee. This was proposed by Cllr Karen Morgan, seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos agreed nem con. It was agreed that Cllrs Margaret Amos, Eryl O'Neill and Karen Morgan would sit on the Staffing Committee, and that Cllrs Colin Woodley, Marguerite Courtney-Solbach and Ceri Woodley would sit on the Appeals Committee.

2025/215 – Grass Verge Working Group for Penderyn

It was agreed that this would be added to the October agenda for discussion when Cllr Wendy Donovan is present. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to add this to the October agenda.

2025/216 – Poppy Seeds for Penderyn

It was noted that Penderyn Historical Society had given permission for poppy seeds to be planted around the War Memorial. It was agreed that the poppy seeds purchased for Hirwaun was be used in Penderyn due to the building works at the Hirwaun location. It was agreed that Cllr Margaret Amos plant the seeds with the children from Penderyn Primary School. **Action 9** – Cllr Margaret Amos to continue with this.

2025/217 – Local Places for Nature Package for Hirwaun

An update was provided following the site visit to Bethel Place and the Gower Estate. It was noted that neither Bethel Place nor The Gower Estate were suitable locations for this package and it was agreed that we would look into the suitability of the grass verge outside of the Ironworx Gym towards the Trewaun roundabout. **Action 10** – Cllr Karen Morgan to seek permission to install from RCT CBC.

Cllr Margaret Amos left at 7.45pm.

Cllr Wendy Donovan arrived at 7.45pm.

2025/218 – Community Plant and Seed Swap

It was agreed that this agenda item would be deferred to the October meeting. **Action 11** – Executive Officer to add this to the October agenda.

2025/219– Executive Officer's report

August

Daisy Communications - £101.00

One Voice Wales - £42.00

Hirwaun Village Hall - £78.00

Print Partnership - £11.90

Penderyn Community Centre - £67.50

St Lleurwg's Church - £15.00

September

Daisy Communications - £101.00

Bella Rosa (x2 events) - £480.00

Healthy Workstations - £171.60

Print Partnership - £6.48

Npower - £115.09

Hirwaun Garden Society - £235.00

Consultations:

1. Welsh Government consultation on extending the duty on local authorities to broadcast meetings. It was noted that this only applies to unitary authorities at present.

Correspondence:

1. Request for bus shelters to be installed at Keepers Lane. – **Action 12** – Executive Officer to add to October agenda.
2. Request to place advertising posters in our Penderyn bus shelters. – Cllrs discussed this and refused this request. **Action 13** – Executive Officer to advise accordingly.
3. Letter from resident complaining about the location of the new Penderyn noticeboard. – Cllrs noted that the location of the new noticeboard was agreed between RCT Highways, the Community Council and the County Borough Cllrs as the most suitable location for it and that the other locations considered were not suitable. It was agreed that Penderyn Community Centre would be given access to the small side of the noticeboard to display community notices. **Action 14** – Executive Officer to advise accordingly.
4. Correspondance from a firm of personal injury solicitors. It was noted that the Community Council has no responsibility for the incident and it was referred back to the firm of solicitors.
5. Request to attend the One Voice Wales National Conference – Permission granted.
6. Request to attend the Joint SLCC/OVW conference. – Permission granted.
7. One Voice Wales Newsletter issue 1.
8. One Voice Wales e-bulletin 8.
9. Digital Health of Community and Town Councils.

Other:

1. It was advised that both Cllr Non Thomas and Cllr Rhys Howells had resigned. It was noted that for Cllr Non Thomas' vacancy no election was called and it is now being advertised for co-option. It was advised that for Cllr Rhys Howells' vacancy the initial RCT notice is being advertised now.
2. OVW Legal topic note – Members Allowances: Annual Timetable of Actions.
3. Public Services Ombudsman for Wales quarterly newsletter.
4. BBNP Authority committee – It was advised that the current RCT rep, who resides outside of the BBNP area has resigned from the committee. It was advised that there is a possibility that another RCT Cllr from outside of the ward could

take over rather than someone from within our ward. It was noted that the Welsh Government Charter states that the representative should wholly or partially represent the BBNP area. Cllrs agreed that we email RCT to state that the Community Council feels that the rep should be someone from within the ward.

Action 15 – Executive Officer to contact RCT.

2025/220 – Confidential - Staff Pay Award 2025/26

Cllrs noted the staff pay award agreed by The National Joint Committee. Concerns were raised into the heavy workload of the Executive Officer and it was agreed that this would be referred to the Staffing Committee for review. **Action 16** – Executive Officer to seek advice as instructed.

2025/221 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

None.

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