

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 13th November 2025

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

Attending: n/a

Apologies: Cllr Wendy Donovan,

2025/247 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of personal interest.

2025/248 - PCSO report

No report was provided by the PCSO.

2025/249 – Defibrillators

Cllr Adrian Harford updated Cllrs in relation to the defibrillators for Hirwaun. It was advised that there has been an increase in installation costs for the Hirwaun defibrillators due to the armoured cabling required, and that installation has been delayed due to the weather conditions.

Cllr Karen Morgan arrived at 6.33pm.

In relation to the Penderyn defibrillator, it was advised that a Certificate of Unmetered Supply would be required for the electricity supply. It was asked if the Working Group could take this forward. Cllr Colin Woodley advised that the Quarry had purchased a defibrillator for Woodland Park, but we would need to seek funding for a cabinet and fitting.

Action 1 - Cllr Adrian Harford and the Working Group to continue with this.

2025/250– County Borough Cllr reports

The following report was provided by the County Borough Cllrs:

Police

A PACT meeting took place on October 16th at the Hirwaun YMCA. Thank you to those who attended. These meetings are useful in allowing residents to speak directly to those who will be taking action in the village. There were good discussions around rogue traders, off road bikes and car crimes. We encourage residents to report any issues they see by calling 101 or using the 101 online service. We joined our PCSO for a walkabout around Hirwaun. We discussed the parking issues on High Street and Brecon Road. Shared concerns about off-road bikes using the tram road.

Highways

Carriageway resurfacing on the Pandy in Hirwaun was completed in October!

Works have started on John's Lane. Will be carried out in two stages. Exploratory works to improve drainage but full lane should be completed before the end of financial year.

We have contacted RCT regarding the works on the A4059, North of Penderyn where barriers were placed across the highway, blocking residents from accessing properties and preventing deliveries. These works were the responsibility of Powys County Council, access now available.

Contacted RCT about the condition of pavements in Maescynon. An officer inspected and has identified several sections to be added to the list to be considered for resurfacing. We often get requests for the path between Maescynon and the Cefndon. Hopefully this inspection will progress things.

Emergency work were carried out on the safety barriers on the A465 westbound onslip at Hirwaun.

Reported potholes- *Greenwood Drive, Hirwaun* *Along reservoir, between Heads of the Valleys and Crematorium Road*

Complaints of contractors parking on street at Ty Ddraig, Rhigos Road, damaging grass verges and creating mess. Visited site and spoke to site manager. Difficulties at the moment with parking on-site because nearing end of construction. Assured us they will increase road sweeping and all verges will be restored on completion.

Temporary road closure scheduled on Foel Road, Penderyn for 4th December- Defective reinstatement in the Carriageway and Verge.

Black bin collection date- Friday 14th November, Friday 5th December

A large quantity of black bags were reported as not collected from the end of the footpath at Railway Tce/Broniestyn Tce. Apparently, residents of Elm Grove, Railway Tce and Broniestyn Tce have received letters informing them that from now on all waste must be placed outside the front of their own properties not at the end of the street, reminders sent to Tudor Ave and Crawshay St. Our enquiries revealed that RCT is gradually stopping all collections from back lanes or end of lanes. If this is affecting, please contact us.

Trees

Flooding

Reported excess water on old A465 during heavy rain.

We were invited to speak with Years 1 & 2 classes in Hirwaun Primary School. They had many ideas on how we can make our village an even better place. There were some really good ideas!

- The One Stop Pet Shop
- A trampoline park
- A petrol station, to name a few

The children were very keen to improve fitness and to make Hirwaun (and our surrounding villages) more attractive to visitors. Thank you to the three classes and to Mrs Davies, Mrs Evans and Mr Edwards for sparking their imaginations.

We have shared concerns to Stagecoach following the reduction of stop buttons on our buses. We have seen residents struggling to press buttons that are now further away from where they are sitting.

- Councillor Adam Owain Rogers- "In Hirwaun, the police and traffic wardens are ignored and receive abuse when trying to do their jobs responding to drivers dangerously parking on our busy streets. What other options do we have to reduce the cases of dangerous parking on double yellow lines and zig zags in my ward?"

- Councillor Karen Morgan- "How many properties in RCT do not pay council tax premiums despite having been empty for more than 5 years?"

Plaid Cymru councillors proposed a notice of motion focused on responding to the cuts to home to school transport. An amended version of the NoM was supported with our key requests remaining:

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- iii. Reform of national learner travel guidance to strengthen duties on promoting access to Welsh-medium education and to clarify the definition of “nearest suitable school” to reflect linguistic choice
- c) That Cabinet engage formally, as a matter of urgency, with the “Save the School Transport – RCT/Wales” campaign, school leaders and governing bodies, to co-design mitigations and route-specific solutions, and to publish a public tracker of actions and walking-route reassessments. To furthermore, engage with the Children’s Commissioner for Wales and Welsh Language Commissioner.

Rising transport costs and reduced provision act as barriers to school attendance, with knock-on impacts on attainment and progression. Access to Welsh-medium education is particularly sensitive to transport policy and that both the Welsh Language Commissioner and the Senedd have identified transport as a recurring barrier to linguistic choice.

Cllrs reported the following matters to the County Borough Cllrs:

Cllr Adrian Harford reported that the oak trees adjacent to the sheep market were causing an issue dropping their leaves on the pathway. Cllr Harford also raised concerns regarding the agreement between the Community Council and RCT CBC in relation to the grass verge at Maescynon which had been agreed would be a wildflower verge. It was noted that the grass there had been cut but had not been taken away. This will hamper any growth of wildflowers for next year.

Cllr Margaret Amos reported that there is an overflowing drain at Bryn Onnen.

Cllr Zoe Goss requested an additional dog waste bin at Springfield Gardens as residents are currently using the litter bin in the playground. A query was also raised into potentially narrowing the layby at Penderyn Primary School so that two cars could pass. **Action 2** – Cllr Margaret Amos to ask the school for their views on this.

2025/251 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 9th October 2025 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Margaret Amos, seconded by Cllr Eryl O’Neill, and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2025/252 – PACT Meeting

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach advised that she had attended the meeting and that there has been a huge increase in car thefts in the area, and that burglars are now able to delete doorbell video footage. Residents are encouraged to attend these meetings. Cllr Karen Morgan advised that the next meeting would be held in Rhigos. The Executive Officer asked that any posters for the meeting be sent to her to advertise on our noticeboards and Facebook page.

2025/253 – 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.

2025/254 – Cllrs Training

It was advised that there is an outstanding place on the free Finance and Governance Toolkit training. It was agreed that it would be offered to Cllr Wendy Donovan. It was noted that the session on Understanding the Law had been cancelled at short notice for

Cllrs Margaret Amos and Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, along with the Advanced Finance for Cllr Adam Rogers. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to circulate the January training sessions when they are published.

2025/255 – Bank Signatory

The Executive Officer advised that this was ongoing. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2025/256 – Local Places for Nature Package

Cllr Karen Morgan was asked for the specifics of the package in order to seek permission from RCT CBC to install a package. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to forward the information. Cllr Karen Morgan to seek permission to install.

2025/257 – New Penderyn Noticeboard

Cllr Adrian Harford advised that he had cut the brambles back. Cllr Colin Woodley advised that the Quarry would be installing a hardstanding there shortly.

2025/258 – Village Green Grant Application

The Executive Officer advised that the Village Green grant application has been accepted, and we now have 6 months to raise the match funding. **Action 7** – Action for Hirwaun and Cllr Karen Morgan to continue with this.

2025/259 – OVW Biodiversity Package

The Executive Officer advised that this had only just been referred to the Working Group dealing with this. **Action 8** – Cllrs Margaret Amos, Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Adrian Harford and James Woodward to continue with this.

2025/260- Planning Applications

1. Roof extension with rear dormer – 17 The Pines, Hirwaun.

2025/261- Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Eryl O'Neill advised that she had attended the Staffing Committee meeting, the Road Safety Working Group meeting, the Hirwaun Remembrance Service, and Hirwaun Village Hall's Soup Socials.

Cllr Margaret Amos advised that she had planted poppy seeds at the War Memorial and carried out a litter pick with the children from Penderyn Primary School. She also attended the Staffing Committee Meeting and attended the Penderyn Remembrance Service.

Cllr Ceri Woodley attended both the Hirwaun and the Penderyn Remembrance Services, and Hirwaun Village Hall's Soup Socials.

Cllr James Woodward attended the RCT Green Network meeting, the Hirwaun Remembrance Service, and the Poppy Appeal Stand at Tesco Aberdare. He also attended Hirwaun Village Hall's Soup Socials and drafted the posters for it. Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach advised that she had attended the One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting. She advised that the South Wales Police Commissioner would be attending the next meeting if Cllrs had questions that they wished to raise. She also attended the Road Safety Working Group meeting and attended the Hirwaun Remembrance Service.

Cllr Karen Morgan advised that she had attended the Staffing Committee Meeting and both the Hirwaun and Penderyn Remembrance Services.

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that he had liaised with the Quarry in relation to the defibrillator for Woodland Park and the installation of the hardstanding at the new Penderyn noticeboard. He has emptied all of the flower baskets for Hirwaun and Penderyn and installed the new flags in Hirwaun in time for Remembrance. He attended the Penderyn Remembrance Service. Finally, it appears that someone has placed Sellotape on the Welcome to Hirwaun Sign at Rhigos Rd which Cllr Woodley will remove in due course.

Cllr John Mullaney advised that he attended the One Voice Wales Green Space Network Meeting.

Cllr Adrian Harford advised that he had carried out a litter pick in Hirwaun and had been dealing with the installation of the defibrillators.

Cllr Adam Rogers advised that he had attended the Road Safety Working Group meeting and the Poppy Appeal Stand at Tesco Aberdare. He also attended both the Hirwaun and the Penderyn Remembrance Services.

2025/262– Community Youth Representative Report:

Caitlyn Kockalski, Community Youth Rep for Hirwaun advised that she attended the Hirwaun Remembrance Service and carried out a litter pick, collecting 22 bags of litter. She also requested to be able to lay a wreath at our Remembrance Service as part of her role as Community Youth Representative. This request was proposed by Cllr Colin Woodley, seconded by Cllr Adrian Harford and agreed nem con.

2025/263 – Cllr Vacancy for Hirwaun (Vacancy 1)

Cllrs reviewed the applications received for the role of Cllr for Hirwaun Ward. Cllr Colin Woodley proposed that we accept the application for the first applicant. This was seconded by Cllr Eryl O'Neill and agreed nem con. Cllrs also agreed that the second application was deemed a suitable candidate and their application could be transferred to the Vacancy 2 for consideration once the deadline for this vacancy has passed.

Cllr James Woodward left the meeting at 7.16pm.

2025/264 – Road Safety Working Group

Cllr Eryl O'Neill provided an update following the working group meeting. The working group discussed road safety issues in both villages and considered ways forward including traffic calming measures. It was advised that the working group hopes to educate the public to report anything they are concerned about as the more reports received by the relevant authorities, the more can be done to improve safety in our area. Cllr Adam Rogers advised that RCT CBC had informed him that rumble strips cannot be installed as they are a hazard to motorbikes, and that Pontpren/Woodland Park already has adequate signage in relation to speed changes. They also advised that there is no data for accident in this area and they need a demonstratable collision history. Cllr Karen Morgan provided an update on the remit of the Police in relation to parking tickets. Cllrs agreed to design a Facebook graphic which could also be included in the Village Matters magazine to highlight who to report road safety issues to. **Action 9** – Working Group to continue with this. Executive Officer to publish the poster on the Facebook page.

2025/265 – Grass Verge Working Group for Penderyn

Cllrs agreed to defer this to the December meeting when Cllr Wendy Donovan is present. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to add this to the December agenda.

2025/266 – Community Plant and Seed Swap

Cllrs agreed to defer this to the December meeting when Cllr Wendy Donovan is present. **Action 11** – Executive Officer to add this to the December agenda.

2025/267 – Christmas Card Appeal

Community Youth Representative, Caitlyn Kochalski requested that she run a Christmas Card Appeal for the residents of Hirwaun & Penderyn. Cllrs approved this request and approved the purchase of 100 Christmas Cards and agreed the terms of the appeal. **Action 12** – Community Youth Rep to proceed with this in conjunction with Cllr Adam Rogers who will design the poster, and the Executive Officer who will coordinate the appeal.

2025/268– Executive Officer's report

Daisy Communications - £101.00 ComputaShack - £551

MP Garden Services - £3,385.00

Consultations:

1. Welsh Government consultation on the changes to Local Government Elections Rules in Wales.
2. RCT CBC Let's Talk Budget consultation. **Action 13** – Executive Officer to add this to our Facebook page.

Correspondence:

1. One Voice Wales Bulletins and Newsletters.
2. One Voice Wales – Practice Development Note – Annual Meetings.
3. Making Wales a Nation of Age Friendly Communities briefing paper.
4. Invite to Cllrs to become a member of the Management Committee of Ty Gwyn PRU in Aberdare.
5. St Davids Day 2026 Welsh Government grant. It was noted that the deadline was too short to apply.

Other:

1. Remembrance traffic issues. The Executive Officer advised Cllrs on the issues related to the road closure and advised that RCT CBC will review procedures for next year.
2. Statement of Payments submitted to Demographic and Boundary Commission Cymru in relation to Cllrs allowances. The have been added to our website and will be published on noticeboards.
3. SLCC/OVW conference notes. **Action 14** – Executive Officer to re-circulate the OVW password.

2025/269 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

None.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.18pm.