

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 8th January 2026

Present: Cllr Adam Rogers (Chair), Cllr Eryl O'Neill (Vice Chair), Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Zoe Goss, Cllr Adrian Harford, Cllr Colin Woodley, Cllr Tony Biella

Attending: n/a

Apologies: Cllr James Woodward, Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Karen Morgan, Caitlyn Kochalski – Community Youth Representative

Cllr Adam Rogers started the meeting by welcoming Cllr Tony Biella.
Cllr Rogers also advised Cllrs of the two recent resignations.

2026/001 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

2026/002 - PCSO report

No report was provided by the PCSO.

It was advised that a PACT meeting would be held in January/February.

2026/003 – Defibrillators

Cllr Adrian Harford updated Cllrs in relation to the defibrillators for Hirwaun advising that they are expected to be installed shortly.

The costs of installing the Penderyn defibrillator were discussed, along with any concerns in relation to the proposed location. It was noted that whilst Penderyn Quarry had paid for the defibrillator itself, grant funding would still need to be sought for the cabinet, pole and installation. Finally, it was advised that Penderyn Community Centre had agreed to apply for any grant funding needed.

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

2026/004– County Borough Cllr reports

The following report was provided by the County Borough Cllrs:

Police issues

Requested police patrols for Penderyn Road, Hirwaun.

Snow and ice conditions

Residents have contacted us about the need for additional grit boxes and we have put in requests for:
Hirwaun- Keepers Lane, Briar Way, Cae Felin Parc and the Gower Estate

A resident informed us that a grit box in Bryncynon has not been filled in a while so we have asked RCT if they can re-fill.

With grit routes, bus routes are prioritised. We have asked if the incline of Keepers Lane, outside The Havens and the Gower Estate can be considered for gritting.

Highways

John's Lane works- Due to recent weather causing delays, the contractors didn't manage to complete the catch pits in time for Christmas. However, the gullies in the lane have been completed and are functioning. The catch pits will be made safe for the Christmas period and will be complete first thing in the new year. Regarding the resurfacing, the lane has had the base course laid but the surface course will be carried out following completion

of the drainage in the new year. It has been confirmed that RCT will carry out further work on the remainder of the lane before the end of the financial year.

With the changes of the road layout at Keepers Lane, drivers can be confused with which road to take. We have asked again for a sign to be placed to show the location of Keepers Lane.

Flooding

We have asked for further updates on discussions between RCT and Welsh Government regarding the excess water on the Old A465 road, especially just past the wind farm road and the flooding of the underpass leading to the Welfare Ground. In mid-December, we were told “There are still some surveys/investigations to be undertaken, designs to be reviewed and we expect these to help inform the next steps. From the new year, we will likely get into more detailed conversations, which will include the new junction into the recreation ground and the underpass section.”

Streetcare

Food waste was not collected for residents in Bethel Place for two weeks, we asked if a collection could be done before the next collection.

We were contacted by a resident who has seen care staff dumping used gloves and litter in Hirwaun. We have contacted the Homecare services provider and asked that they remind staff to dispose of waste appropriately.

Home to School Transport

We were informed that school buses to Penderyn Primary School were collecting students late in December. We have asked for an explanation of the changes and how RCT responded.

Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water

We have been in contact with Dwr Cymru to request a public meeting to discuss the many issues that residents have been experiencing. Dwr Cymru have confirmed that they are willing to speak with residents in a public forum. Please continue to report issues.

Planning

25/24222/FUL- Change of use from dwelling house to residential care home for up to 4 residents, Penderyn (Aged 0-19)

We met with the Athena Care Group to discuss the planning application. We suggested a drop-in event for residents to see plans and to ask questions to staff. We would like to stress, if approved, the importance of the residents being children. Staff would be going back and forth, working daytime and evening shifts. The intention is for the care home to embed into the community.

Recognitions

Congratulations to David James for being awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for his services to Young People. This will sit nicely alongside his Scouts Cymru Lifetime Achievement Award.

Our thoughts are with the family of Jamie Lee Morrison from Penderyn who died following a fatal road traffic collision. Jamie will be remembered by all in his community.

Cllrs reported the following matters to the County Borough Cllrs:

Cllr Adrian Harford requested a grit bin for Briar Way and asked that the road sweeper adds Briar Way to its next round.

2026/005- Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 11th December 2025 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Eryl O’Neill, seconded by Cllr Zoe Goss, and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2026/006 – Flooding at Springfield Gardens

Cllr discussed this issue again and residents are advised to contact their Senedd Members and MP's regarding this issue. **Action 2** – Cllr Adam Rogers to contact Welsh Government again.

2026/007 – 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.

2026/008 – Cllrs Training – Cancelled Sessions/Additional Free Places

The remaining free places were discussed. **Action 4** – Cllrs to book on via the Executive Officer.

2026/009 – Bank Signatory

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

2026/010 – Village Green Grant Application

The Executive Officer advised that Pen y Cymoedd had asked for an update on the match funding. It was advised that no update has been received from Action for Hirwaun or Cllr Morgan. **Action 6** – Cllr Adam Rogers to ask Cllr Karen Morgan for an update.

2026/011– OVW Biodiversity Package

The Working Group advised that this is ongoing. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to re-circulate the information. Working Group to continue with this.

2026/012 – Cllrs on the Buses

Cllrs to take this forward. **Action 8** – Cllrs to travel on the service and forward the timetable to the Executive Officer to publish on our Facebook page.

2026/013 – 2024/25 External Audit

The Executive Officer advised that it has been submitted to Audit Wales.

2026/014 – Road Safety Working Group

The traffic issues that we face in Hirwaun and Penderyn were discussed. It was noted that enforcement action can only be carried out by RCT CBC and the Police. It was also noted that we have been advised that traffic calming measures such as rumble strips are not suitable for installation here, and that 20mph signage is already in place, along with the Slow signs in Penderyn. It was advised that residents views were taken into account with the 20mph consultation. It was agreed that our Cllrs are limited in what we can do to resolve this issue. As such, Cllrs agreed to mothball this working group for the time being, with the agreement that it would be resurrected if necessary, moving forward.

2026/015 – Community Plant and Seed Swap

It was agreed that Cllr Tony Biella would take over the organising of this event, which would be held at Hirwaun Village Hall, and be in partnership with Rachel's Playhouse. **Action 9** – Cllr Biella to take this forward under the advisement of the Executive Officer.

2026/016 – Meet and Greet with Rhigos Community Council

The Executive Officer advised that this is being raised at the next meeting of Rhigos Community Council. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to report back at the next meeting.

2026/017- Planning Applications

None received.

2026/018- Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Eryl O'Neill advised that she attended Hirwaun Village Hall's Soup Socials and Festive Fish & Chips, plus the Governors meeting at Penderyn Primary School.

Cllr Zoe Goss advised that she has judged the Christmas Painting Competition and asked that a discussion take place at the next meeting to discuss amending the rule of the competition. **Action 11** – Executive Officer to add this to the February agenda. Cllr Goss also requested an additional grit bin for Springfield Gardens.

Cllr Ceri Woodley advised that she attended Hirwaun Village Hall's Soup Socials and Festive Fish & Chips.

Cllr Adam Rogers advised that he helped with the Community Council's Christmas Card Appeal.

2026/019- Community Youth Representative Report:

There was no report for this month.

2026/020- S137 Grant – Forces Fitness

Cllrs discussed the grant application made by Forces Fitness to hold an event at Hirwaun Welfare Ground. Cllr Eryl O'Neill proposed that a grant of £200 be awarded and this was seconded by Cllr Adrian Harford. This was agreed nem con on the proviso that the grant must be returned if the event does not go ahead. **Action 12** – Executive Officer to advise Forces Fitness.

2026/021 – 2026/27 Precept

The 2026/27 budget/precept was approved with an increase of 3.1% which will equate to an average of an additional £1.27 per household per year. It was agreed to use the council's current account reserves to make up the shortfall to avoid a higher increase. This was proposed by Cllr Eryl O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Adrian Harford, and agreed nem con.

2026/022 – One Voice Wales Motions for AGM

The council's decision on voting on the motions for the One Voice Wales AGM was agreed by Cllrs. **Action 13** – Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach to vote accordingly at the AGM.

2026/023 – S137 Grant Review

Cllrs carried out a review of the grant process using a recent grant application as a test case. It was agreed that from April 2026 all grant recipients will need to provide supporting evidence of receipts, and ticket sales if appropriate, or the council could ask for the grant to be returned. It was also agreed that the grant must be spent on residents of Hirwaun and Penderyn only. This was proposed by Cllr Eryl O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Tony Biella and agreed nem con. **Action 14** – Executive Officer to update the grant documents.

2026/024 – RCT LGPS Resolution

Cllrs confirmed that the resolution still stands that the Community Council has joined the RCT LGPS and that any new applications to join can be accepted. This was proposed by Cllr Eryl O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Tony Biella and agreed nem con. **Action 15** – Executive Officer to advise RCT CBC accordingly.

2026/025– Executive Officer's report

Daisy Communications - £101.00

Consultations: None.

Correspondence: None.

Other:

1. Vacancies for Cllr – The Executive Officer advised of the process of advertising the two Penderyn vacancies that have arisen. **Action 16** – Executive Officer to advertise both vacancies.

2026/026 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

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