

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 12th March 20226

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

Apologies: Cllr Tony Biella, Emma Nelmes – Executive Officer

Excused: Cllr Karen Morgan

In the absence of Executive Officer, Emma Nelmes, minutes were taken by Eryl O'Neill.

2026/053 - Disclosure of Personal Interest. Cllr Adam Rogers disclosed his interest in Agenda item 11.

2026/054 - PCSO report. None received. Cllr Zoe Goss would like it noted that there should be an advanced notice of planned meetings “Cuppa with a Copper” so that arrangements can be made to attend. **Action 1** – Executive Officer to ask that a written report be provided in their absence and to ask for advanced notice of future meetings.

2026/055 - Defibrillators. Cllr Adrian Harford provided an update to Cllrs. Penderyn – Woodland Park- awaiting finances from the Tower Fund and the installation cannot advance until the money is available. Fairview – this has been delayed due to the poor health of the resident. All Cllrs happy to allow more time. Station Road – discussed possible positioning on lamp post. Cllr Adrian Harford has sent an email to Kate Breeze from Pen Y Cymoedd to ask if it would be possible to pay part of cost. No reply has yet been received from her. **Action 2** – Cllr Colin Woodley to follow up with the Tower Fund. Cllr Adrian Harford to email the main help desk of Pen Y Cymoedd.

2026/056 - County Borough Cllr reports.

The following report was provided by the County Borough Cllrs:

Police

Shared concerns with the speed of vehicles outside Penderyn Primary School.

Streetcare

Black bag collection for Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos will be **Friday 20th March.**

Reported flytipping:

Furniture and wheelie bins in Gower Estate Furniture and garden waste at the top of the Welfare

Reported inappropriate graffiti on the walls of underpass leading to Welfare

Reported broken glass in the small car park near Hirwaun Primary School Household waste, High St

Put in requests for litter picks:

Croesbychan to Swansea Rd, entrance into Hirwaun Lane between Swansea Rd and John's Lane

Reported the condition of the litter bin on Rhigos Rd, near The Lamb- A new bin has been placed.

Put in a request for a new dog fouling bin near Johnson Park. Many dog bags are being dumped.

Requested dog fouling patrols for:

Station Road John's Street Penderyn Road

We have asked for several bus shelters to have improvements e.g. graffiti removed, windows changed and re-painting.

Highways

The Statutory Notice period for 22 of the 26 roads finished on February 13th, before progressing to reverting back to 30mph. Residents and Stakeholders were able to submit formal objections or representations. The next stage:

- Delegated Key Decision Report with recommendation to proceed with reversion
- Objectors notified of the Council's decision
- Works to begin on site as soon as possible

Regarding the de-trunk section [A4059], the project remains at the preliminary design stage. Detailed design work for the new access road has not yet been undertaken, and the specifics of the underpass are still to be developed as RCT await further information from WG. Officers from the Parks team have been informed of the access road proposals and contributed to early discussions when FVC were involved in the initial design. Their continued input will be essential as the design progresses to ensure any impacts are minimised.

Good progress is being made on John's Lane in Hirwaun. We have worked with residents to highlight the issues of the lane's surface, the lack of drainage and the large amount of debris that gathers at the bottom when the water drags it down. Many pictures and videos were sent to the Council to support the urgency of the works to be done. RCT has confirmed that further work on the remainder of the lane and John Street will be carried out but with no completion date.

Reported the one zebra crossing beacon on Brecon Road that is off- This has been fixed by National Grid.

Reported one of the zebra crossing beacons on High Street that needs tightening- RCT has been out to tighten.

Reported potholes:

<i>Start of Station Rd</i>	<i>John's St</i>	<i>Rhigos Rd</i>	<i>Swansea Rd</i>	<i>A4059, Penderyn</i>
<i>Gower Estate</i>	<i>John St</i>	<i>Chapel Rd</i>	<i>Cae felin Parc</i>	<i>Pontpren</i>
				<i>Lamb Rd</i>

Reported loose wires coming from a post along John's Lane- Wires were removed by BT.

Reported obstruction between Devonshire Drive and Penmark Row- Council contacted those responsible and obstruction removed.

A fence along Penderyn Road has been deteriorating for months and more nails are becoming exposed. We asked if it can be removed with a railing put in its place- RCT have removed the fence but won't place railings.

Reported the wall opposite Hirwaun Library, along High Street. Part of the wall is deteriorating.

A gap next to a wall on Tramway is being exposed as a possible danger.

Shared concerns with the condition of pavements at Bryn Onnen and the condition of Library public car park.

Trees/Overgrowth

Asked for an inspection team to look at the trees along Chapel Rd in Penderyn

Reported fallen trees on The Line between Hirwaun and Penderyn

Reported a fallen tree in the Nant Cadlan, Penderyn

Reported overgrowth hanging over the pavement on Manchester Place, leading to Hirwaun Primary School.

Flooding/Drainage

We have shared several concerns with the zebra crossing flooding on High Street. We have asked for an update on when work will be carried out- "I can confirm that the design work to address the ponding issue has been completed and has now been passed to Streetcare for progression. We are currently awaiting the Traffic Management plan from the contractor, which is essential before we can move the scheme forward."

Reported gullies covered with grass in Gower Estate. Along with the flooding on footways here.

Reported pavement pooling along Swansea Road, opposite junction to Cae Felin Parc- RCT are currently re-profiling the pavement to address this problem

Reported blocked drains... *Penderyn Road* *Manchester Place*

Footpaths

The footpath between Manchester Place and the Gower Estate has been closed during the construction works on the Nidum's site. RCT have confirmed to us that the path will be re-opened following completion.

Unadopted lanes/roads

We have put in requests for Ty Bruce Lane and the Brecon Road/Glannant Street lane to be adopted. We have supported residents on Ty Bruce Lane who have shared that the start of the lane is part Station Road and so Council owned. With the Brecon Road/Glannant Street lane, it is used by students and parents walking to Hirwaun Primary School regularly. It is dangerous to walk on with deep potholes and a lot of water pools here.

Planning

SUBMITTED We have been sent the planning application of **26/0123/FUL**- Refurbishment to include new windows and doors and the change of use of the former public house hotel (Sui generis) to form 8 apartments (C3). The Cardiff Arms Hotel, High Street, Hirwaun. The application documents can be read online on RCT's Planning Portal.

GRANTED Change of use from dwelling house (CLASS C3) to residential care home for up to 4 residents Aged 0-19 (CLASS C2). With this application, we helped arrange a drop-in event in the Penderyn Community Centre for residents to learn more about the proposal and ask questions.

Shared concerns that residents on Meadow Lane were not informed of road closures by those carrying out works.

RCT Council

The Budget Strategy of 2026/27, with a council tax increase of 4% was approved by Full Council.

Questions to Cabinet:

1. "Pavements should be safe in our county for residents to use. Wherever possible, a vehicle should not cover the pavement obstructing busy junctions or forcing residents to go on to the road. Does the Cabinet agree that more needs to be done on this issue for the safety of residents?"
2. "The high cost of temporary road closures can act as a barrier to community events and street parties taking place. Can the relevant Cabinet Member share the costs that a small community group would need to pay for a temporary road closure of an hour please?"

Cllrs reported the following matters to County Borough Councillor:

Cllr Zoe Goss raised concerns in relation to road safety following a recent accident on Brecon Road. CBC Adam Rogers replied that new signage will be placed in the area when change comes into effect. Also, an island crossing is being considered at the top of Brecon Road, on the brow of the hill near the entry of Glannant Street. Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach also commented that there has been an increase in pupil numbers in Hirwaun Primary School, and this should be taken into consideration.

Cllr James Woodward would like to comment that there are many potholes on Brecon Road.

Cllr Margaret Amos would like to report that the ground around the dog bin near Penderyn Community Centre is very muddy and could a solution be found.

2026/057 - Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 12th February 2026 were proposed to be true and accepted. Proposed by Cllr Colin Woodley and seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from previous meeting

2026/058 - Dog fouling

Cllrs agreed that they would like to take forward a dog fouling campaign based on Keep Wales Tidy's Leave only Pawprints campaign which has now concluded. **Action 3** – Cllrs to discuss further at the next meeting.

2026/059 - Flooding at Springfield Gardens

Cllr Zoe Goss updated Cllrs stating that the residents are unable to do any further work to their properties. **Action 4** - Cllr Adam Rogers to continue with this.

2026/060 - Lease of Old Fire station

It was advised that this is ongoing **Action 5** – Executive Officer, Cllr Colin Woodley and Adrian Harford to continue with this.

2026/061 - Cllrs Training

It was advised that the funding for an unallocated training sessions will be lost at the end of the financial year.

2026/062 - Bank signatory

It was advised that this is ongoing. **Action 6** - Executive officer to continue with this.

2026/063 - OVW Biodiversity Package

It was advised that the deadline had expired without permission to install being received.

2026/064 - Plant and seed swap

It was advised that approval will be required if any costs are involved. Cllrs need to be mindful that there is no budget for this event so costs will need to be kept down. Cllr Tony Biella was absent from meeting therefore no update was available. **Action 7** – To be discussed further at next month's meeting.

2026/065 - Meet and Greet with Rhigos CC

An update on the arrangements for this meeting was discussed. All Cllrs were reminded to attend.

2026/066 - Flooded planter

It was advised that Cllrs Colin Woodley and James Woodward have dealt with this planter, clearing the blockage, replacing the compost and replanting the lavender plant. It will be necessary to replant spring bulbs when available.

2026/067 - Insurance policy

It was advised that this has been renewed.

2026/068 - Executive Officer's mobile phone

It was advised that a new pay-as-you-go phone has been purchased along with charger, screen protector, and cover. The cost was £170.

2026/069 - Hirwaun YMCA - Proposed Health and Wellbeing and Social Prescribing Partnership Board.

The YMCA have been advised that Cllr Eryl O'Neill will be representing the Community Council.

2026/070 - Christmas Painting Competition

It was advised that the poster has been updated.

2026/071 - Youth Rep

It was advised that the vacancies are being advertised for both wards.

2026/072 - Staff Training

It was advised that payment has been made.

2026/073 - Planning Applications

Cardiff Arms Hotel, Hirwaun - Refurbishment to include new windows and doors and the change of use of the former public house to form 8 apartments. Comments have already been made by some Cllrs. Cllr Zoe Goss objected. Cllr Tony Biella supported. Cllr Eryl O'Neill suggested that the ground floor should be used for businesses. There is inadequate parking and it was wrongly reported that there was available parking in the Health Centre and Village Hall carparks. These carparks are for use of the clients/customers who use these premises and are locked outside of their opening hours. Business premises have not been considered. It is felt that the facade should not be altered in any way as this is a part of the history of Hirwaun. It was advised that a council response had been provided under the Chair's instruction.

2026/074 - Community Councillors reports.

Cllr Ceri Woodley advised that she attended the manual handling and health and safety training at the Village Hall and helped with the soup socials every week.

Cllr James Woodward advised that he attended the manual handling and health and safety training at the Village Hall and helped with the Soup Socials. He attended the Biodiversity Part 1 training, a grass verge working group meeting; helped with clearing and replanting the blocked planter and planted poppy seeds near the war memorial and cleaned the area of litter.

Cllr Margaret Amos advised that she attended One Voice Wales Health and Safety training.

Cllr Zoe Goss advised that she would like disposal bins to be placed in the men's toilets in the Village Hall. Cllr Ceri Woodley suggested that this would be discussed by the Hall Trustees at the next Village Hall meeting.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach advised that she attended One Voice Wales training on Health and Safety.

Cllr Adrian Harford advised that he attended One Voice Wales Biodiversity Part 1 training. He helped with planting poppy seeds and clearing litter from near to the war memorial and attended the Financial Standing Orders Working Group meeting.

Cllr Colin Woodley attended the Financial Standing Orders Working Group meeting and cleared the flooded planter and replenished the compost and replanted shrub.

Cllr Eryl O'Neill advised that she attended the manual handling and health & safety training held at the Village Hall; helped with the soup socials; attended the One Voice Wales Understanding the Law training and represented the Village Hall trustees in a Neighbourhood Network meeting.

Cllr Adam Rogers advised that his Finance training session was postponed.

2026/075 - To approve Financial Standing Orders

Cllrs reviewed the changes to the Financial Standing Orders to allow for payments to be made by BACS or CHAPS subject to the relevant invoice. These amendments have been agreed and proposed by Cllr Margaret Amos and seconded by Marguerite Courtney-Solbach and agreed nem con.

2026/076 - Grant Application - Cylch Meithrin Penderyn

Cylch Meithrin Penderyn applied for a grant of £80 to be spent on Easter eggs for the children. This was not approved as the council felt it would be unfair to grant this following the decision not to grant money to buy Easter eggs for the primary schools. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to contact the group to inform them of the decision.

2026/077 - Littering Issues

A discussion took place regarding "Spring Clean Cymru". It was noted that Penderyn Community Centre are planning a litter-pick on March 19th. Cllr Margaret Amos will try and take school pupils weather permitting. Cllr Colin Woodley commented that if a date was arranged for a litter-pick it might be "rained off" so it would be best done spontaneously. It was also noted that there is a new community group called "Hirwaun litter-pickers" who will be meeting regularly to help with this continuing problem. Cllr Marguerite Courney- Solbach noted that if we arrange an event, it would be necessary to complete a risk assessment. It was decided that Community Council would not arrange an event now, but this could be arranged at a future date.

2026/078 - The merging of the Community Council's Environmental Groups

This was agreed by all.

2026/079 - Village Green Project

It was advised that the money which was required to be "match-funded" has now been provided by Hirwaun Tower Fund and work will be going ahead. Pen Y Cymoedd have asked for a letter to confirm. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2026/080 - Executive Officer's report

Daisy communications - £101.00 Print Partnership - £7.82
N Power (electricity for Christmas lighting) - £108.93

Consultations:

1. Help Shape the future of specialist palliative care in our region. - **Action 10** - All councillors to complete as individuals.

Correspondence:

1. RCT LGPS – An update was provided on employer contributions for all staff pensions. It was noted that employers contributions will decrease from April 2026.
2. One Voice Wales Manifesto.
3. A465 Heads of the Valleys (Section 5&6) Hirwaun to Dowlais Top – VSRO No5 order 2026.
4. Publication of the Annual Report Remuneration Report 2026-27. It was noted that Council will be approving these allowances in the May meeting.

2026/081 – Request to be Excused

The request by Cllr Karen Morgan to be excused for 6 months due to ill health was unanimously approved by council.

2026/082 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

None.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.38pm.