

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 9th April 2026

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 Tony Biella.

Apologies: Cllr Margaret Amos

Excused: Cllr Karen Morgan

2026/083 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

Cllrs Adam Rogers, Adrian Harford, Eryl O'Neill and Marguerite Courtney-Solbach disclosed an interest in Agenda item 16.

2026/084 - PCSO report

No report was provided by the PCSO. It was noted that the Police circulate information via the South Wales Listens updates. **Action 1** – Executive Officer to sign up to receive the updates.

2026/085 - Defibrillators

Cllr Adrian Harford provided an update to Cllrs.

Penderyn – Woodland Park- awaiting finances from the Tower Fund to be paid to Penderyn Community Centre, along with permissions from RCT CBC to install the cabinet on a pole. It was agreed that the working group would need to meet to discuss the installation. Fairview – this is awaiting installation. Station Road – this is likely to need to be installed on a lamp post. No response has been received from Pen y Cymoedd to Cllr Harford's emails. **Action 2** – Executive Officer to contact Pen y Cymoedd for a response. Cllr Harford to continue with the installation process.

2026/086 - 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 Councillors:

Cllr Adrian Harford referred to a resident's query in relation to the A465 and asked who is responsible for litter picking between the Rhigos and Trewaun roundabouts.

Cllr Tony Biella raised a query regarding the 20mph signs in relation to road safety on Brecon Road and expressed the need for a School Crossing Patrol.

2026/087 - Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The Executive Officer thanked Cllr Eryl O'Neill for typing the minutes from the March meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 12th March 2026 were proposed to be true and accurate, subject to a minor amendment, by Cllr Ceri Woodley, seconded by Cllr James Woodward and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from previous meeting

2026/088 - Lease of Old Fire station

The Executive Officer raised concerns in relation to the time being taken to conclude this and suggested that we enquire with the local solicitors as to the cost of them drafting a contract. This was proposed by Cllr Eeryl O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Ceri Woodley and agreed nem con. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to obtain a quote.

2026/089 - Bank signatory

The Executive Officer advised that the bank forms were in the process of being completed. **Action 4** - Executive officer to continue with this.

2026/090 – Village Green Project

It was advised that all additional documents had been sent to Pen Y Cymoedd and that the grant funds would be transferred shortly. It was also noted that the funds had been transferred from Action from Hirwaun in relation to the match funding from the Tower Fund. **Action 5** – Working Group to continue to liaise with Action for Hirwaun.

2026/091 -Planning Applications

1. Single storey rear extension – Erw Lon, Church Road, Penderyn.

2026/092 - Community Councillors reports.

Cllr Eryl O’Neill reported that she had attended the One Voice Wales Lunch & Learn webinar Age Friendly Wales – A Strategy for our Ageing Society. She also attended the Community Council’s Meet and Greet with Rhigos Community Council, the St Elvan’s Right to Food Commission, Hirwaun Village Hall’s Fire Safety training, and she also typed the March minutes.

Cllr Ceri Woodley attended the last of the Village Hall’s Soup Socials, along with the Village Hall’s Fire Safety training, and the Co-op Meet and Greet event. She also attended the Community Council’s Meet and Greet with Rhigos Community Council.

Cllr Zoe Goss attended the Community Council’s Meet and Greet with Rhigos Community Council and completed the Charing Skills training.

Cllr James Woodward attended the Community Council’s Meet and Greet with Rhigos Community Council, the Village Hall’s Soup Socials, and the Co-op’s Meet and Greet event. He designed the posters for the Village Hall’s free veg packs and helped to bag the veg prior to the Meet and Greet. He completed the Biodiversity Part 2 training and the Village Hall’s Fire Safety training. He also carried out a litter pick, and cleared some of the planters, saving the Snapdragon seeds to be planted elsewhere. He asked if the Rugby Club could be contacted to ask if they could clear the litter resulting from their premises, and if we could request a litter bin to be installed by the Cadet Hut to stop our planters being used as bins. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to email the Rugby Club, and to request that RCT install a bin at the Cadet Hut.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach attended the One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting, the Community Council’s Meet and Greet with Rhigos Community Council, and the Health & Safety and Charing Skills training.

Cllr Tony Biella attended the Community Council’s Meet and Greet with Rhigos Community Council and the Village Hall’s Fire Safety training.

Cllr Adrian Harford attended the One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting, the Community Council’s Meet and Greet with Rhigos Community Council, and the Ty Ddraig open day. He advised that at the One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting there was a presentation from RCT CBC’s IT department on AI.

Cllr Adam Rogers attended the Community Council's Meet and Greet with Rhigos Community Council and the Ty Draig open day. He also completed the Advanced Finance training.

Cllr Colin Woodley arrived at the meeting at 7.19pm.

Cllr Colin Woodley advised that he has chased the payment of the Tower grant for the Penderyn defibrillator and that the cheque is now with the Community Centre.

2026/093- Vacancies for Penderyn Ward

Cllrs discussed the applications received for the two vacancies for Penderyn Ward. Cllr Eryl O'Neill proposed that both applications be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Ceri Woodley and agreed nem con.

2026/094 - 2024/25 External Auditor's Report

The Executive Officer provided an update on the External Auditor's report and discussed the issues raised. It was noted that some of the report was not factually correct. Cllr Colin Woodley stated that we must report this issue to One Voice Wales, raising concerns that Audit Wales is not fit for purpose. It was agreed that a footnote would be added to the published accounts. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to publish accounts and report back to council with any response from Audit Wales.

2026/095 - Section 6 Environmental (Wales) Act Report

Cllrs reviewed and approved the Section 6 Environmental (Wales) Act report. This was proposed by Cllr James Woodward, seconded by Cllr Ceri Woodley, and agreed nem con. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to publish accordingly.

2026/096- One Voice Wales Membership

Cllrs agreed to renew the Community Council's membership of One Voice Wales. This was proposed by Cllr Tony Biella, seconded by Cllr Colin Woodley and agreed nem con. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to renew the membership.

2026/097 - Spring Environmental Competition

Cllr James Woodward suggested that we hold a digital competition where residents would submit photos of wildlife, gardens, flowers etc to be in with a chance to win a bird box, bug hotel or hedgehog house. It was noted that we have a stock of these prizes from a previous competition. Cllr Zoe Goss proposed that we take this forward. This was seconded by Cllr Tony Biella and agreed nem con. **Action 10** – Cllrs James Woodward, Zoe Goss and Tony Biella to continue with this.

2026/098 - Plant and Seed Swap

Cllr Tony Biella updated Cllrs on the organising of the event. It was noted that matters needed to be urgently finalised so that the event could go ahead in May as planned. **Action 11** – Cllr Tony Biella to finalise the plans for the event.

2026/099 – S137 Grant Application – Crafty Growers

Cllrs Adam Rogers, Adrian Harford, Eryl O’Neill and Marguerite Courtney-Solbach left the room due to their declared interest.

Cllr Zoe Goss was nominated as Chair for this agenda item.

The Executive Officer provided Cllrs with an update on the grant budget.

Cllr Colin Woodley proposed that a partial grant of £350. There was no seconder for this proposal.

Cllr Ceri Woodley counter proposed that a partial grant of £500 be awarded. This was seconded by Cllr James Woodward and agreed with a vote of 3 votes for and 2 votes against. It was noted that a cheque payment could not be made due to the cheque signatories declaring an interest, and that a bank transfer would be made instead.

2026/100 – Dog Fouling Campaign

Cllrs discussed running a dog fouling campaign. **Action 12** – Cllrs to think of ideas on what to call the campaign. Executive Officer to investigate the costs of chalk paint and stencils and add this item to the May agenda for further discussion.

2026/101 - Executive Officer’s report

Daisy Communications - £101.00 Print Partnership - £2.57

Vision ICT - £209.44

Cllrs Allowances x4 - £208 x3 (full year), £136.67 x1 (pro rata)

Consultations: None.

Correspondence:

1. Advice on Cllr duties – The Executive Officer advised that confirmation had been received from One Voice Wales, that Cllrs can only report matters under Community Cllrs reports, to which they have been delegated to attend as Cllr by full council. It was advised that if Cllrs are attending a local community event, then this will be attending as themselves unless they are specifically invited to as Cllr via the Executive Officer.
2. Pre election period notice.
3. Free training places for Cllrs – The Executive Officer advised that Welsh Government are offering free training places for another year. The places offered were discussed and allocated. **Action 13** – Executive Officer to circulate the dates and book Cllrs on to their training sessions.
4. Email from Tenovus Cancer Care asking if they can come to a council meeting to tell us about what they do. **Action 14** – Executive Officer to invite them to the June meeting.

Other:

1. The Executive Officer advised that we have received enquiries as to whether the Walking Festival would be held this year. **Action 15** – Executive Officer to add this to the May agenda for discussion. Cllrs Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Adrian Harford, Adam Rogers and Eryl O'Neill to form a working group to take this forward.

2026/102 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

Cllrs discussed the email from a resident asking for the council's response to the Iranian War following the precedent set by the council's response to the Ukraine War.

Cllrs agreed the following:

- In hindsight it was a mistake to get involved with the Ukrainian War previously.
- These are not matters that Community Councils should be getting involved with.
- We are in a pre-election period and cannot get involved in matters of a political nature.
- We will not be getting involved in these matters moving forward.

Action 16 – Cllr Adam Rogers to respond to the email as Chair.

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