

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 21st May 2026

Present: Cllr Eryl O'Neill (Chair), Cllr Zoe Goss (Vice Chair), Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Adrian Harford, Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Cllr Tony Biella, Cllr Adam Rogers, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Karen Morgan, Cllr Jane Wayling, Cllr Tim Williams.

Apologies: Cllr Colin Woodley, Cllr James Woodward,

Excused:

Cllr Adam Rogers welcomed Cllr Tim Williams to the council.

2026/107 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

2026/108 - Election of Chair

Cllr Adam Rogers advised that he would not be standing for re-election. Cllr Eryl O'Neill put herself forward to be elected as Chair. This was proposed by Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, seconded by Cllr Tony Biella and agreed nem con.

Cllr Eryl O'Neill took over the Chairing of the meeting from this point and thanked Cllr Adam Rogers as outgoing Chair. Cllr O'Neill stated that she hoped that we can all work together for the better of the village.

2026/109 - Election of Vice Chair

Cllr Jane Wayling proposed that Cllr Zoe Goss be elected as Vice Chair. This was seconded by Cllr Adam Rogers.

Cllr Tony Biella proposed that he be nominated as Vice Chair but did not receive a seconder.

Cllrs voted to elect Cllr Zoe Goss as Vice Chair.

2026/110 - PCSO report

It was noted that the PCSO's are under resourced and have indicated that they are unable to attend council meetings or provide a written report moving forward. An amendment of the wording of the agenda item was agreed and Cllrs agreed to Cllr Zoe Goss's suggestion that she collates the relevant information from South Wales Police' Neighbourhood Allert emails to present to council each month. **Action 1** - Cllr Zoe Goss to collate the information. Executive Officer to amend the wording of the agenda for future meetings.

2026/111 - Defibrillators

Cllr Adrian Harford provided an update to Cllrs, advising that the Fairview defibrillator has now been installed. Cllrs Adrian Harford and Zoe Goss agreed to draft a Facebook graphic/poster to publicise the locations of the defibrillators in our wards, with

assistance from Cllr James Woodward and the Executive Officer. It was noted that the Community Council is not the guardian of these defibrillators, that RCT Heart Heroes have responsibility and that Pen Y Cymoedd will pay for consumables up to 2027. The defibrillator at Rewind Barbers/Harrington Hair was discussed and Cllr agreed that they would leave this as it is.

It was advised that we are unable to install the Station Road defibrillator on a property and that funds would need to be raised to install the defibrillator on a lamppost. Finally, Cllrs were reminded that the Quarry have paid for a defibrillator to be installed at Woodland Park but that RCT have advised that they are unlikely to agree to installing the defibrillator on a lamppost. Discussions took place on the benefits of installing a heated cabinet compared to an unheated cabinet and it was agreed that the working group would meet to discuss further.

Action 2 -Cllr Harford to continue with this, along with the working group.

2026/112 - County Borough Cllr reports.

The following report was provided by the County Borough Cllrs:

Police

28th April Cuppa with a Copper in the YM, we discussed...

Concerns with youth activity in Hirwaun. Vandalism has been reported.

We are aware of drug-related issues on Penderyn Road. We have been informed that dogs have become unwell.

The issue of arrows being used up the Welfare has thankfully stopped.

A neighbourhood watch is being formed in Penderyn. Too many residents have shared that their vehicles have been damaged by nails.

A speed scoping exercise is to be carried out in Penderyn, in response to dangerous speeds.

In Hirwaun, the police will be carrying out more patrols at areas where drivers ignore double yellows and zig-zags.

The speeds on Brecon Road are a huge concern. Drivers are being advised to be more considerate of others before they are caught by our emergency services who are putting more focus on the road.

15th and 16th May- Officers Goodenough and Anscombe conducted a foot patrol in *Hirwaun*, taking particular focus on areas we have had recent reports on regarding ASB.

Streetcare

Upcoming black waste collection days are **Friday 22nd May** and **Friday 12th June**.

One of the Denbeigh Court bins will be removed. This bin is being misused on a daily basis, and RCT have had 2 residents in for interview for placing domestic waste into this very bin.

Reported and asked for updates on when the bus shelter near Library will be fixed.

Reported glass along Tramway

Highways

Brecon Road, Hirwaun is 20mph

Since the 20mph rollout, as councillors we have stressed the importance of 20mph signage coming into the village just before or on the Brecon Road bridge.

The road above Trenant is 30mph but as you come into Hirwaun there should be 20mph signage. With the history of Brecon Road, we feel that signage and enforcement is needed.

We have contacted RCT to share our concerns and we hope signage is placed asap. This is the second time as recently there were no 20mph signs outside Penderyn Primary School and we had to contact a senior officer to get RCT to place temporary signage. Many locals know about the dangers of this road but for those who are visiting or delivering, another hit could happen. If speeding, drivers will be prosecuted.

Works at the Croesbychan Bridge will commence on Monday 18th May 2026.

The first week will not require any traffic management and will involve setting up the contractors site compound in the layby area east of the bridge. From Tuesday 26th May, a closure of the road will be required to undertake the works. Pedestrian access will initially be maintained during the works beneath the bridge, with the contractor creating a temporary walkway. This access is unable to be maintained when the scheme moves onto the topside works to the bridge deck.

The works are anticipated to last 9 weeks, which is subject to fair weather due to working in the watercourse beneath and specific activities, such as application of the bridge deck waterproofing. Additionally, the full extent of the bridge deck repairs will only be known once the road surface is removed, which could potentially extend the works programme.

Residents in the immediate vicinity of the site should have received a newsletter from the scheme contractor to advise of the works. Llwydcoed Crematorium have been consulted both in the planning stages last year and as part of the formal road closure application.

Reported potholes:

Garth Grove Nant Celyn Tramway Davies Row
Greenwood Drive Brecon Road

Drainage/Flooding

Drainage improvement works at the High Street zebra crossing have completed. We had reported several times the pooling of water. We are glad that the pooling has now ceased. The closure of the road was confusing, in response we had requested signage to be improved.

Reported a missing drain cover outside the Tramway playground- This was quickly fixed

Reported cracked and loose manhole in Bryn Onnen

Shared concerns with cracks in the pavement around two drains in Garth Grove

Playgrounds

On our walkabouts, we also look inside our playgrounds and inspect the play equipment.

Llwyn-Onn, Penderyn:

The swing chains were twisted preventing usage

Some play equipment needed a clean

Springfield Gardens, Hirwaun:

We have put in another request for RCT to consider placing new equipment to allow older children to use

Cefndon aka Kendon, Hirwaun:

A resident made us aware of sick in the playground. We reported this to RCT.

Biodiversity

A group came together of community councillors and residents to influence the cutting regime of grass verges in Hirwaun. A list was shared of areas to reduce the cutting to allow wildflowers to grow through. Unfortunately, those areas have continued to be cut. We have expressed disappointment to RCT.

We have contacted RCT to share what is contained in the weedkiller which is used across the county. Also, put in the request for it to be shared on RCT's main Facebook page.

Village Green Project

Action for Hirwaun has been working with Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council and Hirwaun Historical Society to deliver an exciting project!

Phase 1 is now complete with improved paths and steps leading to the Pwyllyn. We want to thank Pen Y Cymoedd and Tower Community Fund for their grant funding support. Many thanks to Heidelberg Quarry Penderyn for kindly donating the stone needed, this meant we could extend the paths even further than planned. Finally, big thanks to Andrew Simmonds and his team for their excellent work.

2nd Phase of the project will be signposting and information boards.

Cllrs reported the following matters to County Borough Councillors:

Cllr Zoe Goss raised an issue with bin at Denbeigh Court and was advised that it is due to be removed due to misuse.

Cllr Margaret Amos reported that the bin outside Penderyn Primary School is not big enough and is always full, and that glass bottles have had to be removed from it to avoid breakage.

2026/113 - Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 9th April 2026 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Eryl O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Tony Biella and agreed nem con.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 23rd April 2026 were proposed to be true and accurate, subject to an amendment, by Cllr Margaret Amos, seconded by Cllr Eryl O'Neill and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from previous meeting

2026/114 - Bank signatory

The Executive Officer advised that the bank had raised an additional query in relation to one of the signatories. **Action 3** - Executive officer to advise the bank accordingly.

2026/115 - Village Green Project

It was advised that work had started on the pathways and steps, and that the working group are in the process of arranging a meeting to discuss the signage for phase 2. It was noted that the quarry had donated a large amount of stone which enabled the project to be extended. **Action 4** – Working Group to continue to liaise with Action for Hirwaun. Cllr Karen Morgan to arrange for the invoice to be sent to the Executive Officer. Executive Officer to make payment.

2026/116 - Litter from Rugby Club

The Executive Officer advised that an email had been sent asking them to clear the litter from their premises from around the Clock, but no response has been received.

2026/117 – 2024/25 External Auditor’s Report

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on the response from Audit Wales in relation to the 2024/25 External Auditor's Report.

2026/118 – Section 6 Environmental Report

The Executive Officer advised that the report had been published as per our statutory requirements.

2026/119 – One Voice Wales Membership

The Executive Officer confirmed that the council’s membership of One Voice Wales has been renewed.

2026/120 – Wildflower Seeds for Playgroups

The Executive Officer confirmed that the Plant and Seed Swap has been abolished as agreed at the Special Meeting. Cllr Zoe Goss advised that the seeds and compost had been given to Rachel’s Playhouse and Cylch Meithrin Penderyn who were keen to grow the seeds with the children in their groups and then provide photos for display at our Children's Seed Bomb Event.

2026/121 – Cllrs Training

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on the training undertaken so far. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to circulate training dates to the Cllrs who are yet to book on.

2026/122 – Email in relation to the Iran War

Cllr Adam Rogers advised that the resident who had raised the initial query had contacted him again to clarify their question which Cllrs noted.

2026/123 -Planning Applications

1. Proposed single storey front extension – 35 Llys Cynon, Hirwaun.

2026/124 - Community Councillors reports.

Cllr Adam Rogers advised that he has been appointed as a committee member of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority in his role of County Borough Cllr.

Cllr Adrian Harford advised that he had collected daffodil bulbs for distribution to the community and had carried out a litter pick between the Trenant and the Trewaun roundabouts.

Cllr Zoe Goss advised that she has been involved in the organising of the Bumble Bee Day competition and had distributed the wildflower seeds to the playgroups.

Cllr Margaret Amos advised that she had carried out a litter pick in Penderyn and had weeded the Penderyn planters.

Cllr Jane Wayling advised that she had weeded the Penderyn planters.

Cllr Eryl O'Neill advised that she has collected the daffodil bulbs for distribution to the community and had attended the Women's Event at the Yma Pontypridd.

In their absence, a report was provided by:

Cllr Colin Woodley who advised that he has completed the Biodiversity Part 1 training, and that the unblocking of the Penderyn planter and removal of sticky tape from the Hirwaun Welcome sign were ongoing due to the weather.

Cllr James Woodward who advised that he had completed the Charing Skills training, attended the Trustees meeting at Hirwaun Village Hall and the Cuppa with a Copper at Hirwaun YMCA, and carried out a litter pick in Hirwaun. He also collected daffodil bulbs for distribution to the community and had been involved in the organising of the Bumble Bee Day competition, and the biodiversity Facebook graphics to go alongside this. He advised that he had reported the following:

- Road corrosion on the A465 plus broken road signage;
- Pole sticking out of the ground at the Village Green;
- Side door broken into at the Cardiff Arms;
- Litter in grit bins;
- Torn bin bags behind the Kendon Court flats;
- Resident query regarding speeding issue on Rhigos Road.

Cllr Woodward also made a request for the council's environmental projects to be added to the agenda as a standing item. It was agreed to defer Cllr Woodward's environmental requests for wildflower seeds and daffodils to be planted until the June meeting where he would be present to discuss.

2026/125- Cllr Allowances

Cllrs discussed the Community Cllrs Allowances as set by the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru. The Executive Officer provided an update on the Cllrs Allowance form which now allow payments to be made via bank transfer.

The allowances were discussed as follows:

- The payment of £156 per year to each Cllr for the extra costs of working from home. This is a mandatory payment, but Cllrs can opt out.
- The payment of £52 a year for the cost of office consumables. This is a mandatory payment, but Cllrs can opt out.
- The Payment of £30 attendance allowance per each qualifying event (subject to formal council decision of what is a qualifying event). It was advised that the finance committee reviewed this allowance and did not include it in this year's budget as it was agreed that it was disproportionate to the size of the council. This is an optional

allowance which Cllrs agreed not to adopt. This was proposed by Cllr Eryl O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Ceri Woodley and agreed nem con.

- Compensation for financial loss. This is an optional allowance which was approved by full council year for approved council duties only.
- The payment of £500 per year for one Cllr in a Senior Role is now mandatory but Cllrs can opt out. Additionally, the payment of £500 per year for up to an additional five Cllrs in a Senior Role is an optional allowance which was rejected.
- The Reimbursement to Cllrs for travel costs for attending approved duties. This is an optional allowance which was approved for approved council duties only.
- Reimbursement to Cllrs for subsistence where a duty requires an overnight stay. This is an optional which was approved for approved council duties only.
- Reimbursement of the cost of care. This is a mandatory allowance which was approved for approved council duties only.
- Chair/Vice Chair Honoraria. This is an optional allowance. Cllr Ceri Woodley proposed that this has not been budgeted for and should be rejected. This was seconded by Cllr Adam Rogers. Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach proposed that this allowance should be approved, and that Cllrs could opt out if they don't wish to receive it. This was seconded by Cllr Jane Wayling. A vote was undertaken with 7 Cllrs voting to reject the allowance, 3 voting to accept the allowance, and 1 Cllr abstaining. The allowance is rejected for this year with the agreement that it will be reviewed by the finance committee when setting the budget for next year.

2026/126 – Cllr Vacancy for Hirwaun

The Executive Officer advised that no applications have been received. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to re-advertise the vacancy.

2026/127 – Dignity at Work Policy

Cllrs discussed the policy and amendments were suggested by Cllr Karen Morgan. **Action 7** – Cllr Karen Morgan to forward the suggestions to the Executive Officer who will make the necessary amendments and add it to the June agenda for approval. Finance Committee to review the Financial Toolkit.

2026/128- Civility and Respect Pledge

Cllrs agreed to add this to the June agenda for approval with the Dignity at Work Policy. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to add this to the June agenda.

2026/129 – The Old Fire Station - Lease

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs of the cost of a local solicitor drafting a new contract. Cllrs agreed that the Executive Officer and Cllr Colin Woodley would draft a new contract based on previous advice received from One Voice Wales. **Action 9** – Executive Officer and Cllr Colin Woodley to continue with this.

2026/130– The Old Fire Station – Electrical Certificate

The Executive Officer advised that the 5 yearly electrical certificate for The Old Fire Station is due for renewal and that a quote is being sought for the cost. **Action 10**– Executive Officer to chase the quote and add this to the June agenda for discussion.

2026/131 – The Old Fire Station – Request for a new fence

The Executive Officer advised that The Garden Society had made a request for a new fence to be installed at The Old Fire Station. An update on the deeds was provided, and the Shared Boundaries Act was flagged up. It was noted that the council would need to seek grant funding to cover the cost. Cllrs approved the installation of a new fence in principle, subject to grant funding and further review of the Shared Boundaries Act. **Action 11** – Executive Officer and Cllr Colin Woodley to continue with this.

Cllr Karen Morgan left the meeting at 8.08pm.

2026/132 – Dog Fouling Campaign

Cllrs discussed the running a dog fouling campaign and a working group was set up to take this forward. **Action 12** – Cllrs to decide what to call the campaign. Executive Officer to set up a WhatsApp group for the working group to include Cllrs Eryl O’Neill, Adrian Harford, Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Jane Wayling, Margaret Amos and James Woodward.

2026/133 – Spring Environmental Competition

Cllr Zoe Goss provided an update on the council’s Bumble Bee Day competition where residents will be asked to upload an environmental photo to our Facebook page, and the photos with the most Likes will win a prize. **Action 13** – Cllrs Zoe Goss and James Woodward, and the Executive Officer to continue with this.

2026/134 – Penderyn Christmas Light

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on the suggestion to move the Christmas light, which is set back off the road outside Penderyn Community Centre, down to the main road. Cllrs discussed the costs involved and agreed to keep the light where it is.

2026/135 – Public Consultation

The Executive Officer discussed Audit Wales’s report which stated that we should be consulting with our residents. Cllrs discussed the different options and agreed to hold a yearly consultation event where residents can come in and meet with Cllrs to discuss

any concerns or suggestions that they may have. **Action 14** – Executive Officer to arrange.

2026/136 – Walking Festival

Cllrs provided an update on the Walking Festival. **Action 15** – Executive Officer to add to the June agenda.

2026/137 - Executive Officer's report

Daisy Communications - £121.27 Print Partnership - £15.43

Microsoft renewal - £84.99 ICO renewal - £50

McAfee - £39.99 Amberol - £628.80

Ebay - £85.00

The cost of the replacement brackets for flower baskets, and the metal banding to install them, was discussed with reference to the Financial Standing Orders.

Consultations: None.

Correspondence:

1. Resident request for the speed indicator stats for Rhigos Rd speed monitor. Cllr Adam Rogers advised that RCT do not own this speed monitoring device and that the resident should make a freedom of information request to South Wales Police. **Action 16** – Executive Officer to advise the resident accordingly.
2. One Voice Wales Legal Topic Note – Organising a Successful Event.
3. One Voice Wales Legal Topic Note – New Cllr induction.
4. One Voice Wales Biodiversity packages – Cllrs agreed to take this forward. **Action 17** – Executive Officer to seek the necessary permissions.

Other:

- HPCC Info Share: Hirwaun Socio-Demographic & Crime Profile by Cllr Tony Biella.
- The Co-op Academies proposal by Cllr Tony Biella.
- Strategic gap in Wales' community governance by Cllr Tony Biella.

Cllrs discussed the documents presented by Cllr Tony Biella and agreed not to take them any further.

2026/138 – Confidential – Approval of Probationary Period

The probationary period of Hirwaun Village Hall's Caretaker was discussed and approved.

2026/139 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

None

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.