Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 10th September 2026

Present: Cllr Eryl O'Neill (Chair), Cllr Zoë Goss (Vice Chair), Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Adrian Harford, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr James Woodward, Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Cllr Adam Rogers, Cllr Tim Williams
Apologies: Cllr Colin Woodley, Emma Nelmes (Executive Officer)
Excused: Cllr Karen Morgan
Attending: None

2026/200 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

2026/201 – South Wales Police Update

Cllr Zoë Goss has collated information from the South Wales Listens website to provide an overview as to what has been happening within the villages:

In July the PCSOs patrolled the Hirwaun area and had conversations with residents around Safety and general ASB in the community and how they can work together to reduce these issues and support residents within the area.
They encourage people to report any ASB along with Road Safety concerns, as they can then conduct high patrols at varied times of the day to deterrent and to also witness any issues / crimes that is being conducted.
They are linking in with the council and Road Safety team to help improve relationships and support each other.
South Wales Police have conducted a joint speeding operation on Brecon Road, Hirwaun with the fire service and the go safe team focusing on improving road safety in our community. Over 20 vehicles were pulled during this operation, with each driver receiving speed awareness advise and education about the importance of driving within the speed limit
A PACT meeting was held on 22nd July 2026 where the County Borough Councillors, Community Councillors, Residents and South Wales Police had the opportunity to meet and discuss issues within the villages.
PCSOs were on foot patrol after reports of ASB and drug dealing
In August PCSOs held a Cuppa with a Copper in Penderyn and Hirwaun.
In October there will be a speed scoping exercise within Penderyn. This exercise will allow them to gather information on vehicle speeds; this information will help us to get a better understanding of the issues raised by residents and assess whether any further action may be required.

Cllr Tim Williams raised the issue that there have been incidents within Penderyn on breaking into property, this has been reported to the police. **Action 1** – Cllr Zoe Goss to inform the PCSOs.

2026/202- Defibrillators

Cllr Adrian Harford checked defibrillators to ensure they are working and no issues raised. Discussions had that the Woodland Park defibrillator would be on the main road to ensure that it is more visible and will be on a lamppost. **Action 2** – Cllr Adrian Harford will continue with this, along with the working group.

Agreed

2026/203 - County Borough Cllr reports.

The following report was provided by the County Borough Cllrs:

Police and Fire

We have received messages about large numbers of vehicles gathering on the Hirwaun Industrial Estate in the evenings and blocking the roads to race. Reported to the police.

Reported noise complaints from residents on Cynon Terrace, police have door knocked for further information.

Reported fire on the Ironworks which was spreading along footpath.

Working with police and RCT to address vandalism along the Tramway.

Shared a video of vandalism taking place at Cardiff Arms to the police.

Streetcare

Next black waste collection dates are- Friday 25th September and Friday 16th October

We have reported flytipping- *Tower Road*

We have reported glass- *Outside Cardiff Arms* *Merthyr Road/Swansea Road bridge*

Requested new dog fouling bins:

Between Denbeigh Court and Croesbychan *Within Springfield Gardens estate*

Reported rubble left following drainage works along Swansea Road.

We have asked RCT to regularly clean pavements between Penderyn Primary and the Lamb Hotel. Road sweeping is shared with the Quarry and RCT at this location.

Rats

We have been working with residents in Llys Cynon to address the large number of rats. The source of why they are there in their numbers is unknown. We asked Welsh Water to investigate but on their visit found no issues with blocked drainage. Flytipping, disturbed nests and food put outside for animals are common causes.

Highways

Many residents drive on the old A465 road to travel to Aberdare. The intention is that the Welsh Government will transfer the road over to RCT Council. RCT have responded:

"Welsh Government are continuing to undertake surveys and progress the design development, and officers within the Highways team have provided comments where necessary throughout this process… I anticipate that, once the design reaches the next key milestone, meetings will be arranged to review the proposals in much more detail. In addition to this, separate discussions are expected to be held on specific elements of the scheme, such as the underpass once all surveys/inspections have been completed."

Following a collision along the A4059 in August, we contacted RCT to ask for further information- "We do not know what happened. There were no vehicles or emergency services at the site when we arrived to address the issues raised within the emergency call from the police. I believe adequate safety infrastructure is already in place at the location, and I would not identify this as an accident black spot."

Temporary road closure- Cross Street, Hirwaun. The order is necessary to allow poling works on behalf of Openreach and will operate 08:00 to 17:00 on 28/09/2026.

Flooding/Drainage

Shared concerns from residents living along Cwm Cadlan about the lack of drainage clearance. We hope RCT will add the area to their schedule, if not part of it already.

Requested RCT to clear the drains along Station Road.

Public buses

A few months ago we contacted RCT Council about damaged bus shelters in our Ward, as well as the need for many to be freshened up and cleaned. RCT Council have shared with us that they will be funding 3 new bus shelters in Hirwaun at:

Good Taste Chinese *The Lamb Inn* *Hirwaun Library*

Agreed

Unfortunately, due to spending limits, shelters for Denbeigh Court, Keeper's Lane and Brecon Road have not been successful. In addition to our requests, The Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council also gave their support to some of these shelters.
We have also reported damages made to the Greenwood Drive bus shelter on two occasions.

Gower Estate

On the Gower Estate, we have contacted RCT and Trivallis about many issues, including:
Restarting tenant associations to bring neighbors closer together and introduce activities (across all social housing estates).
Some residents only have one door to enter/leave property, this is a safety concern, so we have asked Trivallis to review those properties and to consider installing another door.
We have requested a litter pick to collect rubbish and glass.
Moss and muck has been gathering on the footways.
A footway in Rhossili Close has been damaged so needs fixing.
Residents have expressed concerns about accessibility across the estate. Steps are not easy for everyone. We have asked RCT to review the estate to possibly install ramps.
Some of the wooden palisades in the middle have been removed so we would like them replaced or removed with metal railing installed instead.
Some residents have been receiving unpaid bill letters from Welsh Water when they shouldn't be, so we are working with residents and Trivallis to stop this.
For those privately owned properties who have been affected by RAAC, we want to further progress the need for help. RAAC must be removed from properties NOT at your expense.

Discussing the issues with Senedd Members

Met with 2 of our 3 Plaid Cymru Senedd Members, Heledd Fychan and Sara Crowley, to discuss the issues that are a concern for many residents. Some of those issues included:
RAAC in Hirwaun and Building Safety
The noise of the A465 and old A465 road (between Trewaun and Rhigos roundabouts)
Cuts to school transport The future of trains to Hirwaun and Rhigos
Water issues in Penderyn The Nant-y-Bwlch watercourse
Our Senedd Members need to know your views on these issues. As councillors, we would like to know your experiences and gather everything we can from you so that Heledd, Sara and Lisbeth McLean can best represent us in the Senedd.

The following was raised to County Borough Councillors:

Cllr Adrian Harford – Gower Estate should have a tenants association set up. It was asked if a regular litter pick could be organised. Also, pavements need to be cleaned as it is looking untidy.

Cllr Tim Williams raised concerns on the overgrown hedge row causing damage on Lamb Road, Penderyn. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to raise the issue with RCT.

2026/204 - Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting on 9th July 2026 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Adam Rogers, seconded by Cllr Ceri Woodley and agreed nem con.

Agreed

Matters arising from previous meeting

2026/205 - A River for All project
Cllrs queried in the Executive Officer's absence whether or not the letter of support had been sent. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to report back at the next meeting.

2026/206 – Home to School Transport
It had been agreed at the last meeting that Cllrs would send their responses to the Executive Officer to collate and send to RCT. It was noted that only one Cllr had sent their response via the Executive Officer, with others contacting RCT directly. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to confirm whether or not Cllr Woodwards response had been forwarded to RCT.

2026/207 – Village Green Project
The Working Group advised that they were waiting for RCT to give the required permissions for the signage. **Action 6** - Working Group to continue with this.

2026/208 – Cllrs Training
It was advised that this has been completed.

2026/209 – Lease for the Old Fire Station
It was advised that the new lease had been drafted and was under review. **Action 7** – Executive Officer and Cllr Colin Woodley to continue with this.

2026/210 – Fence for the Old Fire Station
It was advised that the Executive Officer had met with the contractor over the summer and is waiting for the quote to come in. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2026/211 – Public Consultation Event
It was noted that the Executive Officer had asked when Cllrs would like to hold the event. It was agreed that the name of the event would be changed to the Public Engagement Event. Cllr Tim Williams asked that an event be held in Penderyn also. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to continue with this and add it to the October agenda for further discussion.

2026/212 – OVW Biodiversity Packages
It was noted that the plug plants are due for delivery and will need to be planted within 1-2 days of receipt. Planting will need to be carried out by Cllrs and local volunteer groups. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to advise of delivery date.

2026/213 – Dog Fouling Campaign
It was noted that the campaign had started in Hirwaun, but not yet in Penderyn. **Action 11** – The chalk paint for Penderyn is to be transferred to Cllr Margaret Amos. Campaign to continue in both villages until the chalk paint runs out.

Agreed

2026/214 – Electrical Certificate for The Old Fire Station
It was noted that the certificate would be completed in September as the contractor was dealing with the schools over the summer. **Action 12** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2026/215 – Bus Shelters
It was noted that the Community Council's requests for bus shelters to be installed at Brecon Road and Denbeigh Court had been refused by RCT.

2026/216 – Children's Seed Bomb Event
It was noted that the event was well attended.

2026/217 - Executive Officer's Training
It was noted that one training session had been competed, with one session due to be completed shortly.

2026/218 – Freedom of Information Request
It was noted that the request had been denied following advice from One Voice Wales as it was not a lawful request as it contained no identifying information.

2026/219 -Planning Applications

No Planning applications received.

2026/220 - Community Councillors reports.

Cllr Eryl O'Neill advised that she had attended a training course in Becoming a Trustee, has been on Poo Patrol, has attended Energy Efficiency Survey meeting for the Village Hall, attended the Walking Festival and attended the YMCA Community meeting and completed the Food Hygiene training for the Village Hall. Cllr Eryl O'Neill also placed an Elizabeth Andrews Marquette in St Elvan's Church on display.

Cllr Ceri Woodley advised that she had completed the Food Hygiene training and First Aid training at the Village Hall. Attended the Seed Bomb Event and Energy Efficiency Survey meeting for the Village Hall.

Cllr Adrian Harford advised that he had attended the Walking Festival and also responded to a fly tipping concern and made RCT aware.

Cllr Margaret Amos undertook a litter pick and weeded the planters.

Cllr James Woodward judged the Village in Bloom competition, attended the Duck Race event, Food Hygiene training and First Aid training and attended the Energy Efficiency Survey meeting for the Village Hall.

Agreed

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach attended a One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting and the Walking Festival.

Cllr Adam Rogers attended the Walking Festival and attended the Defib meetings.

Cllr Zoë Goss attended the PACT meeting; attended a Cuppa with a Copper in Penderyn and has been liaising with PCSOs on behalf of residents regarding incidents within Hirwaun. She also attended the Walking Festival.

2026/221- Community Council Environmental Projects
Cllr James Woodward will continue with this and provide an update in October.
Cllr Adrian Halford is going to liaise with the Hirwaun Litter Pickers around an organised litter pick and cover a further distance. Tree by the toilet is obstructing the sign. Brambles to be removed by the Rugby Club this will be discussed at the next working group to organise for these to be completed.

2026/222 – Hirwaun Ward Vacancy 1
Cllrs discussed the vacancy and the applicants. It was agreed that both applicants would be a great asset.
Cllr Adrian Harford proposed the first applicant, which was seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos.
Cllr Adam Rogers proposed the second applicant, which was seconded by Cllr Ceri Woodley.
The first applicant was selected with 6 votes for and 4 votes for the other applicant.
The second applicant was invited to apply for Vacancy 2 when it is advertised for co-option.

2026/223 – Council's Annual Report 2025/2026
Cllrs approved the adoption of this policy. This was proposed by Cllr Ceri Woodley, seconded by Cllr Tim Williams and agreed nem con.

2026/224 – Council's Grievance Policy
Cllrs approved the adoption of this policy. This was proposed by Cllr Adrian Harford, seconded by Cllr Tim Williams and agreed nem con.

2026/225 – Council's Disciplinary Policy
Cllrs approved the adoption of this policy. This was proposed by Cllr James Woodward, seconded by Cllr Zoë Goss and agreed nem con.

2026/226 – Council's Safeguarding Policy
Cllrs approved the adoption of this policy. This was proposed by Cllr Ceri Woodley, seconded by Cllr Adam Rogers and agreed nem con.

Agreed

2026/227 - Council's Dignity at Work Policy
Cllrs approved the adoption of this policy. This was proposed by Cllr Ceri Woodley, seconded by Cllr Adrain Harford and agreed nem con.

2026/228 – Civility and Respect Pledge
Cllrs agreed to sign up to this pledge. This was proposed by Cllr Tim Williams, seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos and agreed nem con.

2026/229 – Terms of Reference for the Community Council's Staffing Committee
Cllrs approved these Terms of Reference. This was proposed by Cllr Zoë Goss, seconded by Cllr Tim Williams and agreed nem con.
Cllr Adam Rogers has asked that the staffing committee review active job descriptions, timesheets and it was suggested that the staffing committee would discuss this at their next meeting. Ensure that annual reviews are in place for all staff. **Action 13** – Staffing Committee to review all documents and put processes in place.

2026/230 – Council's use of Artificial Intelligence
It was agreed that would be discussed at the October's meeting as the Cllr who had requested the agenda item was absent. **Action 14 -** To be added to the agenda.

2026/231 - Executive Officer's report –

<u>August</u>
Daisy Communications - £121.27 Print Partnership - £19.56
One Voice Wales - Conference - £70 & £44 Training
APC Printers - £18 MP Garden Services - £2,850
Hirwaun Garden Society – In Bloom vouchers - £145 & £164 Plants/compost
<u>September</u>
Daisy Communications - £121.27 Print Partnership - £10.85

As part of the financial spend, discussions were had in regard to reducing the outgoing costs and understanding what the process is with seeking new contracts. As part of the Executive Officers report, financial information is reported, however Cllrs were unsure what the costs consists of and therefore seek to have a breakdown of them. For example, MP Garden Services, what are the costs covering. **Action 15** – To understand when contracts are coming to an end and start going out for tender and understand whether these are things we want to continue with. **Action 16** – The Executive Officer to produce a breakdown in finances – itemise the items and see what is being spent. Cllrs raised concerns that the there was a financial prize on the Village in Bloom which was not agreed by the finance committee. It was agreed that only certificates will be given and that £145 was unauthorised. **Action 17** – the Executive Officer to review the finance meeting minutes.

Consultations: None received

Agreed

Correspondence:

1. One Voice Wales practice development note:
   - Agenda Format
   - The Use of Artificial Intelligence by Councils x2
   - Model Standing Orders
   - Martyn's Law
   - Insurance Cover for Councils.
2. One Voice Wales newsletters.
3. One Voice Wales – Letter to Community Councils – Boundary Review.
4. Email from AIT Battery Test Facility regarding community volunteer days. **Action 18** – We would welcome volunteers from AIT battery, with thanks, to help with weeding and planting. Executive Officer to reply to email to accept offer.
5. BBNP – Cycle Hub for Hirwaun – It was noted that the Executive Officer had asked for more information on what the council's involvement would be. **Action 19** – Executive Officer to email Hirwaun YMCA to see if they are already planning a bike hub, if they are not doing this then Cllrs would welcome the use of the Village Hall.
6. Graffiti on a HPCC bench in the Arcway. **Action 20** – Request Hirwaun Village Hall's Caretaker removes the graffiti if happy to.

2026/232 – Confidential - Request to be Excused
Cllrs agreed to Cllr Karen Morgan's request to be excused for a further 6 months. This was proposed by Cllr Zoe Goss seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos and agreed nem con.

2026/233 – Confidential – Staff Pay Award
Cllrs agreed to add this to the October agreed for discussion.

2026/234- Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

There were no urgent items to discuss.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:34pm

Agreed