Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agrees Minutes of Meeting 13th September 2018

Present: Cllr Colin Woodley (Chairman), Cllr James Campbell (Vice Chair), Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Deborah Smart, Cllr Andy Phillips, Cllr Jennifer Hartwell, Cllr Morien Morgan,

Attending: Ian Dennis – Groundwork Wales, CBC Karen Morgan, CBC Graham Thomas, PCSO,

Apologies: Cllr Claire Matsell, Cllr Trudi Penny, Cllr Margaret Walters, Cllr Christine Chandler, Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Jenny Myring.

2018/199 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of personal interest.

2018/200 - PCSO report

A detailed report was provided by the PCSO in relation to the issues in both Hirwaun and Penderyn and an in-depth discussion took place in relation to drug use and anti-social behaviour within Hirwaun. Cllrs raised their concerns and the PCSO advised on what the police are doing to try and deal with these issues.

CBC Karen Morgan then went to raise the following report: Community Councillors may be aware that an increasing amount of my time is being taken up with what essentially are policing matters; vandalism, off road bikes, speeding, theft, arson, illegal drug activity and various instances of anti-social behaviour. I have been liaising with residents, RCT Community Safety and the Police; there are concerns about the referral system to Community Safety and numerous complaints that the 101 system is not user friendly, I will also be meeting with Inspector Blunt again next Tuesday. Time and time again the subject of the need for CCTV in the village comes up. I have had discussions with the Security Station at RCT. The situation is that there is no funding available within the RCT budget and this will be the case for the foreseeable future but I have managed to secure a commitment that RCT would accommodate up to 8 cameras for Hirwaun which would be linked to their system through the Library and their Broadband. RCT would also be the data controllers for the system thus eliminating the need for local data controllers and the associated cost. The approximate figure given to me for 8 state of the art cameras which conform to Industry standards and meet evidential quality is £25k, there would be an annual maintenance fee of approx. £1k.
On behalf of the residents of Hirwaun I am formally requesting that the Community Council fund the installation of CCTV in Hirwaun.

Cllrs agreed to add this request to the October agenda for further discussion and CBC Morgan agreed to invite an officer from RCT to attend to discuss the option of CCTV with Cllrs. Cllrs also requested details of the report and quotes in relation to the CCTV in advance of the next meeting. The Executive Officer advised that they had been looking into the options for grant funding for this for some time but that there were no grants available. The PCSO agreed to look into this to see if there is now funding available.

Cllrs at the meeting had no further reports to the PCSO but the Executive Officer raised a report on behalf of Cllr Chandler in relation to cars racing each other on the A465 between both Hirwaun roundabouts. The PCSO advised that the issue had been raised with the traffic unit and that an operation was in place to try and target boy racers. He would ask the unit to patrol the area more often.

2018/200 – Ian Dennis, Project Officer, Groundwork Wales

Ian provided Cllrs with information in relation to a new work based project within Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos. This project will be land/horticultural based and will provide adults of working age with up to 6 months work experience. The project was discussed with Cllrs who invited Ian back in the future to provide them with a further update.

2018/2001 - CBC reports

CBC Karen Morgan provided the following report:

- Work is slowly progressing with improvements to derelict buildings and untidy land in the village with landlords being identified and contacted and in one case an improvement notice being served.
- A new Welcome to Hirwaun sign has been approved. Awaiting Abercynon team to erect it near Denbeigh Court. I have also asked to keep the old Hirwaun sign to possibly use it as a feature somewhere in the village at a later date.
- Hirwaun Nursery Site. The new housing is on target for occupation in January 2019. The new Coop is scheduled for opening pre-Christmas. Drainage works and the build out of the footpath on Brecon Road is being undertaken at the moment with traffic management in place. Immediate neighbours are being kept informed of progress and plans.
- Large trees on highway verge of Rhigos Rd have been cut back.
- The Parks Department has undertaken improvement work to the ground surface of the zip wire at the Welfare Ground.
With reference to the Community Council request I am more than happy to support improvements to the Cefndon park in whichever way I can. I have forwarded funding applications to the clerk and am waiting to speak to the RCT Parks Officer again.

Resurfacing of Primrose Cottages, Broniestyn Terrace has been completed.

Resurfacing of Hirwaun Roundabout which was planned as part of summer maintenance will not take place until October 8th. This will be more extensive than a surface layer of tarmac.

I am liaising with Welsh Hearts and the Welsh Ambulance Service regarding a recent incident where a resident was unable to access the defibrillator at Hirwaun Primary School. An investigation is underway. I am also arranging defibrillator training sessions for the village.

There are finally plans for a new primary school building at Hirwaun. A report published today will be subject to full consultation from Oct 1st to 31st December. Proposals include extending Hirwaun Primary school catchment area to include Penderyn and Penderyn Primary becoming a Welsh Medium School with its catchment area extended to include Trewaun, Trenant and Penywaun. If approved the new school would be on the existing site and completed by September 2022. Improvements are also proposed for YGG Aberdar and YG Rhydywaun

Centenary Fields initiative – In response to the clerks e-mail today I have spoken to the Parks dept and it does seem that that there is conflicting information being given between them and Centenary Fields to the Community Council. I am waiting for the contact name in the Legal Dept to pursue the matter. Can I request, again, that as local member I am copied into any correspondence from the Community Council to RCT Officers. Apart from avoiding duplication of efforts, rightly or wrongly just copying in the local member can ensure a speedier response to issues.

CBC Graham Thomas provided the following report:

Penderyn School Railings - Railings were installed outside the school side gate during the school holidays.

Tower Liaison Committee – Restoration - Questions have been raised regarding restoration of land adjacent to the exposed rock face to the southern edge of the site. The original plan was to restore the mountain side to cover the rock face and concerns have been raised that this will not be the case. Tower were questioned whether there were any plans to leave the rock face exposed as an Ecologist had suggested that this was the best option for biodiversity. In the past it had been stated “that it made no difference to Tower which option was chosen”. Tower answered that there were drawings of the option to leave the rock exposed but no revised application had been made. With regard to restoration timetable it
was answered that the major restoration would be complete by November but there would be a break over the Winter period with completion in the Spring. The implication is that there would have to be a decision over the rock face restoration during that period.

Environmental Resource Centre - Discussion took place regarding the proposed Environmental Resource Centre. Tower were concerned about creating a “White Elephant” adding that the allocated money would be used at the location whether the centre was built or not. The meeting favoured building the centre and usage would depend on what was included within the building rather than the building itself. Suggestion was made that there should be a joint meeting of both community councils, together with public involvement in the meeting, to assess local opinion on both the questions, regarding restoration and the Environmental Resource Centre.

An update was also provided in relation to a joint meeting between HPCC, Rhigos Community Council at Tower Colliery which will include a site visit, along with the school's consultation taking place from October 1st to December 31st where it is proposed that Penderyn Primary School is to become Welsh Medium only. English Medium to be transferred to the new Hirwaun Primary building by September 2021. Consultation due to start. If following consultation the re-organisation is accepted there will be a freeze on English Medium access at Penderyn from September 2019. If accepted there will be a free bus to transport English Medium children to Hirwaun from Penderyn. This is under the qualifying mileage for part of Penderyn but because it would be considered an unsafe walking route, the free bus will be provided. The catchment for Welsh Medium Education for Penderyn will be extended to include Rhydywaun and Penywaun.

There were no reports to Cllr Thomas.

2018/202 - Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 12th July 2018 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Smart and seconded by Cllr Amos and agreed nem com.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2018/203 – CPR Training

The Executive Officer advised that no response had been received from the CPR training provider. Action 1 – Cllr Smart will contact them to chase.

2018/204 – Concerns about election canvasing

Cllr Campbell agreed to drop the issue.
2018/205 – Community Infrastructure Levy payment (CIL)

The Executive Officer advised that CBC Karen Morgan has agreed to support our request to use the CIL money towards the upgrade of the Cefndon playground. The Executive Officer provided an update as to the estimated costs of the upgrade, any grants available and who is eligible to apply for them. It was also advised that if the upgrade of the playground does not go ahead that we are able to use the CIL money towards Welcome to Hirwaun signs and planters.

2018/206 – Bee Friendly Initiative/Seed Bomb event

The Executive Officer provided Cllrs with an update in relation to our seed bomb event. It was advised that we have been successful in our application to Welsh Government in becoming Bee Friendly Hirwaun and Penderyn. It was agreed that the certificates confirming this would be displayed in the Community Council noticeboards.

2018/207 – Craft/Yarn Bombing event

An update was provided on this event which is being organised by Cllr Chandler. It was advised that the monies received from the hire of the tables would cover the cost of the event enabling free refreshment to be provided. There will also be face painting, spinning wheels, felting etc. and the village hall grounds will be yarn bombed. Cllrs Margaret Amos, Debbie Smart and Morien Morgan agreed to help on the day.

2018/208 – Road Safety Conference

The Executive Officer and Cllr Hartwell provided an update in relation to the conference including the 20's Plenty Campaign and Road Safety Week 2018. **Action 2 – Executive Officer to add these to the October agenda for discussion.**

2018/209 – Bushcraft Sessions

It was advised that no formal response had yet been received from Penderyn Community Centre in our request to use Yr Eithin for these sessions delivered by the South Wales Community Mountain Rangers.

2018/210 – Garden Show

It was advised that the Garden Show went well and was well attended. Cllrs approved a vote of thanks to Cllr Hartwell for arranging the day and to the Garden Society for their support and participation, and also to the Village Hall Caretaker for the help provided to set up for the event.

2018/211 - Planning Applications

1. Proposed new signage – 35A-36A High Street, Hirwaun
2. Proposed remodelling, extension and change of use to include: redesign and reconstruction of shop fronts and fascia, change of use for 36A High St to A3 use
and incorporation within existing fish & chip shop, takeaway and restaurant, three storey rear extension to provide lower ground storage, ground floor restaurant extension and three additional flats to the existing first floor flat, demolition of rear garage blocks and erection of 2 new garages with 8 parking spaces and widened vehicular access from Davies Row (re-submission) – 35A-36A High Street, Hirwaun

3. Cynon Valley Borough Council TPO – Felling of 6 conifer trees. All trees are in a dangerous condition with raised root plates – Land rear of 6 Oakbrook Drive, Hirwaun

4. Construction of new canopy over existing car port canopy – 25 Ger Y Mynydd, Hirwaun

5. New advertisement signage – Co-operative Food Brecon Road, Hirwaun

6. Construction of 3 pairs of semi-detached houses and 3 detached houses with garages, together with private drive access – amended site layout plan – Land off Penderyn Rd, Hirwaun

Community Councillors reports:

2018/211 – Cllr Campbell advised the meeting that:

- A complaint had been received from a homeowner at Beacons Park in relation to RCT Waste Services placing stickers on cars stating that they were causing an obstruction when they weren’t. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to contact RCT Waste Services to raise the issue of the distress caused to resident.
- A requested was made for a quote to be obtained by he Community Council’s approved contractor to clear the churchyard at St Cynogs in Penderyn. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to arrange a quote and to write to the Church in Wales to raise concerns in relation to the state of the churchyard and to ask them to clear it.

2018/212 – Cllr Smart advised the meeting that:

- The Tree Charter Tree in Penderyn has not survived the recent hot weather. Cllr Woodley agreed to remove the plaque. Cllrs agreed to replace this tree. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to arrange this.

2018/213 – Cllr Phillips advised the meeting that:

- A disabled resident in Station Road has raised the issue of the lack of dropped curbs for access to the village. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to contact Accessible Wales to ask if they can help with a survey to see where the dropped curbs are needed. EO also to write to RCT to ask that the needs of the resident be considered.

2018/214 – Cllr Colin Woodley advised the meeting that:

- It was agreed at the recent Tower Colliery Site Liaison Meeting that a joint meeting is to be held between HPCC, Rhigos Community Council and Tower Colliery. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to arrange the meeting and inform Rhigos Community Council of the date.
The Executive Officer advised that were no reports from sub committees.

**2018/216 – Application for Cllr – Hirwaun Ward**

The Executive Officer advised that we have received an application after the deadline and asked if Cllrs would consider this late application. Cllrs agreed that as there is only 1 applicant then the application would be considered. The Executive Officer went on to advise Cllrs of the applicant and at this point Cllr Hartwell declared an interest and abstained from voting. Cllrs agreed to accept the application for Cllr. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to deal with this.

**2018/217 – External Audit**

The Executive Officer provided an update in relation to the External Audit and the advice received from the External Auditor. Cllrs accepted the advice and re-approved the audit. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to return the re-approved audit to the External Auditor.

**2018/218 – Standing Orders Review**

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs in relation to the new model Standing Orders issued by One Voice Wales. **Action 10** - Cllrs Colin Woodley, Morien Morgan and Debbie Smart to form a sub committee to review these orders before referring the updated orders back to full council for approval.

**2018/219 – Remembrance Day Parade 2018**

Cllr Woodley updated Cllrs advising them that both RCT and The British Legion have advised that they will not be organising a Remembrance Day parade in Hirwaun from this year onwards. A request has been received from the Hirwaun Branch of the British Legion that the Community Council take over the running of the parade. The Executive Officer advised that our insurer has confirmed that our insurance covers us to run this event and that the police have confirmed that they will police the event as they have in previous years. Cllrs agreed that the Community Council will take over the running of this event in conjunction with the Hirwaun Branch of the British Legion. Cllr Hartwell and Cllr Colin Woodley will liaise with the British Legion in relation to organising the event and keeping the necessary documentation. **Action 11** – Cllr Hartwell and Cllr Woodley to take this forward.

**2018/220 – Centenary Fields**

An update was provided by the Executive Officer in relation to our application to have Yr Eithin, Penderyn and Y Cefndon, Hirwaun designated as Centenary Fields to remember the lives lost in World War 1 and to protect these areas for generations to
come. An update was also provided in relation to the memorial benches being installed at each site which are funded by the Community Council, and our successful grant application to receive memorial silhouettes. Cllrs went on to discuss the dedication event for these sites. Finally, Cllrs agreed the locations of the event poppies purchased for each village. **Action 12** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

Cllr Hartwell left the meeting at 9.05pm.

**2018/221 – Safe Routes in Communities 2019**

Cllrs agreed to consider this application for next year.

**2018/222 – Village in Bloom Competition**

The Executive Officer provided an update on this year's competition and its winning entries. It was agreed that the event would continue next year with the addition of Best Bee Friendly Back Garden and the option to enter both an allotment and flower garden entry.

**2018/223 – Christmas Painting Competition**

Cllrs agreed to continue with this competition with entries from the schools only due to there being no entrants from the third category (children who live in the area but go to school elsewhere) last year. **Action 13** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

**2018/224 – Community Council initiatives**

The Community Council asked Cllrs if they wished to add to our initiatives for next year as this will need to be considered when setting next year’s budget. It was advised that we currently have the following initiatives ongoing: Centenary Fields, Bee Friendly status, Remembrance Day event and memorial benches dedication, Craft event, Christmas Painting Competition, Walking Festival, Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom, CPR training, Garden Show, Easter Eggs for Schools, Christmas lights and Flower baskets. Cllrs agreed not to add to this list at the moment. The Executive Officer also advised Cllrs in relation to a project with Forces Fitness. Cllrs agreed not to take this forward.

**2018/225 – Relief Caretaker’s Vacancy at Hirwaun Village Hall**

The Executive Officer advised that this role needs to be re-advertised due to lack of applicants. **Action 14** – Executive Officer to re-advertise the vacancy.

**2018/226 – Executive Officer’s report**

The Executive Officer recited the bills paid for the month which included:
August –
David Ogilvie Engineering - £1,891.20  Road Safety Conference - £50.00
Vision ICT - £90.00  Print Partnership - £32.88
Daisy Communications – £71.02  OVW Conference - £170.00

September -
Daisy Communications - £70.79  BT – 57.53
Hirwaun Garden Society - £391.00  MP Garden Services- £400
RCT - £650.00  Print Partnership - £24.04

Consultations:

1. Review of Electoral arrangements for RCT
2. Delivery of Housing through the planning system

The council had received the following correspondence:

1. Grass Verges at Bryn Siriol, Hirwaun – RCT have advised that there is no money in the current budget for any works at this location but they will monitor the condition of the grass verges and add it to the list of future works if required.
2. Independent Review Panel – CTC review findings and newsletter
3. Email from RCT re Pontpren bus shelter
4. Request from PACT meeting re CCTV

Other:

**2018/227 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion**

None.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.