

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 10th January 2019

Present: Cllr Colin Woodley (Chairman), Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Morien Morgan, Cllr Trudi Penny, Cllr Jenny Myring, Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Jennifer Hartwell, Cllr Claire Matsell, Cllr Deborah Smart,

Attending: CBC Graham Thomas, CBC Karen Morgan, PCSO Chris Loveridge

Apologies: Cllr Christine Chandler

2019/001 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

2019/002 - PCSO report

A report was provided by the PCSO in relation to the issues in both Hirwaun and Penderyn. Issues included instances of antisocial behaviour such as loud music or cars, and criminal damage such as thefts from the Co-op or wing mirrors being stolen from cars.

A detailed discussion took place in relation to parking issues at the Co-op, including parking on double yellow lines, delivery lorries and lorries being parked there by people entering there to shop rather than to deliver. CBC Morgan advised of the Co-op's duty to ensure that outside suppliers do not park on the double yellow lines, and advised that the Co-op will be improving its signage for the car park.

Reports to the PCSO included:

- Executive Officer – Instance of antisocial behaviour at Hirwaun Village Hall, and cassette tape strewn over the Christmas lights outside the Co-op.
- Cllr Jennifer Hartwell – Cars being damaged on Cynon Tce.
- Cllr Morien Morgan asked if the PCSO was aware of why (as per the PCSO's report) that while there was a rise in crime, there has been a fall in detection. The PSCO advised that there could be a number of reasons for this.

2019/003 - CBC reports

-CBC Karen Morgan provided the following report:

- Regarding my previous offer to discuss with Action for Hirwaun the possibility of applying to the Tower Fund to assist the Community Council with funding of CCTV for the village – in light of the comment made by a Community Councillor at the meeting I feel it would be more appropriate for the Community Council to make the request to Action for Hirwaun themselves;

I would not want Action for Hirwauns' or my own integrity to be called into question. I am happy to provide the contact details to you.

- Planning application rear of Brecon Road – The planning committee agreed to my request for a site visit prior to determining the application, this will be held next Tuesday 15th January.
- There has been a lot of feedback from residents regarding the pre-planning application consultation on proposals to demolish the Glancynon Inn. Residents are concerned about losing an important community facility, highway issues and over development of the site. I requested a consultation event which was held by Trivallis and FairLeap in the Village Hall. The proposal has now been submitted to RCT and formal consultation is underway.
- A Streetcare Blitz was undertaken at the Gower estate and the Tramroad on December 6th. Many thanks to Zoe at Trivallis and the Streetcare teams for all their hard work in very poor weather conditions on the day.
- I have requested Streetcare enforcement action for the road leading from Denbeigh Court to Keepers Lane which is a recurrent problem and also for the issue with recycling bags at Bethel Place.
- Parking issues at new Coop – I have spoken to RCT and the manager of the store, RCT advise that although it is an enforcement issue as regards the double yellow lines the Coop have a duty to ensure that their delivery lorries AND delivery lorries from other firms use the designated delivery bay and that the Coop should coordinate deliveries. They are also looking into improved signage to the car park.
- Regarding the caravan at Rose Row site opposite the cemetery, a planning application has been submitted by the occupant but at the moment is invalid due to missing information which RCT are still waiting for.
- RCT Legal Department have written to Tower Regeneration on 7th January regarding their failure to comply with the Section 106 agreement relating to the Environmental Resource Centre and failure to submit plans by 21st December 2018.
- An emergency closure is in place at the bridge leading to the Ironworks (behind the police station) because of a hole in the surface of the bridge (PROW Footpath 10). This will be followed by a temporary closure for up to 6 months to allow structural inspection and remedial works to be undertaken.
- There is also a need to carry out extensive repair work to the bridge over the River Cynon leading to Station Rd which will involve traffic lights being in place – planned for May to October (due to working in the river).
- Finally, I have received an enquiry from a resident about the plaques on the WW1 commemorative benches, will there be Welsh language versions of the plaques and if so when will they be installed? **Action 1** – Executive Officer to look into this.

A discussion took place via CBC Morgan and CBC Thomas in relation to a joint Community Council meeting between ourselves and Rhigos Community Council, with Tower Colliery and both County Borough Cllrs. Cllr Graham Thomas agreed to co-ordinate between Community Councils.

Community Cllrs reported the following to CBC Morgan:

- Cllr Jenny Myring – Litter on the Co-op steps.
- Cllr Morien Morgan – Lack of lighting on Co-op steps.
- Executive Officer – Lack of handrail on Co-op steps.
- Cllr Trudi Penny – Issues re drug dealing on the road up past Denbeigh Court.

CBC Morgan concluded by advising that the old Welcome to Hirwaun sign is being stored should the Community Council wish to use it for a project. The old County Council sign from the old Hirwaun Nursery School is also being stored and it was agreed that the Historical Society may want it.

-CBC Graham Thomas provided the following report:

- A4059 across Penderyn Common, there are no warning signs for cattle - Traffic Management have replied that existing signs would alert drivers to the possibility of encountering roaming animals on the highway, regardless of whether or not they specifically indicate cattle.

- Update on Flooding A4061/A465 report from RCT Drainage - Highways from 11/12/18 up to Christmas started cleaning out and completed all the existing ditches parallel with the fence line of the road along with the outlet ditches within the fields opposite to maximise the water capacity the ditches can carry, which stems from the Tower site. SWTRA are also going to carry out ditching on their road A465

- Public Meeting at Penderyn 14th December re-school re-organisation - I outlined proposed changes of School and explained to attendees that this meeting in no way replaces consultation and residents should still make representation via the consultation. Relevant information re contact/email/consultation document left with venue for addition to the notice board. Residents queried why so many children attend English Medium education at Penderyn Primary School from outside the catchment and primarily from the Hirwaun catchment area. Opinion was expressed, "that this was because of poor education provision at Hirwaun Primary as indicated by the last Estyn report placing Hirwaun Primary in red category while Penderyn achieved yellow category resulting in parental choice for Penderyn Primary School". It was further noted that a total of 102 English Medium pupils from the Hirwaun catchment attended schools outside the Hirwaun catchment and this did not include faith schools. Opinion was expressed, "that this was a direct reflection of the standard of Education at Hirwaun Primary School". Reference was made to the education code and the statement that when children are moved there "should be like for like" provision at the alternative school. Comment was made that there is a breach of this code within the current proposals. Parents at the meeting stated categorically that "they would not send their children to Hirwaun Primary because of the educational standards at the school and would exercise parental choice to send their children elsewhere". There was opposition to the Authority stopping the enrolment of English Medium pupils from September 2019. Comment was made that Penderyn Primary Community School could no longer be called a community school when those living in the community can no longer send their children there for English Medium education. A request was made for Vikki Howells A.M. to contact Welsh Government Minister Kirsty Williams A.M. regarding the proposals. This would be communicated via Vikki Howell's office in attendance. A comment was made that many Welsh Medium pupils attend Penderyn Primary School because of the availability of a free bus and many continue their education through English Medium when transferred to Secondary Education at 11 years of age. Further comment from a parent that "their daughter benefited from an education that mixed with children from Welsh Medium education and vice versa". This cross benefit would be lost at Penderyn Primary School. Another comment indicated "that the smaller classes were actually a benefit at Penderyn Primary School". Reference was made that when the new school was built that there was a clause or covenant that the school would have to retain both English and Welsh Medium education at the school. The meeting was informed that Cllr Graham Thomas has already pursued this question when raised previously and had been informed by Rhondda Cynon Taf that there was no such clause. This needed re-affirmation as part of the consultation. A question was raised as to why the catchment for Welsh Medium had been extended to Penywaun when Welsh Medium provision at Cwmdare was much closer to that community. If parents did not send their children elsewhere, the only other option left to Penderyn residents would be to send their children to Welsh Medium at Penderyn school if education within their community was the prime consideration. Would Penderyn Primary School have the capacity to implement this option given the increase in catchment to include Trenant/Penywaun. A suggestion was made to change the catchment boundary of English Medium at

Penderyn School to provide sufficient English Medium numbers for both Hirwaun and Penderyn Schools. If the boundary can be changed for Welsh Medium education then the boundary can be changed for English Medium education. If part of Hirwaun was included then that would be nearer to Penderyn Primary School than Penywaun for Welsh Medium education. Within this proposal it was further noted that 102 pupils from within the current English Medium catchment of Hirwaun Primary school do not attend that school. Community view from the meeting is that Penderyn Primary School should continue education through the medium of English. Public service buses only run at one per hour, parents without their own transport would not be able to collect their children in an emergency. Penderyn School would lose diversity and inclusion. Pupils with additional needs will suffer within larger class sizes at Hirwaun Primary School. A copy of these notes has been sent within the consultation process notwithstanding the earlier point of the need for individual responses to the consultation that concluded on December 31st. 2018.

Community Cllrs reported the following to CBC Thomas:

- Cllr Deborah Smart – Pothole on Church Road.
- Cllr Morien Morgan – Litter by reservoir on Cwm Cadlan Road.
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CBC Thomas concluded by confirming that the litter bin has been put back in place at the Capel Soar bus stop.

2019/004 - Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 13th December 2018 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Myring and agreed nem com subject to a minor amendment.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2019/005 – Parking Enforcement - Hirwaun

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs following a response from RCT outlining the areas that they are responsible for. **Action 2** – Executive Officer to send further email to RCT.

2019/006 – Community Council Email Account

The Executive Officer advised that our website provider is in the process of setting up our free email account. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2019/007 – Lights Out – Springfield Gardens

Cllr Penny advised that she had contacted Persimmon Homes directly to report the lights out.

2019/008 – Land Registry

The Executive Officer advised that this was ongoing. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to continue with this in conjunction with the Chair.

2019/009 – Pre-Planning Consultation – Glancynon Inn

The Executive Officer confirmed that an email had been sent in response to this pre-planning consultation.

2019/010 – Hirwaun Primary/Penderyn Primary School Consultation

The Executive Officer confirmed that an email had been sent to RCT to advise of the reason why the Community Council is unable to respond to the consultation.

2019/011 – Litter bin – Merthyr Road

The Executive Officer confirmed that a request had been sent to RCT asking them to install this.

2019/012 – Train Line to Hirwaun

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs with a response from Vikki Howells in relation to the proposed train line to Hirwaun. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to circulate this response to Cllrs and add it to our website.

2019/013 – 2019/20 Precept and Budget

The Executive Officer confirmed that RCT had been informed of our 2019/20 precept.

2019/014 – CCTV for Hirwaun

The Executive Officer provided an update in relation to the request for CCTV to be installed in Hirwaun. This included:

-Breakdown of updated costs received from RCT for installation and maintenance of 7 CCTV cameras which the Community Council would be responsible for :

- CDS Integrated Security Systems - £800 inc VAT. This Covers annual service, cleaning and call outs, but does not cover parts and labour. These will be at an additional cost.
- RCT Monitoring and Maintenance - £4,550 inc VAT
- Total per year £5,350 – It was advised that the Community Council has only budgeted for the £3,000 originally quoted.
- Additionally - Band width upgrade required for Hirwaun Library– Cost to follow in due course.
- As previously advised, the installation cost is £30,218.75 inc VAT

-The crime stats which were requested in November are still being collated by the PCSO.

- Grant applications to the Big Lottery Fund and Pen Y Cymoedd have not yet been submitted as we are still waiting for information in relation to further costs from RCT.

Cllrs discussed the matter further, raising concerns in relation to asking a third party such as Action for Hirwaun as a 'Friends Of' group to apply for grant funding on our behalf. GDPR concerns were raised in relation to certain images where cameras face private properties where there would be blacked out sections on the footage. It was raised that more street lighting may be more beneficial than CCTV cameras as the streets may be too dark for the cameras to pick up anything.

It was agreed that we cannot apply for grant funding from any source until RCT provide us with the full costs required. Cllrs raised concerns about the escalating running and installation costs which are more than we have budgeted for. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to chase RCT for running costs. PCSO to provide crime stats.

2019/015 – Cllr Campbell's Resignation

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs that Cllr Campbell had submitted his resignation as Cllr. Cllrs accepted this with regret. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to inform RCT of the vacancy for Penderyn Ward.

2019/016 - Planning Applications

1. New build extension – 1 The Haven, Hirwaun
2. Proposed single storey extension – 6 Denbeigh Court, Hirwaun
3. Proposed building to house a new concrete block production facility and associated external plant aggregate storage bays, access alterations and sustainable drainage – WD Lewis Ltd, Chapel Road, Penderyn - Cllr Campbell was due to submit a response to the pre-consultation on our behalf. Cllrs now need to submit a response to the full consultation. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to submit the response.

Community Councillors reports:

2019/017 – Cllr Claire Matsell advised the meeting that:

- She had received an unsigned letter in relation to the Rose Row traveller development. The Executive Officer advised that no planning application had been received for comment by the Community Council as yet.

2019/018 – Cllr Jennifer Hartwell advised the meeting that:

- Broken Road sign on Cynon Tce.
- Speeding issues by the old Co-op – Will refer to the PCSO at the next meeting.

2019/019 – Cllr Jenny Myring advised the meeting that:

- Is there an update on the one-way system? The Executive Officer referred her to the Highways report on our website (in the news archive) which outlines RCT's response at the request.
- The sign to the toilets in Hirwaun is facing the wrong way. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to write to RCT again to ask that it be moved to the correct position.

2019/020 - Reports from Subcommittees

There were no reports from subcommittees.

2019/021 – SLCC Membership

Cllrs approved the renewal of the Community Council membership to the Society of Local Council Clerks which provides legal advice and updates to the Community Council. This was proposed by Cllr Ceri Woodley, seconded by Cllr Jenny Myring and agreed nem con. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to renew the membership.

2019/022 – Executive Officer's report

The Executive Officer recited the bills paid for the month which included:

Daisy Communications - £69.88

Print Partnership - £11.70

British Legion - £17.00

MP Garden Services - £360.00

Consultations – None.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. Emergency closure of Foothpath 10.
2. Community and Town Council update.
3. Next One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting.
4. Email from Vikki Howells AM re Springfield Gardens/Denbeigh Court.

Other:

1. The Executive Officer raised the issue of the length of the minutes and the CBC reports in relation space limitations in the noticeboards (where there is a legal requirement to display the minutes). Cllrs agreed that the CBC reports should be no longer than an A4 page and consist of concise bullet points. This will enable these reports to continue to be taken as read and the minutes to be fully displayed as legally required. **Action 11** – Executive Officer to advise the CBC's.
2. Pensions Regulator update.
3. The Executive Officer advised that we have had no applications for the Youth Cllr vacancies. It was agreed that these vacancies would be left open on the website.
4. Walking Festival – It was agreed that we would run this again this year on a Saturday in June. **Action 12** – Cllrs/Executive Officer to report any ideas for the route to the next meeting.
5. Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom Competition – It was agreed that we would run this competition again this year. Categories would include: Best Front Garden, Best Hanging Basket, Best Allotment, Best Bee Friendly Front Garden, Best Bee Friendly Back Garden and Most Colourful Garden. **Action 13** – Executive Officer to take this forward for a Saturday in July.
6. Bee Friendly accreditation – Cllrs agreed to take this forward this year. **Action 14** – Executive Officer to submit the application in due course.

7. Centenary Fields poppy seeds – It was agreed that the packs of poppy seeds received from Centenary Fields would be distributed to Penderyn Community Centre for planting at Yr Eithin and Hirwaun Scouts for planting at Y Cefndon. Permission has been granted from RCT Parks department to plant seeds and daffodil bulbs at Y Cefndon.
8. Spring Clean Cymru 2019 – Cllrs decided not to take this forward.
9. The Executive Officer asked Cllrs if they wish to install anything for community benefit this year in either village? **Action 15** - It was agreed that Cllrs will report back with any ideas.
10. An email received from a Community Cllr from the Vale of Glamorgan praising us for our Christmas lighting when he drove through the village over Christmas, along with our events page on our website.
11. Operation London Bridge – This is the official plan in the event of the death of The Queen. An update was provided in relation to this by The Executive Officer outlining the Community Council’s obligations when the time comes. This includes provision for updating our website by our website provider. **Action 16** – Executive Officer to circulate the update from SLCC in relation to this. Cllrs to agree to our website provider updating our website as per the legal requirements when the time comes.

2019/023 – Staff Pay Award 2019

The Executive Officer left the room at this point. Cllrs discussed the staff pay award recommended by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC). It was proposed by Cllr Morien Morgan, seconded by Cllr Claire Matsell and agreed nem con that the staff pay award be approved.

2019/024 - Urgent items at the Chair’s discretion

None.

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