

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 14th March 2019

Present: Cllr Colin Woodley (Chair), Cllr Richard Jones (Vice Chair), Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Jennifer Hartwell, Cllr Deborah Smart, Cllr Morien Morgan, Cllr Christine Chandler, Cllr Claire Matsell, Cllr Adrian Harford

Attending: CBC Graham Thomas, PCSO Chris Loveridge, PC Louise Thomas – Local Neighbourhood Policing Team

Apologies: Cllr Jenny Myring

The Chair commenced the meeting by welcoming Cllr Adrian Harford and introductions were made.

2019/049 - Disclosures of Personal Interest

The following disclosures of interest were made:

Agenda item 17 – Cllrs Jennifer Hartwell and Ceri Woodley

Agenda item 4 – Cllr Colin Woodley

2019/050 – PC Thomas report on CCTV

PC Thomas attended the meeting to discuss the pros and cons of CCTV. She advised that any CCTV installed in the village would be used to detect crime that has already happened, assist when there is a crime in progress, it would make the public feel safer and would help with anti-social behaviour. She advised that there was not a huge amount of crime in the village but CCTV would assist the police in instances where crimes do occur.

Cllr Colin Woodley raised concerns regarding value for money and the expense of the CCTV system required. He asked if the level of crime warranted the expense and asked what has happened to crime levels in other areas with CCTV. It was advised that CCTV is a good deterrent and that crime stats could be provided for the last 12 months. It was noted that the crime stats were originally requested last November and had not yet been received. It was also asked if improved street lighting affected the crime rate and decrease crime, and if so, would this be more cost effective?

The PCSO advised that there are studies which show a significant reduction in crime where there is CCTV, but there are no studies comparing CCTV and street lighting for reducing crime. Cllr Morien Morgan referred to the College of Policing study on the impact of CCTV which found it to be negligible, and shows that CCTV is only beneficial in areas of repeat crimes. The PCSO advised that any cameras installed in the village would be installed in areas which they feel would have the biggest impact on crime.

PC Thomas stated that the cameras in Aberdare are monitored all of the time and the control room would inform the police of any crimes in progress so that they can attend straight away. Cllr Christine Chandler asked what about the areas outside of these hotspots? It was confirmed that there would be an additional cost for any extra cameras to be installed, but the 7 cameras in the main loop had to be installed in the first instance.

Cllr Richard Jones asked, if CCTV was installed in Hirwaun, what would happen in Penderyn as the residents there would want CCTV too. The PCSO advised that he would provide the crime stats for Penderyn, but the level of crime for Penderyn was negligible compared to Hirwaun.

Cllr Debbie Smart asked if the crime stats were discussed in the November PACT meeting as there had been reported that it had. The PCSO confirmed that they had not been discussed.

Cllr Colin Woodley asked if the police would provide a letter of support for any grant applications that the Community Council made to fund the installation of CCTV. The police confirmed that they would.

2019/051 - PCSO report

The PCSO provided an update in relation to the instances of crime and anti-social behaviour for the last month. He confirmed that in Hirwaun, there have been no instances of antisocial behaviour, no burglaries and only 1 instance of criminal damage. In Penderyn, there were no instances of anti-social behaviour, criminal damage or burglaries. The PCSO and PC Thomas had both attended Hirwaun YMCA that night to speak to the youths about knife crime. Cllr Morien Morgan asked if there had been any knife crime in the area and it was confirmed that there was none.

2019/052 - CBC reports

There was no report provided CBC Karen Morgan in her absence and no apologies were received. There was nothing to report to CBC Morgan.

-CBC Graham Thomas provided the following report:

- Dog bins in Woodland Park. Entrance to woodland park - I have requested a Dog Bin to be placed at the South side of the junction of Woodland Park with the A4059 i.e. away from any housing.
- Dog bin half way down Arcway - I have reported the problem of dog waste bags being deposited on branches along the middle sections of Arcway and requested a dog bin for that section.
- Llwyn Onn to Pontpren needs cleansing - I have requested that Streetcare carry out cleansing of the gully/footpath between Llwyn Onn and Pontpren.
- A465 Collapsed Culvert Pipe - I have been dealing with this subject during the current project and for months going back to Storm Callum. I have further taken the issue up with RCT Council, albeit that they are not responsible for or carrying out the work. South Wales Trunk Road Agency (SWTRA) are responsible for the project, on behalf of Welsh Government. RCT has been in contact expressing their

view about the inadequacy of operations by SWTRA. I have spoken to the Assembly Members Office to obtain the Ministers on organisation of this project. On Wednesday, 6th of December, during heavy rain and actual closure of the road, I spoke to the Leader of the Council to complain not just about the closure but the fact that there appeared to be no work being carried out at the location. I stated that while there was heavy rainfall causing further problem during that period, emergency arrangements should be put in place to work 24 hours a day to address the inevitable delay in the works. From that conversation it appears that inadequate pumping mechanisms had been put in place to displace the flooding. Further from this conversation the Leader made an emergency Executive statement at the 5pm Council meeting that RCT Council would issue a legal notice on SWTRA if improvements were not secured. I have been informed that the legal notice has been issued (I am informed that it is unprecedented for RCT to issue a legal notice on SWTRA). The correct pumping systems were then brought on site. I have been informed, that the work will be extended up to and including Friday 15th March and have made a request that works be carried out over the weekend to minimise duration of the extended works. The above just covers the current works. Going back as far as Storm Callum last year, when flooding occurred, on the A4061 Rhigos Road and the A465, I contacted Tower Opencast; RCT and SWTRA/Welsh Government to establish causes. I questioned whether there was a combination of factors. E.g. Excessive run off of water from the Tower site; adequacy of drainage from Tower, efficiency of highway culverts including pipes under the highway under the A4061 Rhigos Road and under the A465. Tower's position was that it was a "once in a 60 year storm" and systems were unable to cope with the storm. I stated that, if only due to climate change, it would not be a once in a 60 year event. Events proved that view to be correct and a public meeting was arranged by Tower. We were also informed by Tower that the pipes under the highway were of a smaller diameter than those from Tower. My communication with RCT and SWTRA called for joint working to address any capacity issues. RCT carried out extensive culvert clearance following that request, that you will have observed on Rhigos Road just prior to the A465 roundabout. On Sunday 10th of March I further contacted SWTRA to inform them that they have not updated their website and the information gave the original dates for the Contraflow ending Friday 8th March. They have assured me that this will be corrected Monday morning. During the course of that conversation I sought assurances that the current works will not only correct the collapsed pipe but provide adequate drainage to avoid the numerous occasions on which the highway has flooded in recent months. The reply has been that the engineer is confident that this will be the case but that Tower need to undertake attenuation works in tandem with current operations. I have further sent an e-mail to the Assembly Member's office regarding the view of Welsh Government on the inadequate performance of operations at this site and Vikki Howells has raised the matter with the Welsh Government Minister. Once this project is complete, we will need to focus on the capability of the respective drainage systems of RCT; SWTRA and Tower (including final restoration) in that the combined systems are fit for purpose and ultimately seek further improvements during the Heads of the Valley Dualling scheme.

CBC Thomas confirmed verbally:

- The works to the dropped curb at Church Road had been completed.
- Foel Road – Drivers were using this road instead of following the official diversion signs. This road is not suitable for large vehicles but it is difficult to police. It would take a week to close the road by which time the roadworks would have been completed.
- The end of the objection period for the school's consultation is on 15th March upon which time the full objection report would be compiled for cabinet.
- Discussions took place in relation to the Environmental Resource Centre at Tower Colliery. **Action 1** – Executive Officer to ask RCT if a planning application had been submitted in relation to this, and if it qualifies for a pre-planning consultation.

Community Cllrs reported the following to CBC Thomas:

- Cllr Hartwell raised the issue of the increased traffic through Hirwaun from the diversion which included lorries that were not suitable to drive through the village.
- Cllr Margaret Amos reported that there were no floodlights on Glynneath bank on the approach to the village.

2019/53 – Wider Waterfalls Project

Richard Tyler of the Wider Waterfalls Project provided his apologies for the meeting but Cllr Colin Woodley made a presentation on the progress of the project to Cllrs in his absence. Cllr Woodley advised Cllrs that the project would be submitting a grant application to Pen Y Cymoedd to fund a feasibility study for the project. The application was being made by Ystradfellte Community Council and they were asking the surrounding Community Councils for their support. Cllr Woodley then left the room due to his prejudicial interest and Cllr Richard Jones took over as Chair for this part of the meeting. Cllrs discussed the proposal and agreed that a feasibility study was needed. Cllr Debbie Smart proposed that the Community Council supports this grant application. This was seconded by Cllr Ceri Woodley and agreed nem com. **Action 2** – Executive Officer to send our letter of support to the Clerk at Ystradfellte Community Council, along with the officers from the project itself.

2019/054 - Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 14th February 2019 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Margaret Amos and seconded by Cllr Debbie Smart and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2019/055 – Land Registry

The Executive Officer provided an update in relation to this. This matter will continue to be ongoing for some time subject to official documentation in relation to the Community Council name changes. Authority was given by Cllrs in relation to the further cost of Glamorgan Archives searching for the necessary documentation should it be needed. Cllr Woodley will continue to read through the minute books from the early 1980's to locate the necessary information. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to continue with this in conjunction with the Chair.

2019/056 – Sign for Hirwaun Toilets

The Executive Officer advised that RCT had confirmed that the current signage was in the correct position, but that additional signage is required and will be installed in due course.

2019/057 – Walking Festival

The Executive Officer provided an update in relation to this. Penaluna's Famous Fish and Chips have agreed to sponsor the event again this year by providing those taking part with a bottle of their branded water, and the South Wales Community Mountain Rangers will also lead the walk again.

2019/058 – Bank Signatory

The Executive Officer confirmed that this had not yet been submitted as there was a signature outstanding from a Cllr. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to send the completed form off with the final signature.

2019/059 – Hirwaun Cllr Vacancies

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs that as they are aware the first vacancy has now been filled. The second vacancy was advertised with RCT who confirmed that we are now able to advertise the vacancy for co-option. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2019/060 – Dog Mess/Litter in Hirwaun

The Executive Officer confirmed that an email had been sent to RCT asking for steps to be taken to clear the dog mess and litter in the village, and to monitor the situation going forward. RCT had advised that patrols had been made in the village and fines had been issued. They will continue to patrol the area.

2019/061 – Daffodil Bulbs

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs that approval had not yet been given to plant the bulbs in the suggested locations. RCT will provide approval when the bulbs are ready for collection.

2019/062 – Centenary Fields event pack

The Executive Officer advised that Penderyn Community Centre had not yet confirmed if they want the event pack. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to chase.

2019/063 – Garden Show

Cllr Hartwell provided an update in relation to this. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to set up a Facebook event.

2019/064 – Vikki Howells response regarding the school's consultation

Cllrs discussed the response and agreed that the response could have been more supportive of Hirwaun Primary, while still supporting Penderyn Primary.

2019/065 – BBNP Local Development Plan

Cllr Colin Woodley and Debbie Smart attended this meeting where an explanation of the plan was provided, along with the timetable for future meetings.

2019/066 – Staff Payment Method

The Executive Officer advised that this cannot be actioned until the bank signatory form had been received and process by the bank.

2019/067 – CCTV for Hirwaun

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

- The crime stats which were requested in November have still not been provided by the PCSO.
- The cost required to fund the installation of the columns for the cameras, along with the cost of the electricity supply for these cameras had still not been provided by RCT.

Cllrs discussed the option to fund improved lighting for the village rather than CCTV as a 'Plan B' option. Cllr Richard Jones advised that he had spoken with the Police Inspector who was in favour of CCTV, and of enhanced street lighting. Cllr Hartwell raised concerns in relation to the escalating costs for CCTV. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to contact RCT for information on the cost of improved street lighting. Crime stats to be chased, along with outstanding costs from RCT.

2019/068 - Planning Applications

1. Variation of Condition 1 – Fairleap House, Brecon Road, Hirwaun - No comment.
2. Conversion of garage to kitchen – Ty Dewi, John's Lane, Hirwaun – No comment.
3. BBNP – Permission Granted – Amended phase 2 development of a sustainable waste resource recovery and energy production park – Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Industrial Estate **Action 9** – Executive Officer to forward the conditions imposed on this to Cllrs.
4. BBNP – Permisson granted – Single storey extension – 21 Dolgynong, Penderyn. – No comment.

2019/069 - Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Jennifer Hartwell advised the meeting that:

- Concerns had been raised in relation to the parking issues outside the new Co-op. Issues already include parking on double yellow lines, blocking the junction, and parking in resident parking bays. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to ask that this area be regularly patrolled in relation to these issues and enforcement action taken.

Cllr Richard Jones advised the meeting that:

- Feedback from his meeting with Pen y Cymoedd showed that they would prefer there to be a public consultation in relation to any grant application in relation to CCTV. Cllr Adrian Harford advised that it is very important to document consultation for Lottery and Pen Y Cymoedd funding.

Cllr Morien Morgan advised the meeting that:

- The lighting on the Co-op steps was not working properly causing difficulty in the dark. **Action 11** – Executive Officer to report this.

Cllr Colin Woodley advised the meeting that:

- Numbers of Easter Eggs for schools were confirmed. Cllrs agreed to ask if there are any dietary requirements such as gluten or dairy free. **Action 12** – Executive Officer to purchase eggs.
- The British Legion had asked if the timing of the Remembrance Day event for 2019 can be amended to be at the clock for 11am and then to the Church after. Cllrs agreed to look into this option. **Action 13** – Executive Officer to contact the Vicar to arrange a meeting.
- The British Legion also asked if the Community Council would run an event to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day. Cllrs agreed to take this forward. **Action 14** – Executive Officer to arrange a meeting with the British Legion to organise this.
- The War Memorial Clock in Hirwaun is in need of repair. **Action 15** – Executive Officer to contact RCT.

2019/070 - Reports from Subcommittees

There were no reports from subcommittees.

2019/071 - Community Cllrs Allowances

Cllrs discussed the report set out by The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in relation to Cllrs allowances. Cllrs agreed to opt out of all mandatory allowances:

- The payment of £150 per year to each Cllr – Mandatory allowance – Cllrs opted out
- The payment of £500 per year to up to 5 Cllrs in a Senior Role –Mandatory – Cllrs opted out.
- The Reimbursement to Cllrs for travel costs for attending approved duties – Not mandatory - Approved.
- Reimbursement to Cllrs for subsistence where a duty requires an overnight stay – Not mandatory - Approved.
- Compensation for financial loss where a loss has occurred attending official duties – Not mandatory – Approved.
- Reimbursement of the cost of care of dependent children and adults– Mandatory – Cllrs opted out.
- Chair/Vice Chair Honoraria – Not mandatory – Cllrs opted out.

2019/072 - One Voice Wales Membership

Cllrs agreed to renew the Community Council's membership of One Voice Wales. This was proposed by Cllr Richard Jones, seconded by Cllr Ceri Woodley and agreed nem con. **Action 16** – Executive Officer to renew the membership.

2019/073 – Community Council Insurance Policy

Cllrs discussed the renewal of the Community Council insurance policy, comparing the quote from our existing provider and a quote provided from another insurer. Cllrs agreed to renew our current policy. This was proposed by Cllr Ceri Woodley, seconded by Cllr Jenifer Hartwell and agreed nem con. **Action 17** – Executive Officer to renew the policy.

2019/074 – Grant application by Briars Bridleways

The grant application to fund the first aid cover for their annual show was discussed. Cllrs asked a question in relation to their finances and asked that the decision be deferred until next month's meeting. **Action 18** – Executive Officer to contact Briars Bridleways and to add the grant application to the agenda for the April meeting.

2019/075 – Executive Officer's report

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

Daisy Communications - £69.98	Print Partnership - £25.92	BT - £35.93
Siemens - £171.46	SET Office Supplies - £82.04	Vision ICT - £42.00
RCT CBC - £360.00		

Consultations:

1. RCT's Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2019/20

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. Letter from Welsh Government ReCommunity Benefits – Bidder Stakeholder consultation in relation to A465 Heads of the Valleys road. **Action 19** – Executive Officer to contact Welsh Government to ask that each bidder contacts us directly.

Other:

1. OVW/SLCC Joint Conference – Executive Officer and Cllr Richard Jones to attend. **Action 20** – Executive Officer to book.
2. OVW training schedule April-July – **Action 21** – Executive Officer to circulate to Cllrs.
3. Christmas lighting 2019 – Cllrs approved the cost of replacing the Hirwaun Christmas Light that was damaged beyond repair last year. Discussions took place in relation to the Penderyn lighting and it was agreed to review later in the year.
4. Community Council Facebook page – Cllrs agreed that the Facebook page should be used more, with links directly users to our website for full information. A statement in relation to CCTV should be added to our website with a link on our Facebook page directing people to it. It should also be included in The Crucible so

that as many residents as possible have access to the information in relation to this request.

2019/076 – Caretaker’s Probationary Period/Hours

Cllrs agreed the Caretaker’s probationary period and hours review.

2019/077 - Urgent items at the Chair’s discretion

None.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Agreed