

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 11th April 2019

Present: Cllr Colin Woodley (Chair), Cllr Richard Jones (Vice Chair), Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Deborah Smart, Cllr Morien Morgan, Cllr Christine Chandler, Cllr Claire Matsell, Cllr Adrian Harford, Cllr Jenny Myring

Attending: CBC Graham Thomas,

Apologies: Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Jennifer Hartwell, CBC Karen Morgan

2019/078- Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

2019/079 - PCSO report

No report was provided by the PCSO in his absence.

2019/080 - CBC reports

CBC Karen Morgan provided the following written report in her absence:

- Glancynon Inn- very pleased the Glancynon has reopened. As regards the planning application, the applicant had been advised that the site would need to be redesigned due to flood risk, planning are waiting to hear from the applicant.
- In response to the Community Councils queries regarding CCTV –
I share concerns about the escalation in cost but ultimately that is a decision for the Community Council. I note that RCT have advised the clerk to contact the CCTV firm for further costings and that they are awaiting feedback on potential problem with providing CCTV through RCT.
The crime stats provided by the PCSO are of concern particularly in view of the fact that they have been steadily increasing.
As regards whether there is a need for CCTV, I put that question to residents who access social media. The majority of responses did feel there a need (1 didn't). There was also some discussion around improving street lighting. I note that the Community Council have also discussed street lighting in comparison with CCTV. As with all research, evidence can usually be found for and against. Back in 2017, in response to requests for improved lighting on Cynon Tce. I received this reply from RCT “a recent study about crime and street lighting with input from Dept of Social and Env Health Research, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Dept of Population Health, Dept of Security and Crime Science, UCL, London indicated NO link between level of crime and light being turned off”.
I am mindful that social media is not accessed by all residents and feel that if the Community Council needs to know if there is a need/desire for CCTV in the village then a wider survey of residents should be undertaken as stated by the Community Council at the beginning of this process.
- I received a response from Tower regarding the money which was supposed to have been put aside for the Environmental Resource Centre. The response did not answer the questions; therefore I have replied requesting that they answer the questions put to them.

- RCT Floods , RCT Planning and NRW Officers are working with Tower to review the reasons for the latest round of flooding and pollution The review has found that there is a higher level of water being discharged from the site than the permitted discharge levels. Planning enforcement will be working with Tower to ensure necessary actions are undertaken
- I have been advised that the lights on the steps leading to the Coop are in working order, the developer also advised that the light columns are on cells so the brighter the day/evening, the later the lights will switch on.
- I have received complaints about users of a dance class in the former Conservative Club using the turning point at Bethel Place to park their cars. The dance class met with parents and they agreed to use the car park instead. The owner of the premises has been asked to submit an application for change of use.
- I reported pollution of the Corner Pool and River Cynon to RCT and NRW. There are 2 streams feeding into the Cynon at this point, I am awaiting outcome of investigation.
- NatWest Bank have applied for a licence to site a mobile banking unit for half an hour every Friday in the Library Car Park
- Recently attended the opening of the Community Orchard at Hirwaun YMCA. The outside space has been transformed as a result of the hard work of the young people, volunteers and the probation service.

There were no reports to CBC Morgan.

-CBC Graham Thomas provided the following written report:

- Tower restoration meeting planning requirements - E-mail has been sent to RCT Planning asking for details of planning conditions from the original consent that would ensure that the water run off from the Tower site is no greater than before opencast operations; When will restoration be completed and whether there will be any variation given recent experience in the area. I have received a reply of requirements. In the event of coaling ceasing, the Local Planning Authority shall be notified of the date of cessation in writing within one month of the date of cessation. In the event of coaling ceasing for a period of 6 months, or as otherwise approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, a revised scheme for the restoration of the site shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within 6 months of the cessation of coaling for written approval. The revised scheme shall be implemented within 6 months of its approval, or as may be otherwise approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To protect the character and appearance of the site and the surrounding area and the living conditions of nearby residents, in accordance with policies AW5, AW6, AW8, AW10 and CS10 of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan. Also that a variation 19/0323/38 has just been submitted and once I obtain further details I can provide an update.
- A465 Floodlights on approach to Contraflow - This was reported to SWTRA as an observation as the Contraflow was due to be removed on Saturday 16th March.
- Tower Liaison Committee April 10th - Site Operations - Completion of restoration is scheduled for end of year November/ December, weather notwithstanding. Water - Question raised on whether further attenuation works were required to mitigate any effects of storms during the final restoration works until the final drainage system will be in place. Answer was that there was sufficient attenuation in place within existing arrangements. Employment - 15 employed currently. ERC centre awaiting planning consent possibly May - Comment was made that the amount of money available for the ERC was much less than the original pledge made after a reduction had been made following the drop in the price of coal. Question raised on the distance from the car park to the ERC as it appeared that the position of the ERC was different to what was agreed at the joint meeting. Answer given that it would be no more than 30 metres. Question raised on future maintenance of ERC answer given that Tower would be responsible for 25 years. Date of next meeting - July 3rd.

CBC Thomas confirmed verbally:

- Cabinet have considered the objection report in relation to Penderyn Primary School becoming Welsh medium only and the decision notice and objection report is available to view online.
- A site visit is being held in relation to the dropped curb on Church Road.

Community Cllrs reported the following to CBC Thomas:

- Cllr Ceri Woodley asked if the outcome of the Rose Row planning application had been decided. Cllr Thomas advised that the application had been refused on highway and access grounds.

2019/081 - Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 12th March 2019 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Ceri Woodley and seconded by Cllr Morien Morgan and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2019/082 – Land Registry

Cllr Colin Woodley provided an update in relation to this. It was confirmed that we now have documentary evidence confirming the name change in 1982 from Penderyn Community Council to Hirwaun Community Council. The second name change from Hirwaun Community Council to Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council occurred in 1996. There is no record in the minutes at this time of the transfer of assets from Hirwaun Community Council to Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council. It was proposed by Cllr Colin Woodley that all assets be officially transferred now. This was seconded by Cllr Myring and agreed nem con. **Action 1** – Executive Officer to continue with this in conjunction with the Chair.

2019/083 – Bank Signatory

The Executive Officer confirmed that this form has been submitted.

2019/084 – Hirwaun Cllr Vacancies

The Executive Officer advised that the deadline for applications was next week.

2019/085 – Centenary Fields event pack

The Executive Officer advised that Penderyn Community Centre had confirmed that they wanted the event pack. **Action 2** – Cllr Smart to take it to the Community Centre.

2019/086 – Garden Show

Cllr Myring provided an update in relation to this. The Executive Officer confirmed that Print Partnership would be providing a high quality canvas for the winning entry of the photography section.

Cllr Christine Chandler arrived at the meeting at 7.10pm.

2019/087 – Parking issues at new Co-op

The Executive Officer confirmed that these issues had been reported to RCT.

2019/088 – Lighting Co-op Steps

The Executive Officer confirmed that this had been reported and the response received as per CBC Karen Morgan's report.

2019/089 – Easter Eggs for Schools

The Executive Officer confirmed that these had been purchased and distributed.

2019/090 – Remembrance Day Parade

The Executive Officer confirmed that a meeting had been held with the Hirwaun Branch of the British Legion and the Reverend Cai Rees and it had been agreed that the order of ceremony would be changed to ensure that the memorial service at Hirwaun Clock will be held at 11am from this year, followed by the main service at St Lleurwg's Church.

2019/091 – D-Day Ceremony

The Executive Officer confirmed that a meeting had been held with the Hirwaun Branch of the British Legion and the Reverend Cai Rees and it had been agreed that a ceremony would be held at Hirwaun Clock on 6th June 2019 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to inform the police. Cllr Colin Woodley to confirm Hirwaun Primary School's attendance.

2019/092 – Hirwaun Clock

The Executive Officer confirmed that the necessary repairs needed had been reported to RCT but no response had been received. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to chase RCT and report to CBC Karen Morgan.

2019/093 – Welsh Government – A465 Community Benefits

The Executive Officer provided an update from Welsh Government following our request that all bidders contact us in relation to our priorities for community benefits.

2019/094 – 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 now been provided by the PCSO.
- An email received from RCT which advised that due to recent legislation RCT are now unable to monitor CCTV for third parties. It was previously advised by RCT that any CCTV installed by the Community Council would be monitored and controlled by RCT at the CCTV headquarters at Sardis Road. Due to this change in legislation, RCT can no longer monitor any CCTV that the Community Council installs.

During a subsequent telephone conversation with RCT to discuss the Community Council's options further, RCT advised of the following:

- Any CCTV installed would now need to be monitored via the Community Council office.
- The police would not be then in a position to monitor any crimes in progress. We would only be able to monitor retrospectively.
- More importantly, the Community Council would need to employ a Data Controller under GDPR. The Community Council is currently exempt from this but would not be if we had CCTV. Community Council Clerks cannot be Data Controllers due to conflict of interest.
- The Community Council would also need to obtain NSI Accreditation, DBS checks and an operator's licence. These would need to be paid for in addition to the installation costs and CDS yearly fee. There may also be a need to upgrade the broadband for the Community Council office to accommodate the bandwidth for the CCTV.

Cllrs fully discussed the information received from RCT and raised concerns in relation to the employment of an additional staff member as Data Controller. It was discussed that previously; it was felt by the community that the Community Council should not be responsible for the salary of the Warden employed to cover both villages and Cllrs at that time voted not to continue with the contract as the Community Council should not have been responsible for employing other people.

Cllrs also raised concerns in relation to the costs of the accreditations and licences required, and noted that the police had been in favour of the CCTV as crimes would be monitored while they were in progress but this could no longer be done as they would be unable to access any system not operated by RCT.

The crime stats were also discussed by Cllrs and it was noted that these stats did not include Penderyn, or other parts of RCT such as the Rhondda, Pontypridd or Ynysybwl where comparisons could be made to Hirwaun. It was agreed that consideration had to be made when interpreting these as we do not have the full picture. Concerns were also raised that whilst the PCSO's monthly report to the Community Council stated that there were few or no crimes to report, the crime stats could be interpreted differently. Based on the full information and advice provided by RCT, the Community Council reluctantly agreed that we could no longer continue with the request to install CCTV in Hirwaun. This was proposed by Cllr Myring, seconded by Cllr Matsell and agreed nem con. Cllrs agreed to submit a request to RCT asking that they fund the installation of the CCTV cameras themselves.

Action 5 – i) Executive Officer to ask RCT to fund the installation of CCTV for Hirwaun. ii) Executive Officer to also publish an update in relation to the decision made onto our website, along with a copy of the crime stats and RCT advice. iii) Executive Officer to ask CBC Karen Morgan how long RCT have been aware that this legislation had been

due to come in, and why wasn't she herself advised of this legislation over the 6 months that we had been investigating this.

Cllr Ceri Woodley left the meeting at 7.20pm.

Cllrs then discussed the option to fund improved lighting for the village rather than CCTV. The Executive Officer updated Cllrs with the response received from RCT which stated that additional street lighting to that which is already in place is not an option as all current lighting in RCT meets the code of practice so there is no need to improve them. Any new lighting installed would need to be dimmed as per RCT's commitment to reduce energy expenditure and its carbon footprint. Cllrs agreed that based on this advice the Community Council could not install additional street lights. They did however ask if there was an option for solar lighting to be installed. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to contact RCT for advice.

2019/095 - Planning Applications

- i) Pre-planning consultation – Zip World Ltd – Land at Rhigos Mountain and Former Tower Colliery Site. – It was noted that this document was not originally sent to HPCC for consultation. Cllrs agreed that this is a fantastic opportunity for development and it would be good for local businesses. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to ask that we are included in any further consultations on this and to advise that the Community Council is in favour of this application.
- ii) Tower Colliery Environmental Centre – Cllrs raised concerns in relation to the plans for access from the car park to the footpath to the ERC, which should be fully accessible. This footpath should be wide enough to allow access for emergency vehicles and deliveries. It was also felt that the building itself should be fully accessible, including at least 1 accessible toilet, and baby changing facilities. This application was also not sent to the Community Council when it should have been. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to submit comments and ask RCT to ensure that these applications are sent to us in the future.
- iii) Tower Colliery Railhead – Retention of High Wall – Cllrs agreed that if this was left to mature naturally then it would attract wildlife and become a feature. **Action 9** - Executive Officer to advise RCT of our support of this application.
- iv) Rear two storey extension – 45 Brecon Road, Hirwaun – No comments.
- v) LNG Storage Facility, Llwydcoed – No comments.

2019/096 - Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Richard Jones advised the meeting that:

- He would be meeting with CBC Graham Thomas as part of Accessible News in relation to dropped curbs in Penderyn.
- A site visit in Hirwaun in relation to dropped curbs would be undertaken as part of his role as Cllr.

- He had recently met with Vikki Howells AM who is championing The Glancynon as an important asset to the village which should be included as part of the village centre. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to i) write to RCT to ask that the village centre be expanded to include The Glancynon, ii) write a letter of support for Vikki Howells AM in relation to this important community asset.
- Concerns were raised that the Community Council are being overlooked for community events which we should be attending. A networking event for local businesses and community groups was suggested, which could tie in with obtaining comments from the community in relation to their priorities for the community benefit option to the A465 dualling. Cllrs agreed to take this event forward. **Action 11** – Cllr Richard Jones and Cllr Christine Chandler to take this forward. Executive Officer to add to the May agenda for further discussion.

Cllr Richard Jones left the meeting at 8.05pm.

Cllr Jenny Myring advised the meeting that:

- At the recent One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting it was advised that Community Council's are entitled to 1 hour's free advice from Planning Aid Wales.

Cllr Claire Matsell advised the meeting that:

- Parking issues continue at the new Co-op. **Action 12** – Executive Officer to report to RCT and to ask if RCT could work together with the police to patrol the area at peak times.

2019/097 - Reports from Subcommittees

There were no reports from subcommittees.

2019/098 - Grant application by Briars Bridleways

The grant application to fund the first aid cover for their annual show was discussed. It was proposed by Cllr Debbie Smart, seconded by Cllr Morien Morgan to approve the grant application, and agreed nem con.

2019/099 - Executive Officer's report

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

Daisy Communications - £70.66 Print Partnership - £32.95 Vision ICT - £150.00
Information Commissioner's Office - £40.00

Consultations:

- Proposals to amend the Public Audit (Wales) Act – **Action 13** – Executive Officer to respond in relation to additional charges made by auditors.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

- Understanding Welsh Places website – The Community Council has been asked to submit an entry for Hirwaun. **Action 14** – Cllr Matsell to write the entry.
- Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day – Cllrs agreed not to take part in this.

Other:

- Penderyn Cllr vacancy – It was agreed to re-advertise the vacancy until it is filled. **Action 15** – Executive Officer to continue with this.
- External Audit pack received for approval at our June meeting.
- Dog Mess Hirwaun – Following a Facebook update residents have raised hotspots which require cleaning/monitoring. **Action 16** – Executive Officer to report to RCT.
- Report received that the skip for the flowers at the cemetery has been removed. **Action 17** – Executive Officer to RCT to put it back.
- Seed Bomb event – Date set for 8th August. **Action 18** – Cllr Chandler to contact local bee keepers to attend the event.
- Website Accessibility standards – The Executive Officer provided an update on this and advised that further clarification on how we need to comply is being sought. **Action 19** – Executive Officer to continue with this.
- The Executive Officer suggested that we take forward an initiative to encourage residents to pick litter and clean road signs (where it is safe to do so) to work together to improve the village. Cllrs agreed not to take this forward.
- The Executive Officer advised that it appears that a resident has planted daffodils at different locations in Hirwaun.
- The Executive Officer advised Cllrs that we need to decide what to spend the CIL money on now that we are unable to take the CCTV forward. **Action 20** – Executive Officer to add it to the May agenda for discussion.

2019/100 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

None.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.