

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 9th May 2019

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

Attending: n/a

Apologies: Cllr Deborah Smart, CBC Karen Morgan, CBC Graham Thomas,

2019/101 – Election of Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Morien Morgan that Cllr Colin Woodley be elected as Chair. At this point Cllr Ceri Woodley declared an interest. No other Cllrs put themselves forward for the role of Chair. Cllr Ceri Woodley abstained from voting, and all remaining Cllrs agreed nem con that Cllr Colin Woodley be elected as Chair.

2019/102 – Election of Vice Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Jennifer Hartwell that Cllr Richard Jones be elected as Vice Chair. No other Cllrs put themselves forward for the role of Vice Chair. No Cllrs abstained from voting. Cllrs agreed nem con that Cllr Richard Jones be elected as Vice Chair.

2019/103- Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

2019/104 - PCSO report

No report was provided by the PCSO in his absence.

Cllrs wished to report the following to the PCSO:

- Cllr Claire Matsell wished to report a scrambler on the Arc Way.
- Cllr Christine Chandler wished to report the continuing issue of the Hirwaun bypass being used as a race track for cars racing late at night.

Other issues discussed included parking issues outside of the Co-op and the lack of attendance of the PCSO at the Community Council meetings.

2019/105 - CBC reports

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

- Apologies for not attending the meeting tonight. I will be attending the Planning Committee meeting to make representation on two planning applications, the Environmental Resource Centre and the Former Niddum Site.

- I note that the Community Council have decided not to pursue CCTV provision for the village due to the potential problem with provision through RCT. However, following further discussion between myself and RCT, the CCTV department have committed to try and find a workable solution. There has also been a further development which may negate some of the information regarding third party provision which was given to the Community Council. I will provide an update when I receive one.
- The deterioration of the main road between Denbeigh Court and Greenwood Drive has been reported and repair requested.
- Path improvements have been undertaken in Maescynon to address access problems a resident was experiencing.
- Reported and requested removal of items of furniture which were dumped at the entrance to the Walters wind farm, just off Hirwaun roundabout.
- The grass at the Keepers Lane access to the Heads of the Valley is starting to obstruct the vision splay again. I have reported it to the Trunk Road Agency.
- There have been further pollution incidents at the Corner Pool and the River Cynon, NRW investigations have found that they believe the pollution is a result of Tower Colliery as they have identified that the development has a range of silt control measures in place i.e. Silt screen and Hay bales; NRW also noted that the site is advanced and the silt control measures are not required for much longer for that development site. Pollution incidents should be reported to NRW.
- As an update to the surface water drainage problems on the opencast site, Tower have commissioned a specialist to undertake a review and RCT drainage and planning enforcement officers are monitoring the progress of the review.
- Double yellow lines are to be used to restrict parking along Penderyn Road from the Cadet Hut to the entrance of the new houses being built. I have provided feedback that parking restrictions are only as effective as the enforcement of them as evidenced by the continual problems at High Street and the Coop Store.
- I am sure the Community Council would like to join with me to extend congratulations to Hirwaun RFC on gaining promotion as Division 3 champions.

Cllr Morien Morgan commented on the pollution in the River Cynon which has occurred at least 3 times over the last 1-2 weeks.

Cllrs stated the following in response to CBC Morgan's report re CCTV:

- We acted on the advice from the Officer at RCT who told us that the legislation looked to be set in stone, and that had we have already spent the £30,000 to install the cameras it would have been money wasted as we could not have monitored them. RCT also advised that we couldn't take this forward ourselves as we would need to employ a Data Controller and obtain the necessary licences and accreditation.
- We are taking this further and have asked that RCT fund the installation of the cameras and to monitor them themselves. No response has been received.
- There is a strong argument for a better and more efficient use of taxpayer's money. RCT have an existing CCTV system covering other communities. They have the expertise and the personnel to monitor it. They are ideally placed to extend their network to cover Hirwaun and we must act together to persuade them to do so.

-CBC Graham Thomas provided the following written report in his absence:

- Environmental Resource Centre - This is to be determined by Planning Committee this evening, (May 9th). The recommendation is for approval. I will update when I attend later.
Re Tower Variation 19/0323/38 - The proposed elements of the variation are as follows:
 - i) Health & Safety - Retention of part of High Wall –
 - (ii) Land drainage and attenuation,
 - (iii) Ecology, geology (Geopark), historical, visual and landform,
 - (iv) Pre-ground preparation for the development areas,

Proposal - It is proposed to leave the central (highest) section of the southern highwall as an exposed, benched rock face. The sections of the southern wall on either side of the central area will have backfill graded against them to create a graded slope which runs seamlessly into the original hillside. The proposed area within which the residual rock face will be created is shown in Drawings No. JA-155-001-107A and 107B.

Geotechnical Report - The report is in positive in terms of retaining the rock face. With regard to the drainage implications the response from Land Drainage is as follows: -

Response from Land Drainage - The applicant has proposed the 'Discharge of condition 8, proposed environmental/ecological amendments to base restoration plan 16. (previous planning permission 13/0466/15)'. Within the details provided the applicant has proposed modifications to the land drainage within the site however, the applicant has not provided any relevant details to support the discharge.

Furthermore, current investigations are ongoing following several flood events within the local area and a detailed drainage strategy and schematic is being awaited from Tower Colliery which relates to the proposals set out for this application.

As such I would request that the condition remains until such time as the applicant provides evidences detail of the land drainage proposals for the whole site and how they relate to the pre mining situation to ensure that the site is not increasing the discharge rate and increasing flood risk for the area.
- Church Road dropped Kerb - Attended site visit with Highways, Cllr Richard Jones and Resident. There was general consensus that the best solution was for another access point further away from the junction. The engineer will look at this option. Also, while on site it was agreed to undertake footpath repair on route to the Community Hall.
- Vole Road - Following on from the extensive damage to the surface of Vole Road following the Contraflow arrangement on the A465, the Highways Engineer has agreed to re-dressing the surface in the summer once the short term repair work is undertaken. I have also asked for damage to the verges to be investigated but this will be under a separate budget.

There were no reports to CBC Thomas.

2019/106 - Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 11th April 2019 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Morien Morgan and seconded by Cllr Jenny Myring and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2019/107 – Land Registry

The Executive Officer advised that this matter is ongoing, and that an email had been sent to the Boundary Commission to see if they have the information required. **Action 1** – Executive Officer to continue with this in conjunction with the Chair.

2019/108 – D-Day Ceremony

The Executive Officer advised that the Police had been informed of our ceremony and that Hirwaun Primary had confirmed their attendance.

2019/109 – Hirwaun Clock Repair

The Executive Officer advised that RCT had acknowledged our email and advised that they would update us further in due course.

2019/110 – CCTV

The Executive Officer advised that as discussed earlier in the meeting, an email had been sent to RCT to ask that they fund the installation of the CCTV in Hirwaun themselves, but no response has been received. The update in relation to the decision made for CCTV has been published on our website, our Facebook page, and in The Crucible. The Executive Officer concluded by advising Cllrs that CBC Morgan had advised that the legislation in respect of the CCTV had been going on in the background for some time, but that the implications have only recently been realised. CBC Morgan had been made aware of the implications by RCT officers as soon as it was realised.

2019/111 – Zip World Consultation

The Executive Officer advised that it had been confirmed that we would be consulted on all future planning application in relation to this.

2019/112 – Tower Environmental Centre

The Executive Officer confirmed that we would be consulted on all future planning application in relation to this.

2019/113 – Letter of Support to Vikki Howells re The Glancynon

The Executive Officer confirmed that this letter had been sent. It was also advised that an email had been sent to RCT asking that the village centre be extended to include The Glancynon. It appeared that RCT had misunderstood our question and it was agreed to contact CBC Morgan for assistance. **Action 2** – Executive Officer to contact CBC Karen Morgan.

2019/114 – Co-op Parking Issues

The Executive Officer confirmed that a letter had been sent to RCT but no response had been received. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to refer the matter to CBC Morgan for assistance.

2019/115 – Understanding Welsh Places Website

The Executive Officer confirmed that Cllr Claire Matsell had written the entry for Hirwaun which had been submitted for the website. We will be informed when the website goes live.

2019/116 – Cllr Vacancies

The Executive Officer advised that the deadline for the Hirwaun vacancy had passed with no applicants. Both the Hirwaun and Penderyn vacancies will be re-advertised together. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to re-advertise both vacancies.

2019/117 – Dog Mess - Hirwaun

The Executive Officer advised that the hotspots for dog mess had been reported to RCT and that a number of fixed penalty notices had been issued. Fixed penalty notices had also been issued in respect of littering. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to thank RCT for their increased patrols and enforcement.

2019/118 – Skip at Bryn Gaer Cemetary

The Executive Officer informed Cllrs that RCT have advised that the skip has been removed, and will not be put back, due to the large amount of household waste being dumped in it. Small RCT branded bins will be put there instead.

2019/119 – Seed Bomb Event

Cllr Christine Chandler confirmed that she had arranged for a local Bee Keeper to attend the event to undertake a demonstration.

2019/120 – Website Accessibility Standards

The Executive Officer advised that an email had been sent to RCT asking for assistance with these new regulations. Cllr Richard Jones confirmed that he would assist in this also.

2019/121 - Planning Applications

- Change of use from former public house to hairdressers, dance studio and retail shop – 54 High St, Hirwaun – Cllrs agreed that they are in support of a local business for the hairdresser and dance studio. However, they did raise concerns in relation to parking issues for the retail shop. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to submit comments to RCT.
- Proposed double storey rear extension – 15 Briar Way, Hirwaun – No comments.
- Epicormic removal to aid inspection. Removing branches growing through fence. Pollarding. Stripping of ivy. Species Horse Chestnut – 25 Bryncynon, Hirwaun – No comments.

2019/122 - Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Jennifer Hartwell reported that the grass verge needs cutting on the Heads of the Valleys road.

Cllr Richard Jones advised the meeting that:

- He had attended a site visit in relation to dropped curbs in Penderyn, where RCT agreed to install 2 new dropped curbs.
- A walk through of Hirwaun had been completed in relation to dropped curbs. Following this, RCT now have a list of dropped curbs to be installed in Hirwaun. RCT will continue to liaise with Cllr Jones in this matter.

Cllr Colin Woodley advised the meeting that:

- He had received a letter as Penderyn Cllr in relation to the Hanson Quarry pre planning consultation. Cllr Margaret Amos confirmed that she had also received a copy of the letter. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to circulate web link to all Cllrs for their information.

2019/123 - Reports from Subcommittees

There were no reports from subcommittees.

2019/124 - Community Council Networking Event

Cllrs Richard Jones and Christine Chandler confirmed that they were due to meet in relation to organising this and will report back at the next meeting.

2019/125 - Solar Street Lighting for Hirwaun

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs that RCT had informed us that solar panelled lighting is not cost effective due to the capital expenditure required to install it, the ongoing maintenance costs such as battery replacement, panel theft and increased structural testing. Planning permission would also have to be applied for, along with involvement from the Highways team. Cllrs agreed that based on the advice from RCT we could not take this any further.

2019/126 - CIL Money

It was agreed that this item would be left on the agenda and residents' thoughts on what the money should be spent on would be sought at the networking event.

2019/127 - Executive Officer's report

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

Daisy Communications - £69.91

Print Partnership - £30.24

Consultations: No consultations were received.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. One Voice Wales – Advice on payments to Community and Town Councils.
Additionally, One Voice Wales are seeking a blanket dispensation for councils in respect of the £150 basic allowance and are seeking a response from HMRC.
2. One Voice Wales – Motions for their Annual General Meeting – We are entitled to submit 2 motions for debate at the AGM. Advice was given in respect of how to submit these motions. It was proposed that our motion could be in relation to all Town and Community Councils having access to the Standards Committee to deal with complaints. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to liaise with Cllr Hartwell in relation to this.
3. One Voice Wales Area Committee date for next meeting.
4. One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting Representatives. It was agreed that the two Community Council representatives would be Cllrs Jennifer Hartwell and Jenny Myring.
5. S137 grant application – The Executive Officer advised that they had to turn down a grant application as it did not meet the specified criteria as it was made by an individual seeking assistance for a small business start-up. Cllrs were informed of the application details and agreed that this was not something that we had the powers to fund.
6. Cllr Richard Jones has now been confirmed as bank signatory.
7. Email from Save Care Homes and Day Care – Noted.
8. Welsh Government – Heads of the Valleys Dualling Orders – Orders are available for Cllrs to view via the Executive Officer.

Other:

1. Two residents reported issues last week – i) shooting of birds – reported to PCSO who has referred it to their Wildlife Officer, ii) abandoned vehicle – referred to RCT – matter resolved itself when owner moved vehicle.
2. D-Day ceremony – It was agreed that the lamppost poppies would be placed in both villages and that the biodegradable D-Day There But Not There Bootprints would be purchased. It was also agreed to purchase a D-Day wreath.
3. VE Day 75 – It is the 75th anniversary of VE Day next year. Cllrs agreed to hold a memorial ceremony at Hirwaun Clock, along with the possibility of holding a separate event in line with the VE 75 guidelines.
4. SLCC Conference for Wales – Cllrs approved the cost of the Executive Officer attending this.
5. Community Liaison Committee meeting – The Executive Officer and Chair provided Cllrs with an update following this meeting. **Action 9** – Executive

Officer to inform RCT that Cllrs wished to attend the GDPR update training being offered.

6. Online banking to pay staff via bank transfer – It was agreed to take this forward now that the bank signatories had been updated. **Action 10** - Executive Officer to start the process.
7. Walking Festival – The arrangements for the Walking Festival were finalised.
8. Permission was granted to dispose of the old computer equipment at the Community Council office which no longer works.
9. The Executive Officer advised that the 2018/19 internal and external audit was in the process of being completed.
10. The Executive Officer confirmed that the end of year exercise for staff pensions had been submitted to RCT.

2019/128 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

Cllr Adrian Harford sought approval from council to attend the Code of Conduct training being run by One Voice Wales. **Action 11** – Executive Officer to book Cllr Harford onto the course.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.