

## **Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council**

### **Agreed Minutes of Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

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

**Attending:** Cllr Graham Thomas

**Apologies:** Cllr Jenny Myring, Cllr Jenny Edwards, Cllr Claire Matsell, CBC Karen Morgan

#### **2019/150- Disclosures of Personal Interest**

Cllrs Colin Woodley, Richard Jones, Margaret Amos and Morien Morgan declared an interest on agenda item 7 (ii).

#### **2019/151 - PCSO report**

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs following receipt of a report from Police Sergeant Alex Gregory which included combined crime stats for Hirwaun and Penderyn.

**Action 1** – Executive Officer to ask for i) a breakdown of the crime stats which records Hirwaun and Penderyn separately, ii) to ask if our reports of cars racing on the bypass between the Hirwaun/Rhigos roundabouts have been included in these stats.

There was nothing to report to the PCSO.

#### **2019/152 - CBC reports**

-CBC Graham Thomas provided the following written report:

- A465 Road Survey/Cynon Valley Gateway - A traffic assessment exercise is about to take place as part of the proposed scheme to link the existing A4059 Aberdare bypass to the A465 at the Croesbychan junction. This will involve traffic monitoring equipment being installed along the local road network, including the Heads of the Valley Road (A465), to ascertain the current traffic flows using the existing network. This equipment is to be in place over 8th – 22nd July. The works are unlikely to cause any inconvenience to the users of the highway, however when they see the equipment you may be asked what it is for. The survey equipment will include vehicle detection loops laid on the carriageway, CCTV equipment to monitor traffic flows and Automatic Number Plate Recognition to determine vehicle direction flows. The results then go on to inform and optimise the next design stages for this highway improvement scheme.

- Road re-surfacing - Following my requests, over recent years, to re-surface the A4059 work has now been carried out re-surface the road up to and through Penderyn as far as the Quarry/W.D.Lewis entrance. Work will need to be carried out at this location to improve/widen as part of the recently approved planning consent for W.D.Lewis. I have further asked that once this work is complete further work be undertaken to repair and re-surface work to continue past the northern community.

I have also asked for repair/re-surfacing of Vole Road and repair to verges after damage to the road following the A465 Contraflow work. I have further asked to consider the possibility of introducing passing places albeit this would be complicated by land ownership.

- Waterfall Country - Waterfall Country is a project undertaken by National Parks using a Heritage Lottery Fund major grant structure. It will span the junction of three areas Neath Port Talbot; Powys and Rhondda Cynon Taf. Primarily involving the communities of Penderyn; Pontneddfechan and Ystradfellte. It is designed to focus on Ecology that will in turn attract visitors and promote sustainable business. Project Themes: There are three main project themes; 1) Ecology, 2) People and Communities 3) Economic Sustainability. I have been included in the Waterfall Country Task & Finish Group that will feed into the project. I have stressed the need for toilet facilities and car parking in Penderyn to benefit both visitors and local residents. Additionally, if Penderyn is to maximise the economic benefit of the project then there needs to be a shop facility that would again benefit visitors and local residents.

- Enabling Natural Resources meeting 19/06/19 - The Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being Grant (ENRaW) will support implementation of specific aspects of the Natural Resources Policy for Wales (NRP): The fund will be implemented under two headings, i) RCT Tracks and Trails - Project Scope - The development and delivery of multi-modal tracks and trails and related infrastructure in and around the Rhigos Mountain area, contributing to long-term aspirations to establish Rhondda Cynon Taf as a successful outdoor activity destination as well as increasing community usage of the rich landscape. The tracks and trails projects will result in establishing a green infrastructure facility resulting in economic and community benefits linked to an increase in visitors, community activity levels and user understanding of the landscape's rich history and biodiversity. Total Project Cost: £160,000.00. Total Grant Amount: £128,000.00. ii) Hirwaun Industrial Estate, A Place Based Approach - Project Scope - This project will take a place based approach, working in collaboration with local businesses and stakeholders to come up with practical nature based solutions to environmental problems at Hirwaun Industrial Estate. The primary focus of this project will be collaboration. Developing enhanced stakeholder relationships to create practical collaborative environmental solutions and recommendations in the form of a Strategic Environmental Masterplan, acting as a catalyst to realise the environmental and well-being ambitions of the site. Total Project Cost: £40,000.00. Total Grant Amount: £40,000.00.

- Penderyn Quarry Planning Application - 19/0746/03 A reserves swap for the extraction of limestone within the south eastern area of Penderyn Quarry, with the relinquishment of existing rights to quarry reserves of limestone in the south western area of the quarry along the Twyn-y-Glog ridgeline, with associated operational and restoration works. PENDERYN QUARRY, CHAPEL ROAD, PENDERYN, HIRWAUN. This application is essentially to move the operation to the south eastern area of Penderyn Quarry.

CBC Thomas agreed that his report could be amended/reduced where appropriate to allow the report to fit into the minutes.

Cllr Colin Woodley updated CBC Thomas in relation to the Waterfalls Project advising that the National Park had received funding from Welsh Government for the project, the bulk of which would be used for match-funding the Pen y Cymoedd application. The project will be a gateway project to the National park including a new carpark.

Cllr Colin Woodley asked CBC Thomas if there is a bond in place for the restoration of the Quarry.

Cllrs wished to report the following to CBC Thomas:

- Cllr Margaret Amos reported that Penderyn Community Centre, as landlords of Yr Eithin, had built stone/mesh wall with a large drop at either end of it. Safety concerns had been raised that a child or animal could injure themselves.
- Cllr Richard Jones asked for an update in relation to the dropped curbs in Penderyn. CBC Thomas advised that they are being added to the future works plan and that he would ask for a further update.

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

- Overgrowth has been cut back at the steps leading to Brynsiriol (thanks to the resident who cut the one side) and the verge at the entrance to Bethel Place
- The streetlights for the length of High Street have not been working, reported to RCT and Western Power
- One of the bollards at the War Memorial has been repaired after it was hit by a delivery van.
- Funding has been granted for highway improvements to Meadow Close and Tramway and for access improvements at Station Rd.
- Traffic Flow Assessment is being undertaken 8<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> July as part of the proposed scheme to link the existing A4059 Aberdare Bypass to the A465 at the Croesbychan junction. It is not expected to cause any inconvenience.
- Received complaints about cars parked on the pavement opposite the old Pharmacy on Brecon Rd causing residents coming from the bus stop to have to walk on the road. Police will monitor the situation.
- Highways have inspected the condition of a pavement at Greenwood Drive, at the moment they do not consider it a trip hazard, they will continue to monitor it, the same pavement has been weed sprayed to try and prevent further damage to the surface.
- Have requested improved signage directing people to Hirwaun Public Conveniences, also asked that the No Entry sign at the rear of the Café is put straight, it appears as if it has been hit by a high vehicle and I have witnessed cars driving the wrong way up the street.
- I am attempting to get some improvements undertaken to the lane leading from Brecon Rd to Glannant Street which is in a very poor condition.

Cllrs discussed the structure of CBC Morgan's report and agreed the format as above. It was also noted that CBC Morgan is already cc'd in on any emails of importance which are sent to RCT, for example, Centenary Fields, CCTV, parking issues in Hirwaun.

There was nothing to report to CBC Morgan.

### **2019/153 - Minutes of Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were, subject to a minor amendment, proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Ceri Woodley and seconded by Cllr Richard Jones and agreed nem con.

## **Matters arising from the previous meeting:**

### **2019/154 – CCTV**

Executive Officer to chase RCT for their response to our request that they fund the installation of CCTV in Hirwaun themselves, pointing out their recent upgrade/installation of CCTV in Aberdare and Mountain Ash. **Action 2** – Executive Officer to chase response.

### **2019/155 – PCSO Attendance**

The Executive Officer advised that both the Police Inspector and Police Sergeant had been contacted in relation to this and the content of their emails were relayed to Cllrs. It has been agreed with them that the PCSO will attend our meetings, giving his apologies in advance if he cannot attend.

### **2019/156 – Land Registry**

The Executive Officer advised that this matter is ongoing, and that a statement would be required from either Cllr Jennifer Hartwell or Cllr Morien Morgan to confirm the name changes of the Community Council. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

### **2019/157 – SLCC Article – Assets of Community Value**

The Executive Officer advised that this article had been circulated to CBC Karen Morgan and Vikki Howells AM. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to ask both how we add The Glancynon to this list.

### **2019/158 – Motions for OVW AGM**

The Executive Officer advised that we were unable to submit our motion to conference as Pontypridd Town Council, who would have seconded our motion, are not a member of One Voice Wales. However, the Chair of Pontypridd Town Council sits on the Community Liaison Group and will raise this issue with the Deputy Leader of RCT on our behalf.

### **2019/159 – Wheelie Bins/Disabled Access**

Cllr Richard Jones advised that he had emailed RCT in relation to this and will chase their response. **Action 5** – Cllr Jones to continue with this.

### **2019/160 – External Audit**

The Executive Officer advised that this has been submitted to the auditors who had raised queries. Responses have been provided and their report is due in September. Following the queries raised by the auditors, Cllrs agreed that the Relief Caretaker role is to be paid as and when required as dictated by the hall bookings.

### **2019/161 – Charter**

The Executive Officer advised that the meeting with RCT in relation to the Charter has been cancelled by RCT again. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to report back after the meeting has been held.

**2019/162 – Monitoring Officer**

The Executive Officer confirmed that the Monitoring Officer at RCT had been invited to our meeting. He has confirmed that he will attend. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to arrange.

**2019/163 – Planning Training**

Cllr Richard Jones advised that he was unable to attend this due to transport issues.

**2019/164 – One Voice Wales Online Learning Modules**

The Executive Officer asked that all Cllrs make the effort to do these over the summer break.

**2019/165 – Vikki Howells AM**

The Executive Officer confirmed that the update provided by Vikki Howells AM had been circulated to Cllrs, and that she would be attending our September meeting to provide a further update on things that may be of interest to us.

**2019/166 – Cllr GDPR/Privacy notices**

The Executive Officer advised that this is ongoing. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

**2019/167 – Bus Shelter Logos**

The Executive Officer confirmed that RCT will replace the damaged logos on our bus shelters for us with the new logos we recently purchased.

**2019/168 – Cyber Insurance**

The Executive Officer provided an update on cyber insurance after attending a recent conference.

**2019/169 – Business Grade AntiVirus Software**

The Executive Officer advised that we are unable to use their software licence as we are on a different network to them. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to look into the cost of purchasing this.

**2019/170 – HSE Vibration Calculator**

The Executive Officer advised that this is ongoing. **Action 10** - Executive Officer to continue with this.

**2019/171 – CiLCA Qualification**

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs that the only suitable training days were being held in Mold and outlined the cost of travel, subsistence and accommodation. Cllrs agreed that the cost of this, in addition to the cost of the training days, far outweighed the bursary received for the cost of the course. Cllrs agreed to cancel the course and

decline the bursary for this year, and to register again next year when the training days are being held closer. **Action 11** – Executive Officer to contact SLCC.

### **2019/172 - Planning Applications**

- i. A reserve swap for the extraction of limestone within the south eastern area of Penderyn Quarry, with the relinquishment of existing rights to quarry reserves of limestone in the south western area of the quarry along the Twyn-y-Glog ridgeline, with associated operational and restoration works – Penderyn Quarry, Chapel Road, Penderyn. – Cllrs discussed this planning application and agreed that they would like to see a bond held by an independent party for the restoration of the site and to keep the ridge as it is as it is a prominent landmark. **Action 12** – Executive Officer to submit comments.
- ii. Construction of a new primary school – Hirwaun Infants and Nursery School, Glanant St, Hirwaun – Cllr Jennifer Hartwell stated that this is long overdue and that she fully supports this application. Pupils and staff deserve a building which is fit for purpose and the new building will be more accessible for children of all abilities. **Action 13** – Executive Officer to submit comments.
- iii. Variation of condition 2 – approved plans (previous planning application 16/0154/10) – minor amendments to siting and elevational appearance – Plot 4, Brynfynnon Farm, Penderyn.
- iv. Demolition of lean-to toilet block and rebuild toilet block together with internal improvements – Hirwaun YMCA. – Cllrs agreed to support this planning application. **Action 14** – Executive Officer to submit comments of support.
- v. Rose Row, Land off Penderyn Road – i) Letter from RCT – informal hearing to take place on 31<sup>st</sup> July, appeal documents available at Sardis House for inspection by prior appointment, ii) Letter from The Planning Inspectorate – advising that due to the sensitive nature of the appeal the local planning authorities and third part representations cannot be viewed via the online portal. If we wish to view the document (which will be subject to redaction) we should contact the local planning authority.

### **2019/172 - Community Councillors reports:**

Cllr Jennifer Hartwell informed the meeting that:

- Parking issues are continuing at the Co-op. This is causing restricted access from Manchester Place, especially when coaches are parking outside the shop. People are also parking in resident parking bays on site and on Brecon Road. **Action 15** – Executive Officer to write to RCT asking for Enforcement Officers to patrol the area on a regular basis.

Cllr Richard Jones advised the meeting that:

- He had attended the Hirwaun PACT meeting and an update was provided.
- He has met with the new organiser of Christmas Around the Clock, advising him that he can apply to the Community Council for a grant towards funding the event.

- The resident in Station Road who had asked for the dropped curbs had been in to thank the Community Council for their assistance.

Cllr Margaret Amos informed the meeting that:

- Provided an update from the Penderyn PACT meeting.
- Two motor vehicles had recently been damaged in Penderyn.

Cllr Debbie Smart informed the meeting that:

- She will also attend Penderyn PACT meetings in future.
- Provided an update in relation to the new War Memorial in Penderyn and its dedication ceremony.

Cllr Colin Woodley informed the meeting that:

- The National Park have received a large amount of money from Welsh Government towards the Waterfalls Project. The project has been extended to include Glynneath and Hirwaun in a bid to draw visitors to other attractions in the area in an attempt to find solutions to the problems caused by the numbers of visitors to the area. Improved rail links from Hirwaun to Swansea in the future would help with this. Ystradfellte Community Council were leading this process by making the grant applications required.

Cllr Richard Jones left the meeting at 8pm.

#### **2019/173 - Reports from Subcommittees**

There were no reports from subcommittees this month.

#### **2019/174 - Vacancy for Cllr for Penderyn Ward**

The Executive Officer advised that no applications have been received for this vacancy.

**Action 16** – Executive Officer to re-advertise.

#### **2019/175 - CIL Money for Hirwaun**

There were no further suggestions for the use of the CIL money awarded to Hirwaun from the development of the new Co-op.

#### **2019/176 - Community Council Networking Event**

Cllr Christine Chandler provided an update on the suggested format of the event. This could include a community event and a separate business event. It was also suggested to combine the two and hold one event via drop in session. **Action 17** – Item to be added to next month's agenda for further discussion.

#### **2019/177 - Mobile Phone Contract**

Cllrs discussed the Council's request for the Executive Officer to have a mobile phone for work purposes. The Executive Officer advised that at a recent RCT Clerk's meeting it transpired that she was the only person at the meeting without a work mobile phone

and that Cllrs should be mindful of GDPR if the Executive Officer had to use a personal device for work purposes. Cllrs agreed that a work mobile phone should be allocated so that Cllrs can contact the Executive Officer when they are out of the office at meetings etc, to be used to take photos of Community Council events, to update the Community Council social media etc. It was agreed that the Executive Officer would not be on call 24/7 and that calls may go to answer machine if the Executive Officer is not working. Cllrs compared 3 quotes for a mobile phone contract, comparing them to pay as you go. It was agreed to purchase a pay as you go mobile phone. **Action 18** – Executive Officer to purchase mobile phone.

### **2019/178 – Executive Officer's report**

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

Daisy Communications - £71.76	Print Partnership - £22.14
MP Garden Services - £460.00	Festive Lighting - £288.00
One Voice Wales - £40.00	Amberol - £38.40

#### **Consultations:**

1. Review of Electoral arrangements for RCT – Cllrs discussed this proposal and agreed that Hirwaun and Penderyn are two entirely separate communities, with entirely different needs. Their current set up meets these needs and any change would be detrimental to the combined community. If the proposed changes went ahead, individuals would be confused as who to approach, and how would it work if the County Borough Cllrs covering the area were from two different political parties. The proposed name change is wrong and should be Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos, not Hirwaun and Rhigos as suggested. The suggested changes would not improve matters for the community.

The Council had received the following correspondence:

- One Voice Wales Area Committee meeting

#### **Other:**

1. Residents reported the following issues– i) Cefndon Tce to Maescynon lane needs clearing – This has been reported to RCT and has now been now cleared, ii) Knotweed encroaching from a public highway onto a private residence – This has been reported to RCT who have referred it to their pollution section for action.
2. Pensions end of year – The Executive Officer advised that this has been submitted.



3. Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom –The Executive Officer advised that two entries had been received during the extended deadline. Cllr approved the acceptance of these late entries.
4. Online banking – The Executive Officer provided an update in relation to this.
5. The Executive Officer provided the following update from SLCC conference:
  - An update on Website accessibility and the new regulations due to come in. Cllrs agreed to set up a committee to deal with this comprising of Cllrs Colin Woodley, Richard Jones and Jenny Edwards.
  - An update from the talk by the Future Generations Commissioner.
  - Wales Audit Office – there is a new Practitioners Guide 2019 which we will need to follow for next year’s audit. One Voice Wales will be issuing new guidance on internal audit at the end of the year. Audit fees could go up when Wales Audit Office takes over our external audits from 2020/21.
  - Ombudsman update in relation to a 14% increase in complaints received relating to the lack of equality and respect by Cllrs. This includes bullying, harassment, disrespectful behaviour and bringing the council into disrepute. It was advised that complaints in relation to member versus member should use the model protocol, but Clerks should go straight to the Ombudsman. Due to the huge increase in Cllrs bullying Clerks The Society of Local Council Clerks will be pursuing this matter with Welsh Government.

#### **2019/179 - Urgent items at the Chair’s discretion**

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.**