

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 12th September 2019

Present: Cllr Colin Woodley (Chair), Cllr Richard Jones (Vice Chair), Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Morien Morgan, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Jenny Myring, Cllr Jenny Edwards,

Attending: Vikki Howells AM

Apologies: Cllr Claire Matsell, Cllr Adrian Harford, Cllr Jennifer Hartwell, Cllr Christine Chandler, Cllr Deborah Smart, CBC Karen Morgan, CBC Graham Thomas

Cllr Colin Woodley started the meeting by welcoming Cllr Jenny Edwards to the Community Council. He also welcomed Vikki Howells AM to the meeting.

2019/180- Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of personal interest.

2019/181 - PCSO report

The Executive Officer advised that no report or apologies had been received from the PCSO. **Action 1** – Executive Officer to write to the Police Inspector in relation to the PCSO's non-attendance. Vikki Howells AM advised that she would also liaise with the Inspector on our behalf.

There was nothing to report to the PCSO.

2019/182 – Vikki Howells AM

Vikki thanked Cllrs for their support in relation to The Glancynon planning issues. She advised that there is different planning legislation for town centres and out of town centres. There is currently a trend for public houses being purchased to turn into residential properties. She updated Cllrs on Trivallis involvement in the scheme but confirmed that Trivallis subsequently pulled out of the proposal, and following new drainage legislation which came in the planning application was withdrawn.

An update was provided on the Heads of the Valleys dualling, confirming that all of the compulsory purchases had now been completed.

In relation to the flooding issues at Rhigos roundabout, it was advised that Welsh Government will be conducting a survey on the cause of this.

Cllr Andrew Morgan has written to Ken Skates in relation to the proposed new link road from the old chicken factory roundabout to Croesbychan stating that the link road needs to be completed at the same time as the Heads of the Valley dualling.

Vikki then went on to advise that the building works at Hirwaun Primary School are going well.

An update in relation to Tower Colliery was provided. The planning application for ZipWorld has been submitted, and the Planetarium are sourcing funding for their project. The conservation centre is also in the planning stages.

It was discussed that the opinion in the village in relation to the Metro and Hirwaun train station was divided. Vikki advised that a decision has now been made that there will be a light rail to Hirwaun which will be very quiet and will not emit any pollution. There are benefits of having this and it will be a better option than having a rail link bus. The plans for this are at least 15-20 years in the future and there are no plans as yet as to where the station will be. Cllr Colin Woodley stated that the most suitable location for the station would be on the Tower site where the line currently ends, which would then benefit any future plans to re-open the train line to Swansea. Vikki advised that she is planning to write to the Minister, co-signed by local businesses to support the train line and ask for a cross benefit study, and she asked if the Community Council would support this. **Action 2** – Executive Officer to add this to the October agenda for Cllrs to discuss if they agree to support this letter.

A Valleys Taskforce event is also due to be held so that the public can see the plans for the Metro system.

Cllr Morien Morgan asked Vikki if she was aware of the end date for Tower Colliery. Vikki will ask for an update for us.

Cllr Colin Woodley stated that the conservation centre and planetarium are set for the land previously designated for community use so the agreement will need to be changed. These plans have not been brought to the attention of the liaison committee meetings.

2019/183 - CBC reports

-CBC Graham Thomas provided the following written report:

- Bond for Quarry - E-mail sent to enquire into the existence of a bond. Reply: There is no Bond in place for the restoration of Penderyn Quarry as there is no legislation that allows Local Planning Authorities to require one for quarry developments. The landowner is ultimately responsible for restoration of the quarry and progressive restoration will be undertaken as quarrying progresses and areas of the site become non-operational. This will limit restoration liability. In addition, the amount of restoration required at quarry sites is relatively limited when compared to opencast coal sites where substantial amounts of material must be returned to the void. At a quarry such as Penderyn the water level will rise in the void creating a lake and the quarry faces and benches are required to meet HSE safety requirements at all times. Removal of the plant would be the greatest burden and it is often the case that the plant is removed because it is a saleable asset. In the event that the company owning the site ceases to operate I would not expect there to be a significant restoration liability. If the site owner is a company and the company is liquidated the site may well revert to the Crown or the Crown estate and the liability for any restoration would fall on them as the owners.
- Yr Eithyn stone wall safety concerns raised by the community council - National Parks have been asked for a view on the safety aspect. Response to be received.

- Dog fouling in Penderyn - A request has been made to Environmental Health for signs, warning of the fines that can be issued as a penalty for this offence, to be placed in the main housing centres of Penderyn.
- Dropped kerb. Church Road - An update requested from the Projects Engineer who has replied that the work is in the programme and should be carried out by the next meeting.
- Boundary Proposals - The representations presented by RCT to the consultation to keep the existing boundaries of Rhigos and Hirwaun have not been accepted by the Boundary Commission. The current proposal is to combine the two areas with two councillors representing the new Division/Ward. There is a proposal to name the new area Hirwaun and Rhigos or Welsh equivalent. I have submitted the reply, as before, that because of the size of the current RCT Rhigos Division/Ward, at least 8 times bigger than the RCT Hirwaun Division/Ward, together with the special qualities of the National Park and important development sites such as the Hirwaun Industrial Estate and Tower site, it should be retained as a single Ward with one member. Further that any name should include "Penderyn" in the title. Currently that would change to Rhigos/Penderyn or Hirwaun and Rhigos/Penderyn (or Welsh equivalent) if merged.
- Cynon Valley Gateway North Exhibition - In the current LDP there is a proposed scheme to link the existing A4059 Aberdare bypass to the A465 at the Croesbychan junction, with a single carriageway and an active travel corridor (for pedestrians and cyclists). The final alignment of this road is currently being designed, incorporating mitigation measures, such as ecological receptor sites and sustainable drainage. RCT are looking to put this proposal forward for planning next year with a public exhibition to take place in November (details to be confirmed) to outline the decision process undertaken to finalise the road alignment and allow for initial feedback to be noted from the attendees.
- Cwm Cadlan - The highway re-surfacing work has been carried out to improve the road to Cwm Cadlan.

Cllrs had nothing to report to CBC Thomas.

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

- There have been further pollution incidents over the summer months at the Corner Pool and the River Cynon as a result of the silt control measures in place at Tower Opencast. NRW are working closely with Tower and will continue to monitor the situation.
- Glancynon - I have sought advice regarding the status of the Localism Act 2011 and Assets of Community Value (AoCV) in respect of Wales. The Act and the AoCV provisions contained within it does apply in Wales. However, the AoCV provisions have not as yet been brought into force in Wales. The legal officer was not aware of any plans at present for it to be introduced in Wales and the only information found was this welsh government statement from back in 2015 which may provide community council with further information. <https://gov.wales/written-statement-assets-community-value-0> The legal officer also advised that "The provisions in the legislation will not be a material consideration but that is not to say the loss of the building/use would not be a material consideration. It will depend on the facts of the case".
- The Planning Appeal for the one family traveller site was heard on 31st July. During the hearing it emerged that the plan that was submitted for the appeal did not match the plan submitted with the planning application and that the applicant does not own the access lane. The Inspector continued with the inquiry but said he would have to take advice on whether a decision could be made. Subsequently the applicant withdrew the appeal meaning that a fresh application will now have to be submitted. Statutory notices regarding any interest in the lane will need to be made by the applicant.

- At the August PACT meeting the priorities agreed were cars racing at excessive speed, illegal drug dealing, and a blitz on illegal/inconsiderate parking. The blitz on parking will be multi agency and include parking too close to junctions, on double yellow lines, on pavements where pedestrians/wheelchair users/pushchairs etc. safety is compromised. Drivers MAY be issued with a warning in the first instance but a second offence WILL result in a fine. Hotspots include the High Street, the Coop, the junctions at the top newsagents and Cynon Terrace and any double parking which blocks the road. It is frustrating that this blitz is necessary but I have to say that most of the problems in the village are due to parking without due consideration to other road users. I have patrolled the village with our local PCSO Chris, photographs were taken, letters will be sent, and doors were knocked and will be revisited. We also spoke to local businesses about their perspective. I would like to thank the community councillors for their participation and support with the blitz. Illegal parking can also be reported to RCT at https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Parking/ParkingReportanoffence.aspx?fbclid=IwAR3243iHLsT0US3tB7v6gZj6FHjVvTmEaWJ_IgFvoyN0-oyuLjFiSRe9ygo
- I have held a site visit at the lane leading off Brecon Rd to Glannant St. the lane is unadopted but RCT have said they will use any spare material to infill when they are in the area, the contractors building the new school have kindly said that they will also try and help.
- Planning approval for the new school was officially granted on 15th August. I addressed the committee to emphasise the concerns about the substandard highway network we have leading to what will be a much larger school. I am pleased that there are conditions attached to the consent which will require additional parking space for pick up and drop off and also a new pedestrian crossing on Brecon Rd. (near the top of Cross Street). I specifically requested a condition preventing any deliveries at the start and end of school in the interests of pedestrian safety. The contractor has made sub-contractors aware and has also given instructions not to use sat nav to avoid using Glannant St for access, a sign has also been put at the entrance to Glannant St. (I have been advised the sign is very small so will continue to monitor the situation). If things go to plan the new school will be ready after October half term 2020. Hirwaun Primary has also been judged to have made sufficient progress in relation to the recommendations following the previous inspection and has now been removed from the list of schools requiring significant improvement. Well done to all the staff for the hard work it must have taken to turn this around in a relatively short space of time.
- I also spent some time recently patrolling with an RCT Highways officer looking at condition of pavements and accessibility issues. As a result, I am pleased to report that in addition to the planned improvements to the Station Road dropped kerbs there will also be improvements made to Fairway Estate to enable access for all to the village. The officer also noted the poor condition of Cynon Terrace pavement and will put it forward for Capital Funding. Unfortunately, the problem at the top of Harris St with cars cutting the corner is difficult to resolve without losing the pedestrian crossing. Will continue to monitor.
- Streetcare enforcement are assisting with several instances of recycling/contaminated recycling being put out throughout the week with contaminated recycling often being left for weeks on end. A large rug has been removed from Tramway and a mattress and carpet from Rhigos Rd.

Cllrs discussed the structure of CBC Morgan's report and agreed the format as above. It was also agreed that all emails to RCT would be cc'd to the County Borough Cllrs for both Wards. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to advise the County Borough Cllrs of this. There was nothing to report to CBC Morgan.

Action 4 – Executive Officer to ask RCT for an update in relation to parking enforcement in the village.

Cllr Ceri Woodley left the meeting at 7.20pm.

2019/184 - Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 11th July 2019 were, subject to a minor amendment, proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Morien Morgan and seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2019/185 – PCSO

The Executive Officer advised that i) the breakdown of the crime stats for Hirwaun/Penderyn had been requested and it was advised that they would be provided for the this meeting, but none have been received, ii) the question of the boy racers being included in the crime stats had not been responded to, iii) the Chair and Vice Chair invited the Police Sergeant to a meeting with them to discuss local issues affecting us but a response has not been received.

2019/186 – CCTV for Hirwaun

The Executive Officer advised that RCT had confirmed that the Invest to Save Scheme for the existing CCTV cameras in Aberdare and Mountain Ash had been completed and there are no plans to expand this to other areas.

The Executive Officer also advised that following a meeting with RCT's Director for Democratic Services & Communication regarding the Charter, the Chair asked the Director questions in relation the CCTV. The Director then spoke to the Director for the Service Area on our behalf in relation to the CCTV. RCT have now offered to install the cameras and own/maintain them, thus eliminating the licences etc that we would need to comply with, if we fund the cost of the installation. They have also negotiated the yearly maintenance fee that we would be responsible for down from £3,000 per year to £650 per year. RCT are aware that we only have just over £9,000 in CIL money available and have agreed that we could install the main infrastructure and links, plus approximately 2 cameras now for around £10,000, with a view of adding the remaining cameras to the system when more CIL money becomes available.

Cllr Morien Morgan moved that we note the response from RCT.

Cllr Colin Woodley proposed that we ask RCT for a breakdown of the costs provided, specifically for the costs of the individual cameras.

Cllr Richard Jones stated that the feeling from residents is that CCTV is wanted, but we need to consult and proposed a motion to consult the strength of feeling from residents before we make a decision.

A vote was taken on the first motion and it was agreed that the response from RCT be noted and no further action taken.

2019/187 – Land Registry

The Executive Officer advised that all documentation relating to the name changes for the Community Council has been provided to the solicitors. Cllr Hartwell has provided a Statutory Declaration confirming the name changes where we did not have official documentation. The solicitors will now be in the process of submitting this to Land Registry.

2019/188 – SLCC Article – Assets of Community Value

The Executive Officer advised that we have been provided with further information on this from Vikki Howells AM but this legislation specifically relates to England. The next step for us would be that when the LDP is due to be updated in 2021 we ask that the centre of Hirwaun be extended to include The Glancynon.

2019/189 – Wheelie Bins/Disabled Access

Cllr Richard Jones advised that he had no response from RCT and will chase them.
Action 5 – Cllr Jones to continue with this.

2019/190 – Charter

The Executive Officer advised that herself, along with the Chair and Vice Chair attended a meeting with RCT'S Director of Democratic Services and Communication in relation to the Charter. Cllrs Colin Woodley and Richard Jones updated Cllrs in relation to the discussions held in relation to the Charter and the next steps to be taken in relation to signing the Charter with RCT. **Action 6** – Cllrs Richard Jones and Jennifer Hartwell to attend the next Community Liaison meeting with RCT where the Charter will be approved.

2019/191 – Monitoring Officer

The Executive Officer advised that the Monitoring Officer is unable to attend a council meeting before Christmas but he has arranged to meet with the Chair and Vice Chair separately. **Action 7** – Cllrs Colin Woodley and Richard Jones, along with the Executive Officer, to meet with the Monitoring Officer and report back to Cllrs at the next meeting.

2019/192 – Cllr GDPR/Privacy notices

The Executive Officer advised that these have now been circulated to Cllrs for their use.
Action 8 – Executive Officer to add these to the website.

2019/193 – Business Grade AntiVirus Software

The Executive Officer provided an update in relation to this. **Action 9** – Executive Officer to ask our current provider if we can upgrade our package.

2019/194 - HSE Vibration Calculator

The Executive Officer advised that this is ongoing. **Action 10** - Executive Officer to continue with this and report back only if there are any issues.

2019/195 – CiLCA Qualification

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs that SLCC have confirmed that we can decline the bursary and cancel the training days in Mold without any financial penalty.

2019/196 – Parking Issues – Hirwaun

The Executive Officer advised that an email had been sent to RCT asking for regular patrols and enforcement action by their officers. They replied that they will refer the matter to their Civil Enforcement team for action, and that the Police have powers to enforce in instances such as blocking of junctions. Following this, the Police were contacted again, who responded about their parking campaign. Cllrs Colin Woodley, Ceri Woodley, Debbie Smart, and Jenny Edwards, along with the Executive Officer, all undertook patrols of the village with the PCSO's. The Executive Officer reminded Cllrs that we asked for the Police and RCT to work together for increased patrols and enforcement in relation to the parking issues in Hirwaun after our April meeting. CBC Karen Morgan was also asked to help facilitate this at this time. Cllrs agreed that they were happy to take part in these patrols.

2019/197 - Planning Applications

1. Demolition of former Glancynon Inn and redevelopment of site for affordable housing scheme – application withdrawn
2. Demolition of existing garage, garage extension to side attic conversion and internal adaptations – 9 Woodland Park, Penderyn – deadline for comments before council meeting – no comments received from Cllrs
3. Replacement Dwelling – Garth Madryn, Church Road, Penderyn - deadline for comments before council meeting – Cllr Colin Woodley was contacted directly by concerned residents – comments received from Cllrs and submitted to BBNP.
4. Proposed log cabin workspace for beauty therapy business – 64 Llys Cynon, Hirwaun - deadline for comments before council meeting - comments received from Cllrs and submitted to RCT.

2019/198 – Networking Event

Cllrs discussed the networking event and the format it might take. Cllr Richard Jones advised that Pen Y Cymoedd has a list of local community groups that we might be able to use. A sub committee was formed to take this forward with Cllrs Richard Jones, Christine Chandler and Morien Morgan. **Action 11** – Cllr Richard Jones to ask Pen y Cymoedd if we can access the list of community groups. Subcommittee to continue with the planning of the event. Date of the event to be set at our October meeting.

2019/199 - Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Richard Jones informed the meeting that:

- He attended the recent GDPR training offered by RCT. The Community Council seed bomb event was a success.

Cllr Jenny Myring advised the meeting that:

- She had attended the recent One Voice Wales Area Committee meeting and provided Cllrs with an update. The Garden Show was very well attended this year.

Cllr Margaret Amos informed the meeting that:

- She has completed all of the online training modules offered by One Voice Wales. She encouraged all Cllrs to complete these modules.

Cllr Morien Morgan informed the meeting that:

- There is an issue with the land at the top of the Cefndon field that should be maintained by the housing association that owns it. **Action 12** – Cllr Morien Morgan to find out the name of the housing association so that the Executive Officer can write to them to ask them to maintain the land.

Cllr Jenny Edwards informed the meeting that:

- She had attended a parking patrol with the PCSO and had completed the Online training modules from One Voice Wales.

Cllr Colin Woodley informed the meeting that:

- He would like to propose a vote of thanks to Cllr Jennifer Hartwell for her help in organising the Garden Show which was very successful, which Cllrs accepted.
- He had met with the Conservation Centre who wish to use the Tower Colliery land, along with Cllr Richard Jones. They had asked for our support in changing the 106 agreement but it was advised that we could not give this prior to any planning application being submitted. They were informed that we are obliged to convey public opinion in any planning application. **Action 13** – Executive Officer to write to Tower Colliery to enquire about the plans for the planetarium and conservation centre on land which was earmarked for community use as a designated community asset. Also, to ask for an update in relation to the Environmental Resource Centre committee meeting which is overdue.

2019/200 - Reports from Subcommittees

There were no reports from subcommittees this month.

2019/201 – Vacancy for Cllr for Penderyn Ward

The Executive Officer advised that two applications have been received for this vacancy. Cllrs carefully considered both applications and agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair would meet with these applicants for an informal chat and then report back to full council for a decision next month. **Action 14** – Chair and Vice Chair to meet with applicants.

2019/202 – CIL Money for Hirwaun

Cllrs discussed suggestions for the CIL money awarded to us. These included access improvements, new seating or new litter bins. **Action 15** – Executive Officer to ask RCT what our options are in relation to litter bins.

2019/203 – Executive Officer's report

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

August

Daisy Communications - £70.14

Village in Bloom Judge - £25.00

Print Partnership - £98.96

Bee Friendly crafts - £9.75

September

Daisy Communications - £70.60

Siemens - £171.46

Garden Show cups - £60.19

Print Partnership - £12.35

Hirwaun Garden Society - £440

Hirwaun Village Hall - £1,850

Consultations:

1. Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations 2019
2. The Draft National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. RCT advert for Town Twining committee members
2. One Voice Wales Area Committee meeting
3. RCT Parks department have confirmed that a new 5 bar gate is being sourced to replace the broken gate at the Cefndon Playing Fields.
4. Our Valley, Our Communities, Our Stations – Valleys Taskforce event to find out more information on the adoption of the valley lines and the impact this will have on communities. – Cllrs Colin Woodley, Richard Joes, Morien Morgan, Jenny Edwards and Jenny Myring all confirmed that they would attend.

Other:

1. Residents reported issues to Community Council office – i) parking issues at co-op and increased traffic at Cross St, a large number at high speed – referred to PCSO, ii) large amounts of cigarette butts on High Street, outside old Hirwaun Travel Shop – reported to RCT, iii) One of our planters was found tipped on its side – reported to the PCSO.
2. Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom – An update on the entries submitted. A thank you card has been received from a Penderyn entry.

Cllr Richard Jones left the meeting at 9.15pm.

3. Road Safety conference – The Executive Officer will attend this.
4. One Voice Wales training schedule.
5. One Voice Wales annual conference.
6. Techniquet Project with Vattenfall windfarm – they were looking for local groups to take part in a project they are running. It was referred to the YMCA who were very keen to get involved.
7. Night Out Scheme – Arts Council of Wales – referred to Penderyn Community Centre and Hirwaun Community Events but no response.
8. Bee Friendly application has been approved by Welsh Government for a second year. The assessor has been out to see what we have been doing and to visit one of our Bee Friendly gardens from the Village in Bloom competition. He was very impressed with our efforts. An idea for next year's application is to seed bomb the fire station grass roof. An email has been sent to the fire service to ask if they are interested in this but no response received yet. Cllrs agreed that they are happy to continue with this. It was also agreed that any spare wildflower seeds would be offered to Hirwaun and Penderyn Primary Schools. **Action 16** – Executive Officer to continue with this.
9. Christmas Painting Competition – Cllrs agreed to run this again this year.
10. Staff Health & Safety training is due. Cllrs agreed for a training provider to be sourced. **Action 17** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2019/204 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.