

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 12th March 2020

Present: Cllr Colin Woodley (Chair), Cllr Richard Jones (Vice Chair), Cllr Adrian Harford, Cllr Deborah Smart, Cllr Morien Morgan, Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Cllr Jenny Edwards, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Ceri Woodley,

Attending: CBC Graham Thomas, CBC Karen Morgan

Apologies: Cllr Jenny Myring, Cllr Claire Matsell, Cllr Christine Chandler, Cllr Lynwen Law, PCSO Carys Norman

2020/050- Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of personal interest.

2020/051 - PCSO report

There was no report received from the PCSO. There were no matters to report to the PCSO. The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on an email received from the Police Inspector. Cllrs asked that the PCSO submits a written report if she cannot attend a meeting. **Action 1** – Executive Officer to contact the PCSO.

2020/052 - CBC reports

CBC Karen Morgan provided the following written report:

- PROW closures update. Hirwaun Welfare, the contractors are now temporarily diverting the watercourse to enable the works to progress. Ironworks Bridge, at the council flood update meeting I sought reassurance that planned schemes would not be affected because of the Storm Dennis damage to infrastructure and was informed by the Leader of the council that it was his intention that planned schemes will still go ahead.
- The application for the 1 family traveller site at Rose Row was refused at committee; I attended the meeting and made representation about highway concerns.
- Dropped kerbs work recommenced last week and this week at Fairview and Station Rd.
- Village Green - dangerous exposed riverbank/culvert. NRW and RCT have attended site and are taking this forward in partnership. NRW continuing to pursue the landowner and RCT looking at erecting signage and fence.
- Glancynon will reopen on March 28th
- A resident recently shared a great initiative with me called “The Friendly Bench”, which I know he also shared with HPCC. I have made initial enquiries with Men in Sheds and they would be very interested in supporting this too.
- Watercourse concern, rear of Glannant St. I attended site and spoke to the school contractors, the watercourse is still there and the culvert was running freely.
- Storm Dennis. A total of 21 properties were flooded in Hirwaun. The damage was caused by overloaded drains, blocked culverts and mainly the River Cynon at Cae Felin Parc. I held a meeting with those affected to ensure they had accessed the support available and to gather a clear picture

of what issues need to be addressed. Since the meeting I have met with RCT on site and will meet with NRW next week. There will then be a follow up joint meeting with myself, our AM, MP, authority officers and residents. I would welcome HPC representation at this meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to provide feedback to the residents and to advise on what needs to be done to prevent flooding and defend properties for the future.

- Storm Dennis also caused significant damage to the railway embankment near to Fairview Estate with at least 3 major landslides. Network Rail has been on site for the last week.
- I wish to pay tribute here to all residents who pulled together on the weekend of the flooding and since, thanks also to the Fire Brigade and council workers and the Cardiff Arms for storing donations received which have been shared amongst those affected.

Cllrs reported the following to CBC Morgan:

- Cllr Jenny Edwards advised that there is an issue with cars parking on dropped curbs resulting in disabled residents not being able to access them.

Cllr Richard Jones arrived at 6.45pm.

-CBC Graham Thomas provided the following written report:

- Lay by on the road to Ystradfellte large pot holes - e-mail to Highways Inspector:

Could you arrange for inspection and attention to the following complaint received. Lay By about 150 metres off junction of A4059 after Ystradfellte sign has very large pot holes preventing use. Reply from Inspector: I inspected the area and it looks to be an unofficial passing area, I will however have a gang to attend and put some plainings in and compact.

- Litter pick kits; Keep Wales Tidy - Keep Wales Tidy are setting up Litter-picking Hubs right across Wales. There are seven in Powys, including in Brecon Library (Y Gaer) and in Ystradgynlais Library. For a complete list please see <https://www.keepwalestidy.cymru/litter-picking-hubs>. Anyone - including schools, businesses, organisations and individual volunteers – can borrow kit and get rubbish and recycling bags free of charge for one-off clean ups. We just ask that they return the kit promptly afterwards and give some quick details about where they worked and what litter they collected. Do please encourage potential borrowers! The kit will be available continuously - but we'd be particularly pleased if some groups would like to book kit online to do a Spring Clean Cymru clean-up between 20 March and 13 April <https://www.keepwalestidy.cymru/spring-clean-cymru>. The Executive Officer advised that the Community Council would be setting up a hub at Hirwaun Village Hall.

- Arcway deep erosion to path after flooding - Just after the entrance north of Penderyn Whisky there is a long and deep rut of surface that has been washed away including the recent work to lay stones on the path. This has been reported to National Parks for attention.

- Arcway trees branches and growth across river behind Penderyn Whisky - There is an accumulation of growth/branches across the river directly behind Penderyn Whisky. There is also section where trees have been blown down across the river further upstream with the danger of being washed down and creating a blockage behind Penderyn Whisky. This has been reported to National Parks for attention.

- Dropped Kerb bottom of Church Road, Penderyn - This has been completed with favourable responses.

- Penderyn Community Centre Pot Holes - There are two large pot holes at the entrance to the Penderyn Community Centre car park. I have notified the Highway Inspector and also asked whether they are attended by RCT or the Community Council. Cllr Thomas was advised that the Community Council is not responsible for the Community Centre.

- Rose Row Application (Caravan) - This was refused at Planning Committee for Highway Safety reasons.

- Storm Dennis (Statement issue 25th February) - The current position in terms of impact is:

We estimate 650 residential properties have been affected and we have visited 568, at least once. The Storm Dennis Hardship Grant has encouraged more flooded families to come forward, and these

individuals will be visited as soon as possible; Over 100 families have been rehoused, some temporarily and others have accepted more permanent accommodation; Over 500 businesses have been flooded and we have visited 347 of these businesses. 75% of the businesses on Treforest Industrial Estate have been flooded; 9 bridges have been closed, 3 of which are of significant value to our economy and day two day movement. We have inspected 199 bridges with 38 remaining to be inspected shortly; 7 river walls have collapsed; 43 Cat C and D tips are being inspected and should be complete by Monday 2nd March 2020 by specialist geotechnical engineers from Capita. All 9 Cat D tips (THE HIGHEST RISK TIPS) have been inspected and 3 Cat C Tips inspected as of Monday 24th February 2020. 5 teams of specialist engineers employed. Significant works ongoing within the County Borough unblocking and cleaning culverts, surface water sewers, drainage inlets, involving numerous contractors, plant hire companies and internal resources. Riverside Day Centre and Treforest Learning Curve are closed due to flood damage. Pontypridd Lido and Ynysangharad Park have been badly hit and we estimate that over 600 tonnes of waste material will have to be removed. In terms of the Council's response to support residents and businesses back on their feet: On Monday, we issued the first of the £500 Hardship Grant payments and we will continue to do so for the rest of the week. Information is available on the website, with the dates and venues for the distribution of the grant is on the link below - half way down the page:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/EmergenciesSafetyandCrime/Floodingassistance.aspx>

The Recovery Board met today and agreed to set aside an allocation of £800k to develop a grant scheme to support residents and businesses with no insurance to renovate their properties. This funding has been sourced from the reprioritisation of existing grant schemes. More information will be available in the next few days.

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Newsroom/PressReleases/2020/February/FurtherSupportAnnouncedforFamiliesHitbyStormDennis.aspx>

Those families that have been flooded with school age children have also received an additional payment of £100 per child for school uniform; 83 children in families that have moved to alternative accommodation have had home to school transport provided; and the children in families that have been flooded will be eligible for free school meals for the next four weeks.

Hardship grant applications for businesses are now being received and £1,000 will be paid to these businesses shortly. We are currently working with Welsh Government to support their administration of their proposed grant schemes to residents and businesses. Once this is clear, further information will be posted on the website. The Council working with food suppliers, supermarkets and community groups has launched a food appeal. Further information is set out below.

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Newsroom/PressReleases/2020/February/CouncilLaunchesLargestEverFoodDonationAppeal.aspx>

Update: Concessions have been made in terms Non Domestic Rate support for businesses affected by flooding. This will take the form of a 3 month credit. Estimated cost at £1M to £1.25M supported by the Welsh Government scheme, Emergency Financial Assistance Scheme. (EFAS).

Cllrs reported the following to CBC Thomas:

Cllr Margaret Amos reported i) that the dropped curb on Bryn Onnen has moss on it making it slippery, ii) black bags have been dumped outside the church gates.

Cllr Debbie Smart reported that the church wall outside the Red Lion is falling down. The Executive Officer referred to an email received from the Church of Wales last year.

Action 2 – Executive Officer to forward this to Cllr Smart, and to ask the church for an update. Cllr Thomas also agreed to make enquires.

2020/053 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 13th February 2020 were, subject to a minor amendment, proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Jenny Edwards and seconded by Cllr Debbie Smart and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2020/054 – Tower Community Liaison Meeting

The Executive Officer advised that an email had been sent but no response had been received. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to contact Tower again to ask when the next Community Liaison and Environmental Resource Centre meetings are.

2020/055 – Rose Row Planning Application

The Executive Officer confirmed that comments had been received from Cllrs and submitted to RCT.

2020/056 – Access Improvements Hirwaun

Cllr Richard Jones advised that this was ongoing.

2020/057 – Hirwaun YMCA Access Issues

Cllr Richard Jones advised that this was ongoing.

2020/058 – Waterfalls Meeting

Cllr Debbie Smart updated Cllrs on the date set for the residents meeting on Wednesday 25th March at The Lamb Hotel, Penderyn.

2020/059 – Parking Issues Tower Road

Cllr Richard Jones advised that this was ongoing.

2020/060 – Grit Bin Richmond Drive

The Executive Officer advised that an email had been sent to RCT but no response had been received. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to chase.

2020/061 – VE Day Speaker at Schools

The Executive Officer confirmed that both primary schools are interested in us arranging for a speaker to attend the schools. Cllr Adrian Harford confirmed that he is looking for a speaker to attend.

2020/062 – Royal Glamorgan Hospital

The Executive Officer confirmed that the press release had been issued and a letter had been sent to the Health Board.

2020/063 – Easter Eggs for Schools

The Executive Officer confirmed that these had been purchased.

2020/064 – Kids Seed Bomb Event

An update was provided on the organising of this event.

2020/065 – Flower Baskets

Cllr Colin Woodley confirmed that the brackets for the baskets had been safety checked and advised on how many replacements were needed. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to order replacements.

2020/066 – River Clean Up

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs that the South Wales Community Mountain Rangers wish to work with us on a river clean up in Hirwaun. Information was provided on safety issues. Cllrs agreed to take this forward for a date in June. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to organise this.

2020/067 – Spring Clean Litter Pick

The Executive Officer provided an update on the organising of this event. Cllrs agreed to carry out litter picks at Penderyn Road and the Welfare Ground.

2020/068 - Planning Applications

- Rear extension and front porch – 29 High St, Hirwaun
- Variation of condition 2 (18/0749/10) change of house type to plot 9 – Land off Penderyn Rd, Hirwaun
- Erection of decking to rear garden (retrospective) – 4 Harris St, Hirwaun
- Change of use and conversion of property from residential (C3) to a takeaway food outlet (A3) – 70c High St, Hirwaun

2020/069 - Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Jenny Edwards asked if new rubbish bins at the entrances to the Village Green could be added to the Wishlist. It was agreed to ask RCT to install them. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to email RCT.

Cllr Adrian Harford updated Cllrs on the issue of dogs barking at night and the burning of rubbish on the old Ferraris site.

Cllr Richard Jones informed the meeting that he was unable to attend the recent PACT meeting. He asked that the Executive Officer contact the PCSO each month to request a report.

2020/070 - Reports from Subcommittees

Butterfly Friendly Mural – The Executive Officer provided an update on this project, including any grant funding options available, the plants chosen to be planted and RCT's permissions. The Executive Officer confirmed that both schools wished to get involved by submitting drawings from the children to be incorporated into the mural design. It was advised that Cllrs Claire Matsell and Morien Morgan were contacting local artists.

VE Day Memorial – Cllrs Colin Woodley and Richard Jones updated Cllrs following a meeting with the Legion and the Vicar. It was advised that we would like to secure a Piper to conclude the ceremony. It was agreed that authority to approve the cost would be delegated to Cllrs Woodley and Jones. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to continue with this.

VE Day Tea Dance – Cllr Colin Woodley provided Cllrs with an update in relation to the band booked for the event. Cllrs approved the cost of Bridgend Swing Band attending. The Executive Officer updated Cllrs in respect of the donations being made to the event.

2020/071 – Friendly Bench

The Executive Officer informed Cllrs of a request made by a resident to install a friendly bench in Hirwaun. Cllrs agreed to add this to the wishlist for next year.

2020/072 – Community Cllr Facebook Accounts

Cllr Richard Jones updated Cllrs on his request. The Executive Officer advised Cllrs on the advice received from One Voice Wales. Cllrs raised concerns in relation to this. It was agreed that Cllr Richard Jones would look into this further, along with Cllrs Adrian Harford, Jenny Edwards and Marguerite Courtney-Solbach and report back further in due course. **Action 9** – Cllr Richard Jones to continue with this.

2020/073 – Cross Party Statement Royal Glamorgan Hospital

The Executive Officer advised that Council had been asked to sign the cross party statement “The Campaign for Safe Emergency Care across Cwm Taf Morgannwg”. Cllrs agreed that the Community Council would sign this. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to arrange for this to be signed.

2020/074 – Hirwaun Cllr Vacancy

Cllrs discussed and approved the applicant for the Hirwaun Cllr Vacancy.

2020/075 – Community Cllr Allowances

- The payment of £150 per year to each Cllr – Cllrs opted out of this allowance.
- The payment of £500 per year to up to 5 Cllrs in a Senior Role – Cllrs rejected this allowance.
- The Reimbursement to Cllrs for travel costs for attending approved duties – Cllrs approved this allowance for delegated council business only.
- Reimbursement to Cllrs for subsistence where a duty requires an overnight stay – Cllrs approved this allowance for delegated council business only.
- Compensation for financial loss – Cllrs approved this allowance for delegated council business only.
- Reimbursement of the cost of care – Cllrs approved this allowance for delegated council business only.
- Chair Honoraria – Cllrs rejected this allowance.
- Vice Chair Honoraria – Cllrs rejected this allowance.

2020/076 – One Voice Wales Membership

Cllrs agreed to renew this membership.

2020/077 – Community Council Insurance Policy

Cllrs agreed to renew this policy.

2020/078 – Community Council adoption of the Penderyn War Memorial Ceremony

Cllr Debbie Smart updated Cllrs on the dedication of the War Memorial in Penderyn. Cllrs agreed that the Community Council would adopt this ceremony, and the Remembrance Day ceremonies to be held there. It was agreed that Cllr Debbie Smart would organise this ceremony in conjunction with the Executive Officer and Penderyn Historical Society.

2020/079 – Website Accessibility Standards

Cllrs approved the cost of Vision ICT updating the website in line with these standards.

2020/080 – Community Council Events

Walking Festival – Cllrs discussed this event and agreed to run it in September. **Action 11** – Cllr Jenny Edwards to contact the Ramblers.

Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom – Cllrs agreed this year's categories for this competition.

Action 12 – Executive Officer to continue with this.

2020/081 – Executive Officer's report

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

Print Partnership - £19.64 Daisy Communications - £76.46

Siemens - £171.46 One Voice Wales - £778.00

Vision ICT - £102.00

Consultations: None received

The Council had received the following correspondence:

1. Coronavirus update from SLCC in relation to staff pay – Cllrs agreed the conditions of the Caretaker/Relief Caretaker's pay in this instance. Cllrs asked what cover we have for the Village Hall and any loss of revenue it may have as a result of this outbreak. **Action 13** – Executive Officer to contact the insurers.
2. Coronavirus update from NALC advice in relation to council meetings and the law as it stands in relation to them.
3. Coronavirus update RCT's Staying Well at Work team - in relation to staffing matters.

Other:

1. Waterfall Country newsletter

2. Keep Wales Tidy Litter Picking Hub – It was advised that the Chair gave approval for the Community Council to be set up as a litter picking hub as there was a short deadline. We will be allocated a kit which will be available for local groups to book out to do their own litter picks. Cllrs were happy with this going ahead.
3. Refill Hirwaun and Penderyn – The Executive Officer provided an update on this scheme. The scheme aims to reduce the use of plastic and the littering of plastic bottles. We had been advised that there is already someone setting this up in Hirwaun but Refill Cymru have contacted them to ask if they would work together with the Community Council to take this forward. Cllrs agreed to take this forward and to work with the person trying to set it up. **Action 14** – Executive Officer to take this forward.
4. The Executive Officer updated newer Cllrs on our status as a Tree Charter branch. Cllrs were advised on the next Tree Charter Day and options to receive further trees. Cllrs agreed that they could not take this forward due to the timescales involved.
5. Centenary Fields – The Executive Officer updated newer Cllrs on the Centenary Fields project that we had been undertaking since 2016. An update was provided in relation to the many issues relating to Yr Eithin which has still not completed despite the deadline being extended on numerous occasions. These issues relate to issues at RCT and with Penderyn Community Centre who are the landlords of the land. We have now been advised that there is a very real risk that this final deadline, which cannot be extended, will not be met. This would mean that Yr Eithin would not be protected as a Centenary Field, and as such, the signage to all 5 entrances on Yr Eithin, which the Community Council paid for, would have to be removed. Cllrs raised their concerns to these delays and the deadline not being met. They agreed that if the deadline was not met, a complaint would be submitted to RCT. Concerns were also raised in relation to the cost of the memorial bench at Yr Eithin which was also paid for by the Community Council as part of the Centenary Fields process.

2020/082 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

None.

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