

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 14th May 2020

Present: Cllr Colin Woodley (Chair), Cllr Richard Jones (Vice Chair), Cllr Deborah Smart, Cllr Morien Morgan, Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Cllr Jenny Edwards, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Jenny Myring, Cllr Claire Matsell, Cllr Lynwen Law, Cllr Carol Hindley

Attending: n/a

Apologies: None

Cllr Colin Woodley commenced the meeting by welcoming Cllr Carol Hindley to the Community Council.

He then updated Cllrs on the advice received from Welsh Government on their new legislation which dictates how we proceed during the COVID crisis. Cllrs were reminded that the Local Authorities (Coronavirus)(Meetings)(Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force on 22nd April 2020 which allowed Community Council meetings to be held online, and that prior to this legislation coming into force it would have been unlawful for us to do so. Cllrs were reminded that we are a statutory body which has to follow legislation in how we proceed.

Cllr Woodley advised Cllrs that all communications must go to the Executive Officer who is the Proper Officer to the Council. Cllrs were reminded of how the agenda is set, and basic housekeeping on how our online meetings would proceed was advised of. Discussions took place on how these have been implemented and adhered to by Cllrs.

2020/083- Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of personal interest.

2020/084 - PCSO report

The PCSO provided the following written report:

At the moment due to the current situation myself and my neighbourhood team are mainly responding to calls about Covid breaches throughout the Cynon Valley. Over the last two weekends, especially with the nice weather there has been many breaches where people are not following the government guidelines. We are patrolling and responding to try and prevent this, to help protect the NHS and ultimately save lives.

We have also been seeing an increase in grass fires in Penderyn and Rhigos and are working with South Wales Fire and Rescue patrolling the areas to try and deter deliberate grass fire setting.

Cllr Morien Morgan asked what the nature of the breaches and if we could aid the police in any way in minimising them. **Action 1** – Executive Officer to contact the PCSO.

2020/085 - CBC reports

CBC Karen Morgan provided the following written report:

- Storm Dennis update - I have continued to chase grants from RCT CBC which were overdue to residents affected by the floods. Dwr Cymru will commence reinstatement of a permanent sewerage pipe structure in the River Cynon at Llys Cynon on May 11th. I have asked Natural Resource Wales to liaise with Dwr Cymru regarding the site because of residents' concerns.
- Covid-19 - Since March 20th we have had a fantastic team of 23 volunteers in place who delivered calling cards throughout the village offering support to those residents needing to self-isolate. [Many thanks to APC Printers for printing the cards so quickly]. Volunteers are supporting residents with shopping, collecting prescriptions and by keeping in touch by phone. The system is working very well with volunteers providing support within their own geographical area as far as possible. I am also very aware that many residents are being well supported by families, friends and neighbours to enable them to stay home and stay safe. Both pharmacies also give my contact number to residents who need prescriptions collected. I also liaise with a volunteer on Hirwaun Road who kindly collects any prescription requests for Penywaun Ward. We secured grant funding of £500 which is being used to top up supplies at the food bank in Ramoth. Hirwaun Community Events have kindly loaned 2 gazebos for use by the Covid 19 Staff Testing Units at Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB. I have received a few concerns about firms continuing to work during lock down, namely Tower and the new school site. Both firms have assured the authority that they are abiding by safe working/social distancing guidelines.
- Fly-tipping, litter and dog mess - Unfortunately there has been a marked increase in all of the above over the last 6 weeks. All incidents brought to my attention have been reported to RCT.
- Bryngelli Industrial Estate - I have been liaising with Cllr Adrian Hartford regarding burning of waste materials and other pollution concerns. Planning Enforcement and Public Health are currently investigating the situation on site.

Cllrs reported the following to CBC Morgan:

Cllr Jenny Edwards reported the following:

- An issue with a fence at the Ironworks causing safety concerns.
- Is it correct that Richmond Drive is to be adopted / tar sealed?

CBC Graham Thomas provided the following written report:

- Church Stone Wall - The March meeting requested information regarding assistance with renovating the Church border stone wall. The following response has been received from Brecon Beacons National Park:

Reply from National Park - We are aware that the state of repair of the wall is an issue and our Senior Heritage Officer has been liaising with the Church in terms of their intentions. Unfortunately, we don't have any financial resources to offer aid, but the landowner or the community council may be able to approach the Heritage Lottery or Cadw in this regard. Alternatively, there is always our SDF (Sustainable Development Fund) fund if a community group could get together to apply for funds, with the permission of the landowner of course.

Also, there is a current planning application to refurbish the wall as follows - 20/18562/LBC

- Shop/Café - There is also an application via Penderyn Community Centre to set up a Café/Shop facility, Number 20/18311/FUL

- Covid - 19 useful contacts - I hope that you are all keeping safe and well during the current Coronavirus restriction. The following are useful contact numbers and links. My contact details - 07805037406/graham.p.thomas@rctcbc.gov.uk

Due to restrictions following the outbreak of Coronavirus, Advice Surgeries will be cancelled until further notice to comply with advice on social distancing. However, I can be contacted by telephone or e-mail at the above contact details to deal with issues and enquiries. Service provision is also limited to essential/emergency service provision. You may also contact RCT Council contact centre on 01443 425001. Coronavirus helpline 01443 425020 or via website.

www.rctcbc.gov.uk/publichealthrct (Community/Schools/Business)

www.rctcbc.gov.uk or www.rctcbc.gov.uk/contactus

Emergency out of hours Tel. 01443 425011

Emergency out of hours Adult & Children Social Services 01443 743665

Other useful websites, as advice may change on a day to day basis:

www.gov.wales/coronavirus and www.gov.uk/coronavirus

The above contact details will provide information for residents requiring assistance with isolation and also those wishing to volunteer. You will note contact details will also provide information on schools and business support.

We can all work together to reduce the impact of Coronavirus if we follow the guidelines. Most importantly keep safe and keep well.

There were no matters to report to CBC Thomas.

2020/086 - Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 12th March 2020 were proposed to be true and accurate by Cllr Jenny Edwards and seconded by Cllr Morien Morgan and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2020/087 - Tower Community Liaison Meeting

The Executive Officer advised that an email had again been sent but no response had been received. It was accepted that there would be no meetings at the moment due to COVID-19.

2020/088 – Grit Bin Richmond Drive

The Executive Officer advised that an email had been sent to RCT but all non-essential services have been suspended due to COVID-19.

2020/089 – Flower Baskets

The Executive Officer confirmed that the replacement brackets had been delivered. It was also advised that the flower baskets were due to be delivered, and that our contractor had confirmed that he is able to install and water them.

2020/090 – River Clean Up/Litter Pick

The Executive Officer confirmed that this has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

2020/091 – Litter bins at the entrances to the Village Green

The Executive Officer advised that these had been requested but RCT has suspended all non-essential works due to COVID-19.

2020/092 – Butterfly Mural

The Executive Officer advised that Walters Ltd have agreed to fund the cost of this project. It was also advised that we have been successful in our application to Keep Wales Tidy for a Local Places for Nature starter pack. An update was provided in relation to the starter pack and when we could possibly start this part of the project in line with COVID-19 restrictions. **Action 2** – Executive Officer to continue to monitor this and report back to Cllrs in due course.

2020/093 – VE Day Memorial Ceremony

The Executive Officer confirmed that this was cancelled due to COVID-19.

2020/094 – Cllr Facebook Accounts

This has been postponed due to COVID-19.

2020/095 – Royal Glamorgan Cross Party Statement

The Executive Officer advised that i) Mick Antoniw AM is coordinating the cross party statement and he has confirmed that HPCC will be added to the statement ii) Vaughan Gethin AM has written to us acknowledging our motion to oppose the proposed closure of the emergency services at Royal Glam and advising that the proposal have been put on hold due to COVID-19 iii) a letter has been received from the Chief Executive Of Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board noting our comments and advising that they will be taking into consideration as part of the engagement process.

2020/096 -Walking Festival

Cllrs agreed that a decision would be made in the July meeting as to whether or not this would go ahead this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

2020/097 – Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom

The Executive Officer advised that this is being advertised but it may not be able to go ahead in the current format due to COVID-19 restrictions. Cllrs agreed to continue with the competition as it is for now, and review it closer to the time based on advice at that time. An alternative format was decided upon as a backup.

2020/98 – Coronavirus insurance cover for the Village Hall

The Executive Officer confirmed that the Village Hall insurance policy does not cover loss of earnings due to COVID-19.

2020/099 – Refil Cymru

The Executive Officer advised that the legal agreement had been signed to take forward Refil Hirwaun & Penderyn. The launch of this would be delayed until all end of year business has been completed.

2020/100 - Planning Applications

- Replacement dwelling – Garth Madryn, Church Road, Penderyn - planning application refused
- Change of Use to improve facilities at Community Centre and provide Café/Shop – Penderyn Community Centre, Penderyn - Cllrs raised concerns about potential road traffic and parking issues. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to raise comments.
- Proposed dismantling and rebuilding of distressed sections of churchyard wall and rebuild to match existing but true and vertical, rebuild collapsed sections and reduce ground level inside churchyard where possible – St Cynogs Church, Penderyn – Cllrs raised concerns about the health and safety risks of the current wall. **Action 4** – Executive Officer to forward comments of support, and to ask for the timescales for the works to be carried out.
- Application for the discharge of Condition 8 of Planning Permission 13/0466/15 (allowed at appeal APP/L6940/A/14/2212351) to provide a revised restoration scheme to that previously approved under Discharge of Condition Consent 17/0525) (Amended description 10 April 2019)(Additional information received 29/4/20) – Tower Colliery Railhead, Rhigos Mountain Road, Rhigos. – Cllrs agreed to support this application, **Action 5** – Executive Officer to forward comments of support.

2020/101 – External Audit 2019/2020

Cllrs reviewed the accounts and the internal auditor's report and agreed to approve the annual return. This was proposed by Cllr Lynwen Law, seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos and agreed nem con. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to submit the accounts to the external auditor for review.

2020/102 – Old Fire Station, Hirwaun – Hirwaun Garden Society

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs that the Garden Society had made a request to change the roof on the smaller building to Perspex at their own cost and advised Cllrs on the terms of the lease. Cllr Morien Morgan advised that the Garden Society were already the tenants of the building when the Community Council bought it from the

County Council in 1982. Cllrs agreed that the Garden Society could replace the roof at their cost.

2020/103 - Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Colin Woodley advised Cllrs that their reports should be urgent matters only and those relating to COVID-19. He continued that our Facebook pages and website have been updated with information that will help our residents during this crisis. Any enquiries from the public have been referred to the relevant bodies. Based on the positive feedback received on the Facebook posts, our residents need the morale improving posts just as much as the more serious ones. He asked can we do anything more for our community?

Cllr Morien Morgan raised concerns that more could be done, and Cllrs supported this. Suggestions were made to add to the Facebook page and website. An update was provided by The Executive Officer on the work carried out so far. Cllrs wished to thank Vikki Howells MS for assisting us with advice in relation to the new Coronavirus act. **Action 7** – Executive Officer to write to Vikki Howells MS. It was then agreed that a special meeting would be held to specifically discuss how the Community Council could support its residents.

2020/104 - Executive Officer's report

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

April:

Print Partnership - £10.42 Daisy Communications - £75.84

May:

Daisy Communications - £71.81 British Legion - £18.50
Information Commissioner's Office - £40.00 Internal Auditor - £450.00

Consultations: None received

The Council had received the following correspondence:

- Review of Electoral Arrangements of the County Borough of RCT.
- Resident concerns over commercial tyres being buried on the river bed at Llys Cynon. The Executive Officer confirmed that CBC Karen Morgan was aware of this issue and has referred the information on for investigation. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to forward the email to Cllrs for their information.
- Resident concerns over smell and noise pollution coming from Hanson's Quarry, which have intensified during lockdown. The Executive Officer confirmed that CBC Graham Thomas was aware of this issue and has confirmed that the complaints have been referred to RCT Environmental Health, along with BBNP for investigation.

Other:

- Waterfall Country newsletter.
- An update was provided in relation to the Community Council's inability to apply to the furlough scheme for its caretaking staff.
- Local Government and Elections (Wales) (Bill).

2020/105 - Urgent items at the Chair's discretion

None.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.36pm.

Agreed