

Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Agreed Minutes of Meeting 10th September 2020

Present: Cllr Colin Woodley (Chair), Cllr Richard Jones (Vice Chair), Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, Cllr Jenny Edwards, Cllr Margaret Amos, Cllr Ceri Woodley, Cllr Jenny Myring, Cllr Lynwen Law, Cllr Adrian Harford,

Attending: n/a

Apologies: Cllr Carol Hindley, Cllr Claire Matsell, Cllr Morien Morgan, Cllr Debbie Smart

2020/148- Disclosures of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of personal interest.

2020/149 - PCSO report

The PCSO's provided the following written report:

- There has been 1 Commercial Burglary in the Industrial Estate.
- Drugs – Cannabis Factory found in Hirwaun which is an ongoing investigation. Intelligence will continue to be submitted by officers regarding drugs in the area.
- Antisocial behaviour - Big problem in the Co-op food stores at the moment with shoplifting and antisocial behaviour. PCSO has been working alongside staff at the store to deliver banning letters to several persons involved.
- Speeding – Speeding along Brecon Road and outside Denbeigh court. Go Safe mobile speed enforcement vehicle was in position on Brecon Road, Hirwaun and Chapel Road, Penderyn last week. We do not receive any data regarding breaches of speed limits, these are collated by the Speed Enforcement Team and central ticket office. We have also been speaking with local councillor and RCT highways regarding the speeding by Denbeigh Court.
- 1 Report received of stolen sheep from the Penderyn area. Local farming community encouraged to report via 101 or online.
- PACT meetings are currently suspended until the new year along with mini police in the local schools. We are hoping to get back up and running in 2021.

Cllr Adrian Harford advised Cllrs that he had been liaising with the PCSO in relation to the Ferrari's site and drug dealing in Fairview.

Cllr Margaret Amos advised Cllrs of a near miss traffic incident in Penderyn. **Action 1** – Executive Officer to refer the issue back to the PCSO.

2020/150 – County Borough Cllr reports

CBC Karen Morgan provided the following written report:

Much of my time during the last few months has been spent dealing with numerous issues needing enforcement interventions. Some of these are sensitive and/or subject to ongoing investigation and as such cannot at this time be shared in the public domain. I have been working closely with our local

police, Trivallis, Community Safety, NRW and RCT enforcement regarding these issues. Those that can be shared include:

-Bryngelli Industrial Estate – Progress is being made with various issues on the estate, an officer is now coordinating all relevant authorities to ensure the correct planning consent is in place, correct disposal of waste and safe working practices. Thanks to Community Cllr Adrian Hartford for his timely reports and working with me.

-Mount Pleasant Chapel, Harris St – the building has deteriorated again and is attracting youths. RCT are contacting the owner again.

-Tower Opencast – (Information from NRW which is now on the public register) - NRW on 6th January 2020 issued Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulation (EPR) 2016 Regulation 36(5) notice on Tower Regeneration Limited to comply with their conditions on two of the permitted discharges; Western Overflow and North Lagoon (known as Snakey Pond). Evidence is currently being provided to satisfy the EPR Reg 36(5) notice on Western Overflow as route of discharge has now been removed. However, due to failure to comply with the North Lagoon notice within the deadline, continued failure to comply with the permit conditions and detriment to the River Cynon catchment, we have served additional enforcement notices on the site as of 1st July 2020. A waste notice was also served on Tower Regeneration Limited.

These notices are: EPR 2016 Regulation 36(5) on the North Lagoon Permit AN0314801. Actions required from date of notice: i) Cease all operations at Tower Regeneration Limited that contribute to the breach of permit condition 1(a), ii) During periods of dry weather, lagoons are to be emptied by tanker or other means in order to cease further risk of pollution from Tower Regeneration Limited. All waste removed from Tower Regeneration Limited must be by use of a registered waste carrier. Follow Duty of Care procedures and retain the Waste Transfer Note for your records. Copy of Waste Transfer Note to be forwarded to NRW, iii) Ensure that all drainage and lagoon systems connected to AN0314801 provide adequate attenuation and treatment. Treatment measures to include flocculation and use of silt mats as appropriate.

Water Resources Act 1991 Section 161A Notice to Carry out Anti-Pollution Works. Actions required: i) Carry out investigations into: cause and route of polluting matter, namely silts, that enter the River Cynon and what works would be required to prevent future polluting matter from entering the River Cynon. ii) Provide NRW with results of above investigations and details of work required to prevent environmental impact from operations at Tower Regeneration Limited. iii) Implement steps (as agreed with NRW) so that the operations at Tower Regeneration Limited no longer contribute to the detriment of the River Cynon. Only agreed works relating to pollution prevention can be carried out. Environment Act 1990 Section 59 Notice. i) We have been dealing with and investigating a number of deposits of whole tyres and tyres bales that have taken place on land owned by Tower Regeneration Limited. ii) Following this investigation, on 3 September 2019, we served a Section 59 Notice on Tower Regeneration Limited requiring them to remove a number of tyres by 31 December 2019 and for them to provide us with appropriate paperwork for their removal from site. iii) On 24 January 2020, we undertook a site visit and observed that the Notice had not been complied with, in that the tyres had not been removed from site. iv) In response to the non-compliance with the Notice, Tower Regeneration Limited have been issued with a court summons to attend a first hearing at Merthyr Tydfil Magistrates Court on 2 September 2020.

-Hirwaun Primary School – I attended a site meeting with residents and the project officers to discuss concerns raised about dust and the boundary fencing of the new school. The school is very close to the back gardens and there is a risk of overlooking nearby houses. The residents were concerned for the children and themselves. The project lead agreed to discuss fencing improvements with the contractor, to ensure the water bowser on site is used and to arrange for windows to be cleaned.

-Enviroparks – I have been contacted by many residents expressing their objection to the proposal for a 90m stack. A very active action group has been formed called Valley For Tourism Not Trash. Enviroparks have yet to submit the formal planning application.

-Speeding – Continuing problems at Denbeigh Court and Brecon Rd. Speed Reduction Officers have attended both areas and our local police plan to undertake speed scoping exercises. I will continue to press for speed reduction measures. The streetlight which was damaged in the crash at Denbeigh Court has now been replaced.

-Broken fence Cefndon Field reported.

-Cynon Gateway North Scheme – Public consultation is due to start 14 October 2020, I have been assured that the bypass road will not jeopardise the plans to reinstate passenger trains to Hirwaun. The plans have had to accommodate the train line including ensuring height allowance for possible electrification of the line.

-Waste Collection – I have received numerous complaints over the last few weeks about missed black bins and food bins. The service has a high level of sickness at the moment and are using more agency staff than usual, hopefully will resolve soon.

-School Transport – I am making representations on behalf of parents regarding the decision not to be able to purchase seats on buses this year due to social distancing guidelines. There are real concerns that this may affect attendance at school especially for younger pupils who have to walk to Rhydywaun.

-Covid 19 – Cllrs will be aware that there is a very real risk of local lockdowns being imposed for RCT due to a worrying increase in cases, particularly in the lower Rhondda area. RCT have begun inspecting businesses and this week improvement notices have been served on 6 supermarkets, 1 of which is in the Cynon Valley. The supermarket has 48hrs to comply with the actions required to avoid further enforcement/closure.

There were no comments on CBC Morgan's report and no matters to report to her.

CBC Graham Thomas provided the following written report:

- Speeding Lorries A4059 - Reply from PCSO: I will pass this to the team. Residents can report any vehicle observations via Operation Snap website, such as speeding abnormal loads, illegal parking, dangerous driving, they can upload photographs or dash camera footage and specific vehicle information. The information then gets collated and sent to the Go Safe enforcement team, who conduct speeding operations. Or it can be sent to the Roads Policing departments of the relevant police force. Then any other information will be passed to the Neighbourhood policing teams for their information and action. It's a great resource available to us, however for those that don't have access to the internet they can still report via 101. More than happy to have a chat with Hanson. Reply from Traffic Management: I refer to your recent e-mail regarding the above and note that the complaint has been sent to South Wales Police for enforcement of the existing speed limit. We will monitor the situation, hopefully police enforcement will resolve the matter.
- Bryn Onnen dog bin collection - Reported to Streetcare reply: I've spoken to the team leader this morning and he's informed me that this happened a few weeks back and it was a mis-communication between the operator working in that area that day and himself, he has spoken to the operator and the issue has now been resolved.
- Penderyn School Alarms - I have sent an email to Penderyn Quarry requesting reimbursement of £100. School contact details were included.
- Parking in the vicinity of the Lamb junction - This has been reported to the PCSO who has attended the area.
- Repair to hole in Bridge to Arcway at Pontpren - Hole has been repaired. Also followed up on erosion to path surface from winter storms that was first reported to National Parks in March.
- Road repair outside Penderyn Quarry/W D Lewis - This has been completed.
- Resurfacing of Chapel Road from Junction to and through Bus Terminus (including section to Dolgynog) - This has been completed with a major improvement taking out deep ruts and correcting damaged/dropped camber.
- Water course under bridge at bus terminus/Chapel Road - This has been cleared of blockage.
- Litter through Cwm Cadlan to Merthyr Boundary - Reported and to be cleared second week of September
- Penderyn Quarry - Ongoing contact with National Parks; Carmarthenshire CC and RCT regarding issues including Dust; Noise; Odour; Blasting; Lorry speed. Working with residents; MP; AM. Responded to Twyn Y Glog Reserves Ridge Swap consultation highlighting need for clear and

precise conditions to address the above and other matters. Questioned the delay since April 2019. Highlighted the current working of Twyn Y Glog Ridge. Questioned the 9 year delay in ROMP. Liaising Committee to be re-established.

- Enviroparks - I have sent a letter of objection to the consultation including the following. Now awaiting planning application. - Adverse visual impact/character (including from BBNP), Impact on the health and well-being of residents, Unacceptable impact on the well-being of future generations. The cumulative impact, Number of heavy vehicles/pollution/highway damage, Health of children attending three primary schools, Reservoir in close proximity, also areas of habitat for delicate species, Disincentive to new businesses requiring clean environment.

There were no comments on CBC Thomas's report and no matters to report to him.

2020/151 – Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Meeting of 9th July 2020 were proposed to be true and accurate, by Cllr Jenny Edwards and seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos and agreed nem con.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of 7th August 2020 were proposed to be true and accurate, by Cllr Richard Jones and seconded by Cllr Lynwen Law and agreed nem con.

Matters arising from the previous meeting:

2020/152– Flood Issues – Tower Colliery

The Executive Officer advised that Cllr Morien Morgan was due to liaise with CBC Graham Thomas on this matter.

2020/153 – Small Acts of Kindness

The Executive Officer advised that there was a small amount of funding left, and Cllrs agreed on how this would be spent. **Action 2** – Executive Officer to deal with this.

2020/154 – Seed Bomb Event

The Executive Officer provided Cllrs with an update on this event.

2020/155 – Virtual Garden Show

The Executive Officer provided Cllrs with an update on this event.

2020/156 – Recycling/Rubbish Issues Hirwaun

The Executive Officer advised that this matter had been reported to RCT along with the street names/areas affected.

2020/157 – Litter/Dog Waste Bins Hirwaun

The Executive Officer advised that another email had been sent to RCT requesting additional bins. A response has been received that they are dealing with Covid priorities. The Executive Officer made Cllrs aware of an email received from a resident also requesting more bins. **Action 3** – Executive Officer to forward the resident's email onto RCT.

2020/158 – Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom Competition

The Executive Officer provided Cllrs with an update on this competition.

2020/159 - Planning Applications

August planning applications – No comments from Cllrs:

- Change of use to improve facilities to Community Centre and provide café/shop
- Demolition of an existing single storey rear extension and the construction of a two-storey rear and side extension to include integrated garage – Soar Chapel House, Chapel Rd, Penderyn
- 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

September Planning applications – No comments from Cllrs:

- Renewal of planning to demolition of existing bungalow and build a new two storey dwelling – The Dell, Croes Buchan Rd, Llwydcoed – planning application withdrawn
- The rising of the ridge height, construction of rear dormer and insertion of rooflights – 11 Woodland Park, Penderyn
- Demolition of an existing single storey rear extension and the construction of a two-storey rear and side extension to include integrated garage – Soar Chapel House, Chapel Rd, Penderyn – application withdrawn
- First floor rear extension with alterations – 1 Pontpren, Penderyn – permission granted
- Proposed single domestic garage to side of dwelling – 69 Llwyn Onn, Penderyn – permission granted

2020/160 – Butterfly Mural

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on mural design of which they had been provided copies. Cllrs discussed the design and agreed that the design wasn't to the specification that they had set. Cllr Jenny Edwards proposed that another artist be commissioned to paint the mural. This was seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos, and voted in with 8 votes in favour and 1 vote against.

Cllr Ceri Woodley temporarily left the room at 7.25pm.

Cllr Margaret Amos proposed that Tee2Sugars be selected to paint the mural. This was seconded by Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach, and voted in with 7 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

Action 4 – Executive Officer to contact the original artist to inform him of the decision, and to contact the new artist to take this project forward.

Discussion on this project continued with Cllrs deciding to plant the butterfly friendly plants around the toilets themselves and for the Executive Officer to order the new benches. **Action 5** – Executive Officer to order the new benches.

Cllr Ceri Woodley returned to the meeting at 7.31pm.

2020/161 – Penderyn Planters Project

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs that Groundwork Wales had additional funding to expand this project. Cllrs discussed the options available and decided to install more planters, plant trees and box in the litter bins. **Action 6** – Executive Officer to take this forward.

2020/162 – Community Council Newsletter

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs in relation to funding remaining for this. Cllrs discussed what should be included and agreed that Cllr Richard Jones would take this forward in conjunction with the Executive Officer. **Action 7** – Executive Officer and Cllr Jones to continue with this.

2020/163 -Garden Society request to demolish an outbuilding at the Old Fire Station

The Executive Officer advised Cllrs of the Garden Society's request to demolish the outbuilding at the Old Fire Station and replace it with a poly tunnel. Cllr Colin Woodley advised Cllrs on the asbestos implications based on a previous asbestos report for the building, and confirmed that the building is no longer fit for purpose and is in a bad state of repair. Cllrs agreed that the Garden Society could demolish and dispose of the outbuilding, and install a poly tunnel at their own expense. This was proposed by Cllr Richard Jones, seconded by Cllr Jenny Edwards and agreed nem con.

2020/164 - Community Councillors reports:

Cllr Margaret Amos reported that the stile in Penderyn was still broken. **Action 8** – Executive Officer to chase the repair.

Cllr Jenny Edwards stated that more dog waste and litter bins were needed, along with litter picking groups to clear litter locally. She also advised that the new planter by the toilets needed topping up with soil.

Cllr Adrian Harford suggested that Cllrs have high vis vests identifying them as Cllrs for council events. **Action 9** - Executive Officer to investigate the cost of this.

Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach reported that a resident had informed her that if you sit on the bench by the bus stop at Hirwaun toilets, you can't see the bus coming. **Action 10** – Executive Officer to pass this information on to RCT.

2020/165 – Executive Officer's report

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

Print Partnership - £0.35

Daisy Communications - £75.48

British Legion - £37.00

Consultations:

None received

The Council had received the following correspondence:

- RCT email advising that the CIL return is due.
- Letter received from the External Auditors raising queries. The Executive Officer advised that these were in the process of being answered.
- Welsh Government – updated orders for Heads of the Valleys dualling.
- Letter from Julie James MS advising that now that meetings are being held remotely, Cllrs will lose their place if they do not attend meetings for 6 months. She also advised that WG are looking into whether or not key elements of the Coronavirus regulations can be transferred into the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill.
- One Voice Wales Best Practice Guide on Community Engagement.
- One Voice Wales online training sessions for Cllrs plus a bursary available to cover half the cost. Cllrs agreed to carry out this training. **Action 11** – Executive Officer to circulate the training dates and book Cllrs onto the course.
- One Voice Wales Area Committee Meeting
- Centenary Fields – Yr Eithin – The Executive Officer confirmed that the deed has now been signed with RCT and is now with Fields in Trust to finalise.
- Letter from Vikki Howells MS re Enviroparks.
- SLCC have advised that The Local Government Association is in the process of drafting a new model Code of Conduct for Cllrs. This will seek to address Cllrs conduct generally in public life, plus Cllrs lack of respect to council officers. The consultation on this only applied in England but SLCC will be working with One Voice Wales and the Ombudsman for Wales to tackle this issue.
- Email from resident in relation to litter in Hirwaun – This was originally sent to CBC Karen Morgan, cc'ing Vikki Howells MS before Vikki Howells MS forwarded it on to us.

Other:

- Cllr Christine Chandler has submitted her resignation as Hirwaun Cllr. **Action 12** – Executive Officer to inform RCT who will start the process to advertise the vacancy.
- Excess speeding through Penderyn – email from resident received just after July meeting. The Executive Officer advised that it was referred straight to Graham and the PCSO.

- Bird feeders – The Executive Officer advised that we have 2 bird feeders and 2 large sacks of wild bird seed from the Keep Wales Tidy butterfly pack which we are unable to install by the toilets. Cllrs agreed to donate these to the schools. **Action 13** – Cllrs Margaret Amos and Adrian Harford to take these to the schools.
- Bird boxes – The Executive Officer provided an update in relation to the build your own bird boxes given to us by Keep Wales Tidy. Cllrs agreed that they would deliver these to our residents. **Action 14** – Executive Officer to deal with this in conjunction with Cllrs.
- The Executive Officer advised on the planting costs to replace the dead copper birch by Hirwaun toilets.
- The Executive Officer advised that the schools are due to be contacted about this year’s Christmas painting competition 2020.

2020/166– Staff Pay Award 2020/21

The Executive Officer updated Cllrs on the advice received from One Voice Wales in relation to the staff pay award. The Executive Officer then handed over to the Chair and left the meeting whilst this discussion took place. Cllrs discussed the information received and agreed to approve the pay award for this year. This was proposed by Cllr Ceri Woodley. Seconded by Cllr Margaret Amos and agreed nem con.

2020/167 - Urgent items at the Chair’s discretion

There were no urgent items to discuss.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.23pm.