

Cyngor Cymuned
Rhigos

Community Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Rhigos Community council

Held at Rhigos Community Centre

Monday 14 April 2025 at 6:45

Present: -

Cllrs- P.Oliver (Chair) M.G.Evans (Vice chair) , H.Wagner, S.Oliver , E.Thomas, O.Morgan, M.Smith, A.Tobin, D.Burford.

County Cllr K.Morgan

County Cllr A.Rogers

Clerk Alison Williams

Apologies: - Cllr Carys Simons

Ask a question by a member of the public

- a. MP update request re previous question on Parish Road.

County Councillor K Morgan has spoken with RCT Council on Monday 7th April.They are regularly following up with NPTCC and told that they are still waiting on a response from the barrister. They are expecting the report very soon and will be very detailed. Planning department have also been copied in to the conversations about this and are also chasing up NPT on a regular basis.

- b. GM asked why the Community Council in Rhigos paid for Easter eggs for the children in Hirwaun school and how much was given .Rhigos children are now pupils in Hirwaun School. Once they walked through the door of the school they should be treated the same. There was also concern about some siblings having an Easter egg and not the other siblings in an older class.

The Community Council were asked to contribute along with Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Councils to Easter eggs for the nursery class and contributed £14.85. This was discussed over email by the Community Council and while there were objections it was agreed by the majority. There was concern that the children would miss out if this was not supported and the Community Council were backed into a corner not knowing what to do for the best. The Community Council was asked only for monies for the nursery children as Penderyn and Hirwaun Community Councils were paying towards those children living in their areas.

Action

The Clerk was asked to write to Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council to ask why Rhigos Community Council were asked for money when the Rhigos children are now in the same school.

N.B A representative of the PTA for Hirwaun and Penderyn who was attending the meeting later explained that the Community Councils fund the eggs for the nursery classes and the PTA fund the Easter eggs for the older children and every one of the older children should have had one. She agreed to check that this was the case.

- c. KM asked about the pre planning application for the battery storage at Mount Road and if another meeting could be arranged with Lighthouse who are the agents.

There were residents in Smiths Avenue and Mount Road who would have attended the meeting in March but they did not have leaflets through the door. The Community Council did publish notice on the website and Rhigos chat but some residents do not access social media. RCT could have put more notices up and all Mount Road and Smiths Avenue should have letters. There was one poster on a lamp post but it was on a non-pedestrian side of the road where no one could see it. A lot of residents had no idea what it was about and any impact it may have on them and their homes. The person in charge of the event has apologised and has agreed that they will come back out.

Declaration of interest

Councillors Morgan and Evans in relation to pre application battery storage at Mount Road.

MP added that when attending the meeting the people in charge didn't seem to know what they were talking about and they could not answer key questions. They clearly think that residents will be a walkover. Why can't it go on the Industrial estate instead of in a residential area?

A Residents group has been formed and they will produce a flyer making sure it is factual and distributed to all. It is a village issue and if there is a fire who would be evacuated? The fire service has been contacted to enquire as to what would happen if there was to be a fire at this site. The community need to know what would happen if there was an explosion. Would all of Rhigos be evacuated? These places can burn for days causing metal contamination. If there is a fire and South Wales Fire must have a plan in place and a fire risk assessment is needed. What happens if there is a grass fire? There is only one fire engine in Hirwaun and this is part time only. These battery storage can also be quite noisy as they have cooling fans. This is not helpful to those who have noise sensitivity. At 100 meters noise will carry and all the traffic will be entering via Mount road. The site will not be monitored and will only have CCTV. Residents are concerned they will have a precedent here and then link them up to others in the area.

County Councillor Morgan noted that this was a pre planning application and consultation which can be useful in consulting with residents. It can often be used to smooth out any issues before planning is applied for and they will find out what the objections are in order to have their mitigations ready when these questions are asked of them at planning stage. RCT could also have objections of their own. Now the group is galvanising professional assessments these need to be confidential to the group initially.

Objections had to be registered by 1st April and all have been sent. It will also cross NPT boundary but they had no objections and have approved it.

Action

Clerk will liaise with Lighthouse and KM about another consultation meeting. Country Cllrs Morgan and Rogers will attend the next group meeting.

- d. MD asked about the lack of benches in Rhigos as they have in Penderyn and Hirwaun.

It seems that everything is being taken from the village and it is "going downhill and is completely run down". In Hirwaun there are plants at the bus stop and benches while Rhigos had the drug rehabilitation centre when it was refused for Penywaun and a residential home for naughty children.

Funds for the benches were donated by Walters Group and the Community Council is in discussion with them about benches for Rhigos which they have agreed. County Cllr Rogers explained that Hirwaun had been grant funded before they ran out of monies and there will be more grants available. The plants are cared for by volunteers. The reason the rehabilitation unit was not placed in Penywaun was because of the local drug issues that already exist there.

Action

The Clerk will contact Walters Group to ask when the benches will be delivered.

- e. MD asked about finance and what was sitting in Rhigos funds

The accounts for the Community Council are available online and can be viewed as given on the notice that is published every year. Monies from Solar have been spent on providing the park equipment at Heol y Bryn. The Croesfordd charity account is available for use by the community.

It was noted that the Christmas tree was provided by FVC every year following a request to them by Councillor M.Evans. They were unable to do this in 2024 because they were clearing up after Storm Bert and flat out on the project. The Clerk did look into having a tree delivered but the cost was £1,200 and it would only have been in place for a week or so. The lights that Glynneath put up cost thousands of pounds a year. Rhigos precept is too small to be able to justify this expense. The Council are looking at alternatives for this year.

Action

The Clerk will look back to see how the Croesfordd and Solar fund has been spent to date.

- f. GM asked about having more minutes around the village as not everyone is able or wishes to access the Community Council webpage or social media.

A suggestion was made that maybe there could be some volunteers in the village who would update residents in their area of news items and meetings etc. AC a resident volunteered for Smiths Avenue.

Action

Clerk to post a notice on Rhigos chat and the Council website asking for volunteers to disseminate news, vacancies and minutes etc. Also put the minutes in the shop and the New Inn pub and to continue to advertise any Community Council Vacancies on Rhigos chat and the website.

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held Monday 10th March 2025

It was resolved to confirm the minutes.

2025/1 Matters Arising

- a. Clerk to contact PSE to check that they return the bins to the toilet cubicles.
- b. 24.124 Should read Jenkins not Jenkis

2025/2 Planning Applications

None to note

2025/3 County Borough Council matters

Flooding

There have been no updates on the flooding other than a hole was dug. There is a yellow warning tomorrow. Please can the Community Council have an update.

It was resolved that the following matters be passed on to County Councillors Rogers and Morgan for their attention.

RCT Road repairs

RCT have had monies for road repairs and will be repairing Walters road at 16th Avenue. The main road from Rhigos to Hirwaun has been put forward but will not be done this year. This is however more of a priority than the estate and Community Council asked that this be discussed and to find out when it will be done. There will be another drive round this week.

- a. There have been complaints about the bus stop as there is no sign and the bus is not stopping. This is a result of the bus route changing so that it now goes both ways around the village. The signage needs to be added onto the left side of the road.
- b. The side entrance at no 41 Heol Esgyn which is land owned by the Electricity Board is being blocked by a horse box and car. The property is a Trevallis house. This will be an issue if the electricity board need access. Please can the resident be contacted> Also please can Trevallis do a walk around of their properties as there are gardens that are full of refuse /furniture and there have been complaints about vermin. These properties are bringing the area down.
- c. There are no dog bins on the industrial estate at 5th Avenue.
- d. The kerbs where the pavement ends at Heol Gwynt at the bridle path is coming away from the pavement. The gate is also upside down on the bridle path, the rubbish is still there as well as the glass.

- e. The line markings at the roundabout Rhigos side, under the underpass where the road sign is broken, are wearing away and cannot be seen. The sign is still broken and the bump in the road on Rhigos Mountain has not been flattened out properly.
- f. There is a lot of rubbish going down the bypass and it is filthy. It has not been cleaned for months. It has been shut at night and could have been done then.
- g. When is the closed lane at Glynneath slip road being reopened?
- h. There is work going on at The Bryn and drains have been lifted. Residents should have had a letter.
- i. The paths from Tower to H Price still need cleaning and the community council has been asking for months about repairs to the potholes by H Price.
- j. The paths all around the village down to Hirwaun need to be cleaned and now the tarmac underneath may be damaged?
- k. The gutter at the old farm Shands entrance is blocked and needs cleaning,
- l. The speed bump at the old post office, Pendarren farm, Pendarren House and bungalow are marked up the wrong way for the traffic. It needs marking on both sides as cars are coming on the wrong side because of the parked cars.
- m. The two trees for which what3words was provided have still not been cut back.
- n. There needs to be lane signage on the roundabout coming from Penderyn to Rhigos as people are not driving in the correct lane. Can they be marked for left and right east and west?

2025/4 Rhigos Cemetery

- a. Clerk to contact James Richards funeral directors about the ground which appears to have been dug up?

2025/6 Correspondence

- a. All email correspondence was received.

2025/7 Rhigos Allotments

- a. All fourteen plots have been taken with three left to pay. All have signed a 2025 rules contract.

2025/8 Accounts

- a. Council resolved that Clerk will send in a motion to One Voice Wales about reducing the scale of the audits for smaller Community Councils

2025/9 Member's Verbal Reports

- a. Council resolved to plant more trees (during the planting season) to mark the 80th Anniversary on VE day.
- b. Council resolved that the carnival committee have the community centre for the Easter Disco on 21 April 2025.Refreshments will be available to purchase.
- c. Good news in that Cllr Evans has obtained a lottery grant of £15,000 in order to improve the energy efficiency of the community centre.
- d. The film night with Beth Winter, The coal beneath our feet and the wind above our heads, will take place on 6th May 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the community centre.Rhigos school children have a small part as do two children from Rhydywaun school. Cllr Evans will ask about tea and coffee.

2025/10 Any Other Business

- a. Charges will be reviewed in May's meeting.
- b. There is assistance available from RCT in relation to IT ,spare equipment and remote meetings and County Cllr K Morgan will take up this offer.

Date of next meeting

Monday 12th May 2025 at 6:45pm Rhigos Community Centre

Signed

Date

Councillor Pat Oliver