Cyngorcynon Cymuned
Rhigos

Community Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Rhigos Community council

Held at Rhigos Community Centre

Monday 12th October 2026 at 6:45pm

Present: -

Cllrs- P.Oliver (Chair), M. Evans (Vice Chair), E.Thomas, O.Morgan, A.Tobin, C.Williams, , H. Wagner, E.Jones

County Cllr - A.Rogers

Clerk – Alison Williams

Apologies:-

Cllrs.- M.Smith, C.Hopes

County Cllr. - K.Morgan,

Introductions

Introductions were made and apologies given.

Declaration of interest

None

Ask a question by a member of the public

Question one

What can the Community Council do about the bin collections during the very hot summer weeks? Can they be increased? There have been bin bags infested with maggots which is unfair on the refuse collectors. They have also refused to take bags because of the weight but as an older resident, they could pick up the bag so why couldn't they?

Response

The Community Council are not responsible for the refuse collections but residents can contact RCTCBC on their website. County Cllr. Rogers who was present at the meeting added that he has already had some discussions with RCTCBC about this because of the recent changes to three weekly collections. The Leader of the Council has said that she is happy with the collections as they are but he is able to pass on any comments/ complaints to the Council on behalf of residents. Also, there is no weight restriction on the bags it is the individual's choice if they feel it is too heavy to pick up. Residents can also, if they feel it is warranted e.g. because they have disabilities, are elderly, or have animals, ask for an additional fourth bag at no additional cost. There are cleaning facilities for the collectors on board the refuse vehicle and they can also ask the street care department to attend if they feel it is necessary to wash down the pavement etc.

Question Two

A walking group of residents have found that many of the footpaths are no longer accessible and there has been a particular issue at Tramway where a gate has been put up blocking the right of way.

Response

The Community Council are in ongoing discussion with RCTCBCCBC about the matter of Tramway and the Officer responsible has visited the site and has also agreed to clear footpaths as necessary.

Question three

Please can residents have an update on the response from the Ombudsman in realtion to Parish Road.

Response

The Ombudsman responded to the complaint in that they could not take this matter further until a formal complaint had been made to RCTCBCCBC. This was done and their response has been that as NPTCBC were the Local Authority that passed the planning application, the complaint would need to go to them. The Clerk has done this. Once the first response has been received and there is/ if there is no resolution then we ask to take the complaint to the second stage. If that response is not satisfactory, than the Ombudsmen will investigate.

County Cllr. Rogers added that two Senedd members from RCTCBC have agreed to meet with Senedd members for NPT on site. RCTCBC are backing the reopening of the Parish Road. Every time NPT are contacted about this they are saying they are obtaining legal advice and not responding further. We need to know what the legal advice is and hopefully the response to the complaint will shed some light on this. If not then it will be a matter for the Ombudsman.

Question four

Resident has rude signs sprayed on her wall and there are other signs sprayed on the pavements such as a shamrock in green paint and the street signs are also being defaced. Can anything be done about this? The PSSO did discuss this at coffee morning as residents want to keep the village looking it best.

Response

County Cllr. Rogers informed the residents that the best course of action would be to contact RCTCBCCBC via its online website as they have a cleaning department and machinery that would clear up the graffiti. It is also useful to upload a picture to include with the complaint. It is classed as vandalism/anti-social behaviour and so residents can contact the police is 101. The more reports the better.

Question five

Benches were requested some time ago by the Community Council to Walters LTD. What is happening with these?

Response

Funding has been received from Walters LTD for two benches and these will be installed shortly. Application has been made to RCTCBC and the Highways officer was happy with

where the benches will be placed following advice from them on where they can and cannot be placed. They will also construct the bases. One in the small park opposite the Community Centre and one between the shop and Cwm Hwnt where the verge widens and there is a view across to the mountains. This is a good site for those walking around the village to stop, rest and take in the view. It will be set back from the road and have the required vision splay.

Residents in attendance added that they would prefer a bench be placed near to the bus stop. However, RCTCBC advised against that because of possible objections to encouraging young people to congregate near to their properties. There is not enough room at the side of the bus stop.

Question six

If a bench cannot be placed at the bus stop can the bus stops have seats as it is difficult for elderly and residents with mobility issues to stand waiting for the bus? Buses are also turning up late and children going to school are getting wet. The school was shut but no provision made for the children waiting in the morning or crossing the road to get the bus. There is no sign to say children crossing. There are three different buses picking children up and lots of cars dropping off .They need to be safe but they are being put at risk with current inadequate arrangements for school transport.

Response

County Cllr. Rogers will take comments back to school transport.

Question seven

The grass and hedges are not being cut and there are hedges and trees hanging over pavements. There is one large hedge in the village that has been cut by Trevallis and the not cut properly. The mess was also left.

Response

The grass and tree cutting has been reported on numerous occasions over the last 12 months by the Community Council via County Cllr. Rogers. A representative from Trevallis attended a Community Council Meeting earlier in the year following a walk around and was going to come back to update the meeting on progress regarding their houses in the village.This has not happened. Any houses with rubbish etc. in the gardens should be reported to Trevallis or RCTCBC online depending on whether they are private ownerships, private rentals or Trevallis rentals. This will get a much quicker response if there are more complaints from a number of residents as well as the one complaint from the Community Council.

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held Monday 10th August 2026

County Borough Council matters point H should read the horse step.

It was resolved to confirm the minutes.

2026/82 Matters Arising

None to note

2026/83 Planning Applications

a. Lleoliad / Location Land North Of Tan-y-Bryn Bungalow, Heol-Y-Bryn, Rhigos, AberdareCF44 9DJ

2026/84 County Borough Council matters

Previously reported**.** Please can Adam confirm if these have been addressed as they have been ongloing for some time with no resolution.

a. Again potholes that were reported were marked in yellow and some have been filled but not all and not to a very good standard. Mount road to Parish road is dreadful and there is no logic as to how they have been done. Some have just had tarmac dropped in the hole and some are already coming out and need filling again. The state of the roads is appalling.
b. A concern has been raised several times about the land slippage opposite the bus stop. Still no resolution.- *Update* – RCTCBC officers have visited the site and are arranging to have a guard rail erected. They said they would be on site on 5th October but they have not been there.
c. The three lane road that comes up to the main Rhigos roundabout is still not finished. When will this be done? It is the only piece of the duelling not completed.
d. Again, the drainage along Glynneath bank that was undertaken has been ruined by recent cabling works. The chippings are there but are contaminated with muck and the land drain no longer exists. This has still not been rectified.
e. The footpath opposite Plasnewydd has still not been cleared and there is a hole in the path.
f. At the top of the Glynneath bank there is a Christmas tree that has come out by the roots and there is an older tree that is coming out across the road. The community council disagree with RCTCBC about where the boundary lies with Neath as this was always at the screw bridge. Please can they check again or contact the Community Council to clarify?
g. The grass has been cut on the Glynneath bank to the official and correct boundary. This is not where the RCTCBC tree surveyors have said the boundary is but agrees with what Rhigos Community Council have said. Can this be checked again please and the trees cut as they are hanging over so much that residents have to walk on the road to avoid the trees.
h. The horse step leading to the bridle path has been taken off and so the bikes are going up and down that way. Please can it be replaced?
i. There is a very large pothole at what3words ///alerting.locked.united
j. There should be a gate on the old Sellar coal haul road and the wooden barrier needs to be put back where the bridle path meets the road.
k. Walters LTD had to remove the 30-40 metres of hedge grow as part of their planning at the exit of Parish road. This is now very overgrown and the vison splay out of the road is non-existent. It was cut back initially but should have been taken out as part of their conditions and moved back to create a verge. They are therefore in breach of their planning condition.
l. There is a tree near to The Plough that has been hit by a tall vehicle and is hanging down.
m. The footpath from the New Inn down towards Hirwaun is covered and needs cleaning.
n. Parking at Pen y banc is getting worst and is causing a hazard for road users and residents exiting Pen y banc.
o. A tree has been cut on the Glynneath bank and the cutting left on the roadside.

p. The hedge at 1 Cwrt Twyn Rhyd is growing out over the pavement.
q. There are racers on Hirwaun Industrial Estate on the weekends near to The Pitt Café.
r. Postage bins at the side of the village shop, please can this be investigated and they be removed along with the refuse that is building up there.

New matters

a. Contrary to what RCTCBC are saying the footpath from the New Inn down towards Hirwaun has not been cleared or cut back. The pavement is really bad and residents now have to walk on the road in places. Parish road is also all overgrown and though grass has been cut nothing else. It is not being cut back hard enough and so a small amount of growth leads to it becoming overgrown quite quickly. Nothing has been done on the Glynneath bank.
b. Young men in cars congregating around Parish road smoking cannabis at 06:00pm. This will be reported to the police as will any other incidents of anti-social or criminal behaviour. The PSSO finish at 05:00pm but will work in the evening if they have enough complaints to justify it.
c. The motorbikes are still racing around the industrial estate nesr to the Pitt Café. This is happening 11:00pm -01:00am Saturday and Sunday and they can be hear in the village. Traffic police need to be investigating . The PSSO could possibly be holding a meeting in Rhigos in January as they will be in Hirwaun in December.This needs to be reported to the police and to RCTCBC online.
d. There are still issues with the school alarm going off. RCTCBC have to keep the alarm for insurance purposes but if the ingress of water is setting it off then any maintenance issues need to be addressed as it is very frustrating for residents.
e. A resident has reported a 70mm pothole to RCTCBC as they hit it with their truck and it damaged the wheel. The Council have tried to say that it is a new pothole that they were not aware of but it was on google maps 28 days prior. He met with an officer and they did a walk about and the officer missed it so it backfired. They are undertaking walk arounds but not picking them up so what is the point of doing them ? They then say that if the pothole has not been repoted previously there is no claim to make. It is frustrating and clear they are not doing their rounds properly .
f. The bus stops around the village that are on the Glynneath to Rhigos route are not marked. One lady resident was waiting at the stop and the bus driver was very rude and said that would be the last time he was stopping at that place it not a bus stop. However the bus always stopped at Cwrt Bryn Isaf. RCTCBC need to look at this and put posts where the stop exists particularly for elderly and disabled residents. County Cllr. Rogers has posted a notice to ask if anyone objects to a bus stop post being raised there and he has had no objections. The bus companies are private at this time bit in 2028 RCTCBC will be taking over. A complaint can also be made to Stagecoach and residents can E-mail County Cllr. Adams.
g. At the bottom of Heol Y Graig opposite number 3 there is a green substation box on the right hand side. They have gained access via the fence and not put it back securely. It will keep nobody away from the box. The RCTCBC Officer agreed it was shoddy but they cannot repair it. Cllr. Oliver will have to look to see if there is a number on it for the Clerk to contact the owners (Possibly SSE) to return and replace.
h. Request for a litter pick please from Heol Y Graig to Hirwaun.
i. County Cllr. Adams had met with the Senedd members following the announcement about a possible train link between Aberdare and Hirwaun Industrial Estate with a station at Llwydcoed.There will be drop in sessions at Michael Sobell sports centre on 14th October and Hirwaun Village Hall on 20th October. Country Councillors Morgan

and Adams will also hold a joint meeting and assist residents in commenting if they so wish.

2026/85 Cemetery

a. Cllr. Jones will arrange for a third company to quote for the trees in the cemetery.

2026/86 Correspondence

a. All email correspondence passed to Council. No questions raised.
b. Letter from resident relinquishing grazing licence accepted. Clerk to write to them and include photographs of items left on the property that need to be removed.
c. Request from resident to continue with rental of the field at the roundabout. This was agreed at the current rental rate for the year to October 2027.
d. Rhigos RFC application for a grant towards their Centenary rugby shirts. Agreed to grant amount of £250.00 .
e. Request to include defibrillator map on Community Council Webpage. This was agreed and Clerk will also add the link to Rhigos chat and Community Council Facebook page.

2026/87 Rhigos allotments

a. None to discuss

2026/88 Accounts

a. It was agreed that the Clerk transfer funds from the current account to the Field.Account.

2026/89 Member's Verbal Reports

a. The heating is cutting out because the connection via WIFI to the Hive App is losing its link. The Clerk will check the contract for the WIFI and obtain quotes if it is nearing the end of its term.
b. Cllr. Morgan spoke about the parking opposite the New Inn on the bend and also along Pen y banc. It is going to cause an accident and needs to be addressed by RCTCBC. They are aware of the issue and were going to address this as part of the change in speed limits but that has now been completed. The Clerk will write a formal letter to them on behalf of the Community Council C/O DK Highways Officer. It would also be useful to have a letter of complaint from the residents of Pen y Banc along with any photographic evidence not already provided to County Cllr. Adams.
c. Previously reported growth at Parish Road is being viewed by an Ofiicer of RCTCBC but the issue in Previous matters item k. above has not been addressed.

2026/90 Any Other Business

a. Precept – To be discussed at Novenber meeting.

Date of next meeting

Monday 9th November 2026 at 6:45pm Rhigos Community Centre.

Signed Date

Councillor Pat Oliver