

**Cyngor Cymuned
Rhigos
Community Council**

Clerk: Mrs Susan Harvey Powell
Llwynfedwen Farm, Hepste, Penderyn, Aberdare, CF44 9QA
Tel: 01685 813201
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Dear Sir/Madam

You are summoned to attend the ordinary meeting of the Rhigos Community Council to be held at the Rhigos Community Centre on Monday 8th April 2019 at 6.45 p.m. to transact the following business.

Dated this day 31st March 2019

1. Apologies
2. To confirm minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on the 11th March 2019
3. Matters Arising
4. Planning Applications
5. County Borough Council Matters
6. Correspondence
7. Rhigos Allotments
8. Rhigos Signs
9. Accounts
10. Members Verbal Reports

Yours sincerely
Susan Harvey Powell
Clerk

To The Chairman and all members of Rhigos Community Council

Rhigos Community Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Rhigos Community Council held at Rhigos Community Centre on Monday 11th March 2019 at 6.45 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. P Oliver, H Wagner, G Thomas, M Smith, M Evans, O Morgan
C Hopes, S Maull, Mrs C Dixon

Apologies: Cllr. L Leach

2019/21 Minutes

It was resolved to confirm Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 11th March 2019

2019/22 Declaration of Interest

None recorded

2019/23 Matters Arising

- a. Bike Track Cwm Hwnt - nothing to report
- b. Tower water diversion – no reply
- c. New Surgery Bus Service – Cath Dixon attended the meeting on behalf of the Patient Participation Group from Glynneath surgery to discuss the bus service to the new surgery. Mrs Dixon had been told by the surgery that the Rhigos bus would go as far as Resolven. Cllr. Thomas and Evans told her that nothing has been finalised regarding the bus service. She asked if the community council would drop her an email so that she can inform the surgery.
- d. Cemetery Railings – the work has been inspected but there are some problems that need addressing. Cllr. Morgan will liaise with the contractors.

2019/24 Planning

It was resolved to note:

No planning received

2019/25 County Borough Council Matters

It was resolved that the following complaints be passed on to Councillor G Thomas for his attention.

- a. **Collapsed Pipe/Culvert.**

I have been dealing with this subject fully during this period of operation and for months going back to Storm Callum.

1. I have taken up with SWTRA (South Wales Trunk Road Agency), from March 1st, the totally inadequate signage that should indicate the dates and times, via yellow diversion signing, at strategic locations. I further requested the such signs be placed at the main junctions to Rhigos Road from the Rhigos population centre. These should advise that traffic emerging from main junctions such as Heol Y Graig; Halt Road and Mount Road divert West along the old Glyneath Bank rather than travel east to the A465 roundabout and double back. While this would still be inconvenient it would be better than the arrangement provided. These signs were not set in place.
 2. I have further taken the issue up with RCT Council, albeit that they are not responsible for or carrying out the work. RCT has been in contact expressing their view about the inadequacy of operations by SWTRA.
 3. I have spoken to the Assembly Members Office as SWTRA work on behalf of Welsh Government who have responsibility for the major trunk roads in Wales.
 4. Midweek , Wednesday, during heavy rain and actual closure of the road, I spoke to the Leader of the Council to complain not just about the closure but the fact that there appeared to be no work being carried out at the location. I stated that while there was heavy rainfall causing further problem during that period, emergency arrangements should be put in place to work 24 hours a day to address the inevitable delay in the works. From that conversation it appears that inadequate pumping mechanisms had been put in place to displace the flooding. Further from this conversation the Leader made an emergency Executive statement at the 5pm Council meeting that RCT Council would issue a legal notice on SWTRA if improvements were not secured. I have been informed that the legal notice has been issued (I am informed that it is unprecedented for RCT to issue a legal notice on SWTRA).
 5. I have just been informed, that the work will be extended up to and including Friday 15th March. I have further requested that the appropriate signs be placed in Rhigos to indicate the new timetable and diversion west along the old Glyneath Bank. Also that works be carried out over the weekend to minimise duration of the extended works.
 6. The above just covers the current works. Going back as far as Storm Callum last year, when flooding occurred, on the A4061 Rhigos Road and the A465, I contacted Tower Opencast; RCT and SWTRA/Welsh Government to establish causes. I questioned whether there was a combination of factors. E,g. Excessive run off of water from the Tower site; adequacy of drainage from Tower, efficiency of highway culverts including pipes under the highway under the A4061 Rhigos Road and under the A465.\
- Tower's position was that it was a "once in a 60 year storm" and systems were unable to cope with the storm. I stated that, if only due to climate change, it would not be a once in a 60 year event. Events proved that to be correct and a public meeting was arranged by Tower. We were also informed by Tower that the pipes under the highway were of a smaller diameter than those from Tower. My communication with RCT and SWTRA called for joint working to address any capacity issues.
- RCT carried out extensive culvert clearance following that request, that you will have observed on Rhigos Road just prior to the A465 roundabout.
7. I have been informed that due to the problems of last week, including weather delays that the works will continue for another week.

Today Sunday 10th of March I have been in further contact with SWTRA to inform them that they have not updated their website and the information is as of last week. They have assured me that this will be corrected tomorrow. I have again stressed the need for road signs at the junctions of Heol Esgyn; Mount Road and Halt Road to both inform of the dates/duration of the works and to direct West along the old Glyneath Bank and complained that this did not take place from my earlier request.

During the course of that conversation I sought assurances that the current works will not only correct the collapsed pipe but provide adequate drainage to avoid the numerous occasions on which the highway has flooded in recent months. The reply has been that the engineer is confident that this will be the case but that Tower need to undertake attenuation works in tandem with current operations.

I have further sent an e-mail to the Assembly Member's office regarding the view of Welsh Government on the inadequate performance of operations at this site.

- b. Recycling bags are available from the mobile library every 3 weeks on Tuesday afternoons.
- c. A branch is hanging off a tree on the Glynneath and is in danger of falling off onto the road.
- d. The fence in the gully at Cwrt Twyn Rhyd needs repairing.
- e. There has been a complaint about cars speeding along the main road.
- f. Residents have been complaining about time and fuel used regarding the road closure at Hirwaun roundabout.
- g. Buses are parking in the layby at the bottom of the Glynneath bank.
- h. A road sweeper is needed around the village.
- i. The Foel road needs repairing and resurfacing.
- j. There is rubbish in the garden of a Trivallis house and rats have been seen there.
- k. Buses used to come to Rhigos every half hour but this has been changed to every hour.
- l. The light in the bus shelter in Heol y Graig is out.
- m. Lampost no. 1 in Heol y Graig is out.
- n. The lamppost opposite the junction on the main road in Heol y Graig is out.
- o. Recycling is not being picked up in Cwm Isaac.
- p. The culvert is blocked on Pencoedraen road.
- q. A fridge freezer has been dumped on the Foel road.
- r. Halt road into the Industrial estate needs resurfacing.
- s. Rubbish cleared out of the ditch on the main road has been thrown into the community council ground.
- t. There is glass out in the 2 bus shelters on the main road.
- u. Why is part of Rhigos road classed as Hirwaun and not Rhigos.

2019/26**Correspondence**

It was resolved to receive the following correspondence.

- a. Letter from Wales Air Ambulance asking for financial assistance - £25.00 agreed.

2019/27**Rhigos Allotments**

A complaint has been received from a residents of Cwrt Twyn Rhyd about flooding in his garden due to the allotments work. It states that the ground has been raised but no work has been done in that area at present. A meeting will be arranged by Cllr.Morgan and Wagner with the contractors and the allotment society and the resident will be informed.

2019/28**Rhigos Signs**

The plan has been forwarded to the traffic section of RCTCBC

2019/19**Accounts**

Plumbing in community centre – it was agreed to install extra radiators in the toilets and Office 1. It was also agreed to check the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

BT	£114.84
Swalec	£153.40
D A Sullivan	£2400.00
B Gas	£171.25
One Voice Wales	£130.00
Wales Air Ambulance	£25.00
Wages and tax	£412.46

Current Account	£11674.77
High Interest Account	£3812.88
Field Account	£4283.11
Croesffordd Account	£2643.10
Croesffordd High Interest	£2484.16
Croesffordd Treasury	£23,000.00
Selar	£42622.34
Solar Farm Fund	£0.00

2019/29**Members' Verbal Reports**

- a. Could some of the minutes be put in the Crucible. The minutes are displayed in the community centre windows and on the website.
- b. Selar are not taking any more applications for funding.
- c. What is happening with the Tower, a meeting is being held on March 20th 2019.

d. The P.C.S.O. now has a key to the community centre.

e. Can the roundabout be swept in the cemetery.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at Rhigos Community Centre on Monday 8th April 2019 at 6.45 p.m.

SIGNED..... DATE.....
Chairman