

**Cyngor Cymuned  
Rhigos  
Community Council**

Clerk: Mrs Susan Harvey Powell

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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 Remotely on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.00 p.m. to transact the following business.

Dated this day 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

1. Apologies
2. To confirm minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020
3. Matters Arising
4. Planning Applications
5. County Borough Council Matters
6. Correspondence
7. Rhigos Allotments
8. Accounts
9. 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 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. P Oliver, C Hopes, H Wagner, M Evans, G Thomas, A Sukran

Apologies: Cllr. L Leach, O Morgan

Cllr. Oliver welcomed new councillor A Sukran

### 2020/65 Minutes

It was resolved to confirm Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### 2020/66 Re-opening of Community Centre

A meeting was held at the community centre on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September attended by Cllrs. Oliver, Wagner, Evans and Maull. After discussion it was decided due to the Coronavirus regulations the community centre will remain closed until further notice.

### 2020/67 Declaration of Interest

None recorded

### 2020/68 Matters Arising

- a. Bike Track Cwm Hwnt - Nothing to report
- b. Land at Hirwaun Roundabout – Nothing to report
- c. Substation – Nothing to report
- d. Old Parish Road – **Report on 16 July Virtual Meeting.**

I attended the video link meeting with Neath Port Talbot Council as outlined as follow :-

A report was issued prior to the meeting outlining five proposed options.

|   | Responses. | % of responses |
|---|------------|----------------|
| Option 1 (Through Road-Forestry Track).                         | 24.        | 8.89           |
| Option 2 (Bridleway with Car Parks).                            | 73.        | 27.04          |
| Option 3 (Bridleway with Car Park and Link to proposed bridge). | 88.        | 32.59          |
| Option 4 (Through Road with Tarmac finish)                      | 75.        | 27.78          |
| Option 5 (Road not to open in any form).                        | 5.         | 1.85           |
| No clear option.  | 5.         | 1.85           |

Over all adding options 1 and 4 both supporting a through road/track equalled 36.67%.  
While adding options 2 and 3 both supporting a Bridleway equalled 59.63%

There were 270 respondents

180 respondents came from the Neath Port Talbot area.

90 respondents came from The Rhondda Cynon Taf Area.

Respondents from residents of Rhigos . Option 1 (17.98%); Option 2 (-); Option 3 (5.62%); Option 4 (75.28%); Option 5 (-); No clear option (1.12%). Therefore 93.26% of Rhigos residents supported options 1 or 4, a through road, with 75.28% indicating that a tarmac road would be their only option.

Respondents from residents of Cwmgrach. Option 1 (3.64%); Option 2 (41.82%); Option 3 (46.67%); Option 4 (3.03%); Option 5 (2.42%); No clear option (2.42%). Therefore 88.49% of Cwmgrach residents supported options 2 or 3; a Bridleway with Car Parks.

Respondents from residents of Glyneath. Option 1 (13.33%); Option 2 (26.67%); Option 3 (40%); Option 4 (13.33%); Option 5 (6.67%); No clear option (-). Residents from Glyneath also favoured options 2 or 3 at (66.67%).

Overall 59.63% of respondents favoured an option that included a Bridleway with 35.93% preferring a through road (forestry or tarmac) option, with the remainder as either closed road or no clear option.

At the video link meeting. Celtic Energy opened by stating that the through road with tarmac would take all the finance set aside and would leave nothing for amenity and clearly indicated their preferred position as a Bridle way option. I indicated my extreme disappointment at this statement that was made before discussion had started.

During the discussion members from the Neath Port Talbot mainly supported the Bridleway option stating such matters as speeding; fly tipping and drugs abuse as reasons not to have a through road for vehicles.

I made the case for a through road, with a tarmac surface, stating the need for Rhigos Residents to have an alternative route as Rhigos Road has been blocked at both ends with flood and fallen trees. Also included access to the Glyneath Surgery. Also there is the duty to provide equality of access for those who are less mobile and wish to stop and enjoy the attractive countryside in this area. The case was also made that a fund was set aside for the purpose.

Celtic Energy stated that any fund set aside was for the ten year after care programme for the whole restoration and that they estimate that only around £300,000 would be available to be dedicated to any proposal for the road.

At the end of the meeting each of four ward members stated their preferences, all indicated separate preferences for option 1;2; 3; and 4. My preference was obviously option 4.

The bottom line, of course, is that it will be Celtic Energy that make the planning application to Neath Port Talbot Planning Department and it will be an application of their choice. Whatever application they choose will be the only option for determination.

Because of this I am making further enquiries regarding previous consents and variations; level of dedicated funds and what is the dedicated purpose?

Further this determination will be made by delegated decision of Neath Port Talbot officers (in consultation with ward members), unless ‘called in’ to committee by a Neath Port Talbot councillor. In addition to this any ‘call in ‘ would have to be agreed by the chair of planning.

- e. Dangerous trees on Rhigos Road – Cllr. Thomas has investigated who owns the ground and it is the owners of the Industrial Estate

**2020/69**

**Planning**

It was resolved to note:

No planning received

The Tower planning application has been passed.

No application from Enviroparks yet.

**2020/70**

**County Borough Council Matters**

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

- a. The bins at Heol y Graig and near the shop need emptying more often
- b. Rubbish bags have been dumped in the Ffyndaff entrance.
- c. The hedges and footpaths up to the New Inn need cutting back.
- d. The left hand side footpath coming up from Hirwaun needs inspecting.
- e. Cars have been heard on the old parish road in the early hours
- f. The Glynneath bank is breaking up
- g. Food recycling is being emptied by the refuse collectors from food bags into plastic recycling bags.
- h. All bus shelters in the area need cleaning.
- i. The wooden fence opposite the school is broken and the ditch needs cleaning.
- j. Cars are turning into Min Afon, this has been reported to the police.

**2020/71**

**Correspondence**

It was resolved to receive the following correspondence.

No correspondence received

**2020/72****Rhigos Allotments**

Cllr. Wagner will ask Cllr. Smith to spray the paths. Some plots are not being maintained.

**2020/73****Rhigos Signs**

The new sign is ready to be delivered

**2020/74****Accounts**

The clerk's payrise is 2.75% in line with local government.

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| B T (2 invoices)      | £326.60 |
| Zoom                  | £14.39  |
| B Gas                 | £58.57  |
| Swalec                | £255.30 |
| Welsh Water           | £19.72  |
| A Thomas (cemetery)   | £435.00 |
| S H Powell (postages) | £20.16  |
| Wages and tax         | £449.06 |

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Current Account           | £29,594.62 |
| High Interest Account     | £3824.75   |
| Field Account             | £4550.68   |
| Croesffordd Account       | £2829.64   |
| Croesffordd High Interest | £2487.88   |
| Croesffordd Treasury      | £23,000.00 |
| Selar                     | £14,259.91 |

**2020/75**

**Members' Verbal Reports**

- a. A seesaw in the playground has been vandalised. Cllr. Evans has reported it to RCTCBC
- b. A resident has complained about a tree that she thinks is dangerous in the cemetery. We need quotes from some tree surgeons.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held remotely on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

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