

GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor,

Please find attached/below an update of all matters raised at previous meetings which are ongoing issues. If you need clarification on any of the matters attached/below or wish to add to the update, please let Council know at the meeting during Item no 4 on the agenda, otherwise this item can be passed over quickly. Hopefully this will allow the meetings to be shorter and for more time to be spent on other matters, whilst still keeping everyone up to date with matters arising and giving full information in case of resident queries. This was a suggestion arising from the training I attended recently.

I have found out that I am obliged to publish agendas for planning and full council meetings (of which I was not aware, but shall do from next month onwards). This may have the effect of more people attending meetings to observe or wishing to make representation if an item is of interest to them. I am told that this should be encouraged in the spirit of openness and clarity. Therefore I have agreed with the Chair that the agendas will allow for 10-15 minutes at the beginning of each meeting if necessary, for residents to make representation if they wish. We will manage this by allocating only one representative to speak per issue on the agenda and keeping to strict timelines. Council can listen, and discuss the matter as it arises on the agenda.

You will notice on the enclosed/attached agenda I have replaced Matters Arising with Clerk's Report (Item no 4) which will still give the opportunity to discuss any issue on the report if necessary (e.g. for later updates, clarity etc.). I have also deleted Any Other Business. This was pointed out as bad practice as any item discussed should always be properly agenda'd and published prior to the meeting. If you have any issues you would like added to the agenda please try to get them to me by the Wednesday before so I have time to add them and publish in the allotted time. There will always be the odd very urgent matter which cannot wait and of course would be heard on the night if necessary.

This report will need to be published along with the agenda in the notice boards.

Please let me know what you think.

This is a trial, so if anyone is unhappy with this format please let me know.

Additional information to the agenda for the meeting being held on Wednesday 27th July at 7pm at Graig Community Hall Bassaleg.

Clerk's Report – 27th July 2011

(Item No 4 on the agenda)

Viaduct Way Adoption – No decision is expected until around September as things have been held up with the beginning of the development at the new Parc Eglwys site. Clerk to chase again in September.

Rhiwderin Community Centre lease – NCC are currently reviewing their portfolios, a favourable decision is anticipated. Clerk to chase again at the end of August, and once a decision has been given, negotiate for as long a lease as possible in light of the amount of money needing to be spent to upgrade the building.

Riverbank Clean-up – This has begun, the Environment Agency representative has confirmed that a clean-up of the riverbanks will take place in the areas being worked on for the fish pass. Clerk will review at end August.

Forge Road Parking Issue – NCC have not responded to requests to put up signage, but as it was confirmed to go ahead at the last meeting, Clerk has ordered 4 signs ready for installation. Additionally, Clerk met with an NCC Highways representative on 21st July to discuss the placement of planters in the ward and it was agreed that a number of planters could be placed at the bus stop to prevent parking on the verges. The representative is checking the legal aspects of this and will confirm if allowed within the next few days. Clerk hopes to bring news of the decision to the meeting.

Tredegar Roundabout Safety Issues – following the report from Police to NCC regarding their comments and suggestions for making improvements to the junctions on the roundabout, NCC are to review during July and August. Clerk to chase NCC again at the end of August for a decision.

Overhanging Tree Branches in Orchard Close and Associated Wentworth Lane Issue – The Clerk and Cllrs Gregory and Caston met with the Tree Surveyor on 19th July. Also present was Mrs Dixon who owns Wentworth Lane. The Clerk is awaiting the report on the condition of the trees and expects to be able to bring it to the meeting, in readiness for approval to gain quotes to undertake this work in addition to trimming the overhanging branches. It has been agreed with Mr & Mrs Dixon to replace the permissive pathway sign which has been broken – Clerk is in the process of gaining the correct wording for the sign from NCC's legal department and Rights of Way officers before obtaining quotes. Also agreed was for Council to explore the possibility of putting bollards at the top and bottom of the lane to stop vehicle access. With this in mind the Clerk asked the NCC Highways representative to look at the area on 19th July who agreed to take the matter up with her department head, but was of the opinion that it should not be a problem. Again, the Clerk hopes to have this information to bring to the meeting. Clerk has also emailed NCC regarding previous promise to improve culvert at the top of the footpath. **Report received, Clerk to seek quotes for recommendations.**

Larger Waste Bins – The Clerk checked on 21st July, and the bin at the bus stop opposite the Friendly Fox has been replaced by a larger free standing model, and a new free standing bin has been placed opposite St Basil's shops roundabout on the junction between Laurel Road/Drive and Church Crescent. This issue is now resolved and the matter will be taken off future Clerk's reports.

Section 106 money for Pentrepoeth School Fence – The Clerk has emailed the headmistress of Pentrepoeth School, apprised her of the situation regarding section 106 money, and advised her that if she wishes to apply that she must do so from the school as the Community Council is unable to take the matter further. This issue is now resolved to the best of Council's ability and will be taken off future Clerk's reports.

Planters from NCC – The refurbishment of the planters have begun, a company has been employed and the planters have been taken back to the metal and primed ready for painting. The Clerk has supplied the correct colour codes in readiness for the painter to complete. It has been agreed that the planters be painted again in green and yellow as NCC insist, the NCC logo will not be added at this time, but will be added if and when NCC ask for them to be returned. As mentioned above, the Clerk met with a Highways representative and agreed some locations as set out by Council. The representative approved some sites, but needs to check others. Clerk hopes to have confirmation by the meeting.

'Go Slow' Signs for Afon Village – The Police have carried out a survey of the area, the results are not yet available, Clerk will keep chasing. NCC's initial response to zoning side roads to 20mph is that it would be too expensive and budgets are very tight at this time. Clerk has written to Rogerstone Community Council to request support. This issue has been deferred to the August 31st meeting. **Rogerstone Clerk to seek support for extra traffic calming measures on through road in August meeting.**

Scrap Lorries – no response from Police to date, but PC Ladd has been off work for some time and is on a staged return so paperwork must be behind, Clerk to chase again..

Rumble Strip on Forge Road – Clerk emailed City Councillors urging them to help resolve the situation. Cllr Williams has had confirmation that they are awaiting costings to have the job completed, and hope to do so during these school holidays to lessen disruption. Clerk will monitor but chase in September if not carried out.

Christmas Tree Quality Issue – No response yet from Monmouth CC, Clerk to chase.

Caerphilly Close Junction Landscaping Project – At site meeting on 4th July, NCC agreed for plans to go ahead with some slight alterations, architect is drawing up revised plans. On 21st July Clerk was given a list of NCC approved contractors and will seek quotes once new plans are available to submit for accuracy.

Graig Hall – Quotes for replacement windows are being sought, 2 companies are already involved and Clerk is arranging a 3rd as required. **2 Quotes have been received, one more is needed Clerk to agenda for discussion in August.**

Griffin Hedge – Clerk is still chasing NCC Grounds Maintenance team to cut back the hedge. No response to date.

Play Areas – Much of the maintenance has been completed. Clerk had the swing at Fort View/Highfield park removed for safety reasons and will present quotes for replacement at the meeting. A number of residents may attend the meeting to urge replacement of the swing as soon as possible so this item has been pushed to the beginning of the meeting and 15 minutes have been given over for the group to make representation prior to any decisions being made.

Notice boards – The refurbishment of all notice boards was agreed and will take place soon. An additional 2 notice boards have been ordered to service the top of Laurel Road and

Viaduct Way and surrounding area. Clerk has agreed possible locations with the Highways representative on 21st July and hopes to have confirmation before the meeting.

Councillor Vacancy – NCC have confirmed that the new vacancy must be advertised again even though the time since the last advertisement is so short. Clerk has compiled the advertisement and is awaiting approval but hopes to post it to the notice boards on Monday 1st August. Clerk will also contact previous candidates to advise so if still interested they may re-apply. Responses will be on August 31st agenda.

Rhiwderin CC Bookings Clerk – following the retirement of Mrs Thomas, Clerk sent flower arrangement and card from Council expressing gratitude for services to the community and the council. Clerk received a phone call from Mrs Thomas and was asked to pass on her thanks and that she loved the flowers.

Viaduct Way Road Layout – Clerk has emailed NCC Highways expressing concern over the current layout of the access road along Viaduct way, supporting the local resident's objections, and urging a site visit to review in particular, the piece of pavement jutting out on the junction to the new development which forces traffic onto the wrong side of the road. No response has been received as yet.

Adoption of Footpath Opposite Garth Terrace – Clerk has written to NCC Rights of Way officers to request status of this footpath and to set in motion procedure to adopt if not already adopted. No Response to date.

Footpath Opposite Friendly Fox to Pentrepoeth School – Clerk has written to Rights of Way officers to provide maintenance and clean-up. No response to date.

Community Council Logo – deferred to August 31st meeting.

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