

# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Graig Community Hall Bassaleg 7pm 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011

**Apologies for absence:** Cllrs M Smart, K Sayer, D Williams, R Powell, F Northfield.

**Present:** Cllrs R Caston (Chair), A Whitfield, D Evans, P Stokes, K Harries, P John, L Fry, N Mountain, C Williams.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Stokes seconded Cllr Evans.

## **Projects:**

**Bassaleg CC:** The possible date for a decision of whether or not Lottery funding would be granted was discussed. Cllr Evans wanted to be able to make decisions on whether future bookings would be able to be honoured should funding be granted and the hall need to close for refurbishment. .

**Community Council Website:** Ongoing, the site is up and running, Clerk to post the details in the notice boards.

**Priority List:** Work needing to be carried out at the Rhiwderin Hall was discussed. Cllr Williams expressed concern over the amount of work the caretaker was doing and asked if there was a way to lessen the burden on him. Council discussed taking measures to help if necessary, Cllr Williams to meet with the caretaker to discuss the ways in which Council could help if he required assistance.

**Police - NTR**

**City Councillors – NTR**

**Graig CC –** The Graig Hall Management Committee is to hold a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at 7pm.

**Rhiwderin CC –** As above.

**Best Kept Villages Group –** Council received an email from the group requesting that the issue of cars parking on Forge Road and damaging the grass verges was discussed. Council have been looking to find a solution for this problem for some time but as yet have been unable to do so. It was also decided to press on with trying to get a Community Order for probationers to clean-up areas in the villages, in particular the footbridge over the A467. It was also noted that the surface of the bridge was also in need of repair, Clerk to contact NCC to report.

**Bassaleg Allotments –** Clerk to complete a planning application for the proposed extension.

**Play Areas –** Fort View Park – Ongoing. Rhiwderin Play Area – A new license has still not been secured. Clerk to continue chasing.

**Burial Board –** A business plan has been compiled.

## **Items for Next Agenda:**

### **Planning – Discussed at this Meeting:**

CONEX10/1304 – Renovation and extension of tower to create a staircase and toilet facility to create an architectural studio. Site: Sexton's Tower, St Basil's Church, Caerphilly Road Bassaleg, Newport. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections. Council approves of this building being brought back into use providing alterations are within conservation guidelines.

### **Items for Discussion/Action**

Cllrs noted that there had been a number of enthusiastic responses received regarding the Christmas tree lights, and were pleased that residents seemed to approve of the display.

Community Liaison Meeting – Cllr Caston reported that he had attended a meeting to discuss the allocation of Concurrent expenditure. He explained that the way in which it is to be shared amongst the Community Councils is to change in the future, He is part of a small group of representatives from Community Councils who will work together with the NCC Finance Department to determine how best to divide the available allocation pot.

New Councillor – Council decided as there has been no request for an election made to the City Returning Officer, and only one candidate had applied for the post, the Clerk should contact him and invite him to an informal interview at the next planning meeting with a view to co-opting him to the Council should all parties agree.

Viaduct Way adoption – NCC believes that as work is progressing on access roads that there is a possibility that adoption could be completed in May this year.

Rhiwderin Community Centre Lease – Clerk chasing on a monthly basis, as yet no lease is being offered.

Finance & Audit comments to be discussed during a financial meeting to be held after the next planning meeting.

An email was received from NCC Highways Department regarding the concerns raised at the last meeting by Cllr Harries about visibility and speed of traffic on Laurel Road. NCC states that recent surveys carried out determine that at present traffic calming measures are not required, and that other than closing off the road, there is little that can be done to improve the situation as it stands.

**Correspondence for Information - Not discussed**  
**Special Meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011.**

A special meeting was held for the purpose of discussing and setting the precept for 2011/12. After some discussion it was decided that the current precept of £15.50 per Band 'D' residence be maintained. Proposed Cllr Evans, seconded Cllr C Williams and passed unanimously.

**Accounts Approved for Payment**

Clerk salary and expenses for January 2011	£1200.56
C Ricci – Bin cleaning January 2011	£120.00
Mazars – Audit fees	£470.00
Monmouthshire County Council – Christmas Tree	£490.00
M&M – Repairs to Pump House and guttering on Graig CC	£289.05
HMRC – PAYE & NI (9 mths)	£2872.06
Mr Steve Barber – Payment of invoice for tool sheds to claim VAT refund	£599.94

**Receipts**

Newport City Council – 3 <sup>rd</sup> portion of Precept	£13930.00
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**Any Other Business**

It was noted at the Neighbourhood Committee Meeting that NCC are looking at removing trees with oak disease, although some of these trees appear to look reasonably healthy, it will be necessary to fell them. Cllr Fry also requested that it be added to the agenda for May to discuss the refurbishment of the notice boards.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45pm. Confirmed, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2011.

Signed..... Cllr Ray Caston (Chair) – February 2011

Posted to notice boards 28.02.10