

GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Graig Community Hall Bassaleg 7pm 23rd February 2011

Apologies for absence: Cllrs K Sayer, D Williams, R Powell.

Present: Cllrs R Caston (Chair), A Whitfield, D Evans, P Stokes, M Smart, K Harries, M Cornelious, L Fry, N Mountain, C Williams, F Northfield, P Gregory.

Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held 26th January 2010, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Harries seconded Cllr Mountain.

Projects:

Bassaleg CC: Cllr Fry had spoken with the lottery funding organisation again who indicated a decision would be made soon as to whether or not the application for funding is successful.

Community Council Website: The website is up and running, some Councillors details were still needed for their profiles, as were details for the history of Rhiwderin Centre, and timetables for each centre. Clerk to update website as information is obtained.

Priority List: It was decided that works to Rhiwderin Centre should remain on hold until confirmation of a new licence is obtained from NCC. Indications are that a decision should be made during April.

Police - NTR

City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious reported that she was unaware that the blossom trees alongside Caerphilly Road in Bassaleg were going to be felled until it was happening. Council too indicated that there had been no notification of this. All Councillors were unhappy about the loss of the trees as were residents, complaints to the Councillors and Clerk had indicated so. Newport City Homes had the trees felled as they claimed they were interfering with overhead cables and were not very healthy. Cllr Caston spoke of the situation regarding concurrent expenditure, Cllr Whitfield asked that it be put on the agenda for the next meeting as it was an important issue. Cllr Stokes asked that City Councillors support the Councils stance in fighting for a fairer dispersal of funds for all Community Councils. Cllr C Williams asked if the rumble strips on the approach to Tredegar House roundabout are still to be re-laid, Cllr Cornelious confirmed that it should have been addressed in December, but adverse weather prevented works being carried out – she agreed to chase it up. Cllr Cornelious also agreed to address the issue of cars parking on the grass verges on Forge Road with NCC to see if a solution can be found.

Graig CC – As mentioned above, a decision is awaited from the Lottery organisation regarding funding. Cllr Evans reported that financially the Centre is holding its own. The decision to increase the holiday entitlement for employees will have an impact on this.

Rhiwderin CC – Cllr Gregory reported that quotes for the fire alarm system were awaited, and that financially the Centre was ticking over. He was keen to have the building upgraded but agreed that waiting for confirmation of a new lease was sensible.

Best Kept Villages Group – The issue of the surface on the footbridge over the A467 was in hand. Clerk awaiting a reply from NCC.

Bassaleg Allotments – Clerk to complete a planning application for the proposed extension. Cllr Northfield asked if Council would still consider using Fort View Park or the ground at the rear of Rhiwderin Community Centre for allotment sites. Cllr Caston said that Fort View Park could not be considered as Newport City Homes owns the ground and has stated they will not sell or lease it to Council as there are plans to build on the site in the future, this would make the area smaller and cut off the only decent access. As to the land behind the Rhiwderin Centre, it could not be made viable.

Play Areas – Fort View Park – Ongoing. Rhiwderin Play Area – A new license has still not been secured. Clerk to continue chasing. Clerk to approach a local contractor with a view to making monthly visual inspections of all playground equipment in the ward, and was given permission to join other local Community Councils in obtaining a joint contract for annual playground inspections as NCC no longer carries out this service.

Burial Board – Cllrs on the Burial Board Committee reported that outgoings far exceed incomings, and there is a large deficit in running costs. The precept had not been increased since 1998, and Rogerstone Community Council are not happy about having to increase the precept paid to cover costs, despite this Council agreeing to an increase.

Items for Next Agenda: Concurrent expenditure & Clerk's pay review.

Planning – Discussed at this Meeting:

CONEX11/0115 – Conversion of existing garage into T.V. Room. Site: 5 Burberry Close, Rogerstone, Newport NP10 9JU. Application Type: Full. Comment: in view of the location, Council objects unless provision for three parking spaces is provided.

The Coach House on Caerphilly Road was also discussed. Complaints had been received regarding the scaffolding interfering with the footpath, and the overall look of the building as it is in a prominent position in the village, but is such an eye-sore. Clerk to write to the owner to ask if any work is scheduled soon to

improve this, and also to the Highways Department to highlight that residents are complaining of access past the scaffolding.

Planning – Discussed at Planning Meeting on 09.02.11:

CONEX/11/0063 – First floor rear extension and single storey rear extension to replace existing. Site: 83 Caerphilly Road, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8LJ Type: Full. Comment: No objections provided neighbours were consulted and agree.

CONEX/11/0071 – Erection of single storey rear extension. Site: 7 Ffos-y-fran, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8LU Application Type: Full Comment: No objections provided neighbours were consulted and agree.

Items for Discussion/Action

Viaduct Way adoption – ongoing.

Rhiwderin Community Centre Lease – ongoing.

Tree planting – Not discussed as Cllr D Williams was unable to attend.

Mazars Audit Update – Cllr C Williams and Clerk to work on recommendations of last audit.

Request for larger waste bins – Clerk had requested larger bins for two areas which had been refused. Cllr Cornelious and Clerk to pursue as request had been misunderstood.

Tidy Towns community led funded Projects 2011/12 – Invitation to apply for funding – Clerk to submit an application for assistance with funding the Bassaleg allotment extension.

Resident enquiry – Parking issues in Laurel Road & Violet Walk – Council agreed that parking in residential areas is becoming more difficult as more residents have more than one car, sometimes three or four to a household. Unfortunately, although Council can sympathise, it has no powers to do anything about this situation except to urge residents to park more responsibly, and with regard to other residents.

Complaints of advertising on the fencing along green area by Graig Hall had been received from residents. It was agreed that the odd sign put up for a few days was not a great problem, but some signs were left for long periods, and some left indefinitely. It was agreed that Cllr Caston should remove all signs and that the situation be monitored.

The Clerk was given permission to embark on a training programme for the benefit of the post.

Also discussed at Planning Meeting on 09.02.11:

Interview of Prospective new Councillor – Mr Paul Gregory of Rhiwderin was interviewed by the Council. After the interview, it was proposed by Cllr Evans that Mr Gregory be offered the vacant post, this was seconded by Cllr C Williams and Mr Gregory accepted. The Council welcomed him, and invited him to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Correspondence for Information - Not discussed

Accounts Approved for Payment

Clerk salary and expenses for February 2011	£1259.33
C Ricci – Bin cleaning February 2011	£120.00
Centregreat Ltd – Christmas tree lights initial purchase and maintenance contract	£2700.46
Monmouthshire County Council – Correction to last month payment (VAT omitted)	£85.75
Dolmans Solicitors – Final bill re: licence for Rhiwderin Play Area	£120.00
Calico UK – Cost of domain name for Graig CC Website	£18.00

Receipts

Any Other Business

Cllr Gregory reported that he has contacted the Community Payback organisation with a view to having things such as litter picking and clean-ups carried out for the villages.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.00pm. Confirmed, this 30th day of March 2011.

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

Posted to notice boards 04.04.11