

GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Graig Community Hall Bassaleg 7pm 30th March 2011

Apologies for absence: Cllrs M Cornelious, R Powell, F Northfield, A Whitfield.

Present: Cllrs R Caston (Chair), D Evans, P Stokes, M Smart, K Sayer, K Harries, P John, L Fry, N Mountain, C Williams, P Gregory.

Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held 23rd February 2010, previously circulated were read and subject to a small amendment, were approved. Proposed Cllr Evans seconded Cllr Mountain.

Projects:

Bassaleg CC: Still awaiting a decision from the Lottery Funding organisation.

Community Council Website: Ongoing – Clerk updating site as information arrives.

Priority List: Not discussed.

Cllr Smart joined the meeting at 7.05pm.

Matters Arising

Cllr Stokes asked if there was any news regarding the rumble strips on Forge Road – Clerk to chase up with Cllr Cornelious. Parking on the verges on Forge Road was also discussed again, the Clerk had been asked by the Best Kept Villages Group to pursue this issue. It was agreed that as the City Council stated this was not an issue for them, Clerk would contact the police to ask them if support Officers could add this area to their patrols in an effort to solve this problem. The City Council had not yet replied to the request for larger litter bins at the Bassaleg Post Office and Friendly Fox sites, Clerk to chase for a decision.

Police - NTR

City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious was unable to attend this meeting but forwarded replies to the Clerk for issues discussed at the last meeting, which are included in Matters Arising above.

Graig CC – NTR.

Rhiwderin CC – Fire and Electricity inspections were discussed, it was agreed last year that both Community Centres would arrange to have all necessary inspections on joint contracts, with the invoices sent to the Clerk for payment by the Council. This was yet to happen for this year, Cllr Evans to liaise with Mr Smith to arrange for the inspections to take place. It was reported that Mr Smith wishes to stand down as caretaker for the Rhiwderin Centre. He is willing to stay on until a suitable replacement can be found. A solution was discussed.

Best Kept Villages Group – Cllr Smart reported that membership numbers were still dropping, and that the group had bought a small lawnmower to assist with their works around the village. Cllr Stokes commended the group and all Councillors agreed that they do a wonderful job of enhancing the villages which was much appreciated. Cllr Caston mentioned that a complaint had been received from a resident at Orchard Close, who has some branches from trees on land belonging to the Council overhanging their property. Clerk to arrange a suitable date for meeting with the NCC Tree Preservation Officer on site to look at options for trimming them back and applying for permission if necessary. Cllr Gregory mentioned that the triangle of land at the junction of Caerphilly Close and Caerphilly Road looked shabby, which all Councillors agreed. It was decided that the Clerk should contact NCC to ask if they would be willing to give permission for the Community Council to enhance the area with some softer landscaping options.

Bassaleg Allotments – The planning application for the allotment extension at Bassaleg had been submitted by the Clerk, and a leak on the water tanks needed looking at. Clerk had arranged for a plumber to fix.

Play Areas – The waste contract had been increased by the Clerk to include Rhiwderin Play Park, due to the fact that NCC will no longer empty any bins in play areas in the ward. It was agreed that the Clerk could speak with a local resident who had the experience and qualifications needed, to ask him if he would be willing to do visual play equipment inspections on a weekly basis for all playgrounds. Cllr Fry arranged for a bench on the open space which had been vandalised to be taken away for safety reasons, the benches on the open space to be looked at in the near future and re-sited appropriately if the allotment extension is granted. Fort View Park – the swing needs to be inspected to ensure it is fit for purpose. The Clerk has been in contact with the Clerk of Langstone Community Council and informed her that this Council is happy to join forces with other Councils to engage a company to carry out the annual ROSPA play area inspection for its parks on a communal contract in an effort to keep costs at a minimum.

Burial Board – The Clerk had received a letter from the Clerk of the Burial Board stating that the Chairman of Rogerstone Community Council had requested a copy of the deeds for the cemetery. The Burial Board Clerk had informed Rogerstone Community Council that this Council were prepared to financially support the Burial Board as running costs rise.

Items for Next Agenda: Fort View Swing.

Planning – Discussed at this Meeting:

Prior to the first item being discussed, Cllr Caston declared an interest and left the meeting, the Chair was taken over temporarily by Vice Chairman Cllr C Williams.

CONEX/11/0232 – Demolition of existing single storey annex and construction of two storey rear extension (resubmission following refusal of planning permission 10/1249) Site: 24 Pentre-poeth Road, Bassaleg, Newport NP10.8LL. Application Type: After a short deliberation Cllr Caston was asked to re-join the meeting in order to clarify some points on the application, but took no part in the comment decision. Comment: No objections provided neighbours are consulted and agree.

Cllr Caston resumed the Chair.

CONEX/11/0254 – Erection of 41 dwellings together with associated works (approval of reserved matters in respect of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale associated with planning permission 09/0997) affecting public right of way 393/73. Site: Former allotment site Harlech Drive Rhiwderin, Newport. Application Type: Reserved Matters. Comment: Council wishes to re-iterate all its former comments and objections. In addition, the feeling is that it will have an adverse effect on the area as the housing is too dense. The new plans contain many more dwellings than stated in the outline submission. This can only increase the strain on village schools and resources and add even more to traffic congestion than initially thought.

The Clerk was asked to apply to the City Council for planning gain against the above application, in order to assist with the purchase of fencing to prevent vandalism at Pentre-poeth School.

Cllr Sayer stated that although the Community Council has the opportunity to comment on planning applications, he wondered how much notice City Council takes of the comments made as even though pertinent and valid reasons for objections are always given, they have little or no effect on the outcome of applications.

Planning – Discussed at Planning Meeting on 09.02.11:

CONEX/10/1052 – Demolition of existing church hall and community centre and the construction of 2No. dwelling houses and associated external works (amended plan) Site: Land and buildings known as Church Hall, Caerphilly Road, Bassaleg, Newport. Application Type: Full. Comment: The Community Council supports the widening of Caerphilly Road to provide a dedicated right hand turn into Laurel Road to ease traffic congestion. Council is happier with the new proposed access to the development but would much prefer access to be gained via St Benedict's Court if possible, as this junction is already in place and provides a much safer access. Council would also like to re-iterate its previous comments made regarding this application.

Items for Discussion/Action

Viaduct Way adoption – ongoing.

Rhiwderin Community Centre Lease – ongoing.

Tree planting – Cllr D Williams was not able to attend to discuss fully, but it was noted that the planting in Harlech Drive had been completed and was an improvement to the area.

Clerks Pay Review – The Clerk informed Council that no pay increase was due, as wages for Public Servants have been frozen, An incremental increase had not been taken for two years, which the Clerk agreed to take now, on the understanding that she did not want it backdated.

Cherry Tree removal on Caerphilly Road – Everyone now seems aware that the Cherry trees on Caerphilly Road were removed by Newport City Homes as they had started to interfere with overhead cables and not in the best of health. It was noted that they had been replaced with similar trees.

Update on fulfilling audit recommendations – It was decided that a Sub-Committee be formed to review paperwork the Clerk was compiling regarding the recommendations of the external auditors. Clerk to arrange a first meeting for the committee. It was also noted that this paperwork will need to be reviewed on a regular basis and updated with changes in legislation and circumstances. Sub-Committee members are Cllrs C Williams, P John, A Whitfield, P Gregory and the Clerk.

Cllr Stokes left the meeting at 9.10pm.

Cllr Fry asked that Council considered planting a commemorative tree to replace where a tree has recently been removed on the open space in Bassaleg in the name of Mrs Rees. Council agreed. Cllr Fry also reported that he had asked a local contractor to cut back the shrubbery and litter pick the areas under the footbridge over the A467 as agreed.

The Clerk had written to the City Council regarding the re-surfacing of the footbridge over A467 but had received no reply. The department in question was just about to change managers; another email to the new manager is to be sent.

Council approved continuing membership to CPRW, (see accounts for payment below)

Correspondence for Information - Not discussed

Accounts Approved for Payment

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| Clerk salary and expenses for March 2011 | £1340.54 |
| C Ricci – Bin cleaning March 2011 | £135.00 |
| Monmouth County Council – St Basil’s Stores Roundabout Maintenance | £624.00 |
| Monmouth County Council – Tree works on Harlech Drive | £2340.00 |
| Newport City Council – Planning application fee for allotments extension | £248.00 |
| CPRW – Membership renewal | £20.00 |

Receipts

Any Other Business

Cllr Gregory read out an email he had received from a local resident complaining of the excessive advertising on sandwich boards and on fencing, and of the excessive use of chimes by the ice cream sellers in the villages. Clerk to write to the City Council to ask for legislation regarding these things in an effort to reduce disturbance for residents. Cllr C Williams also mentioned the noise from scrap metal collectors and the sheer quantity of them, especially at the weekends. Clerk to write to PC Ladd to ask if the police can assist with reducing the nuisance.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.30pm. Confirmed, this 27th day of April 2011.

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

Posted to notice boards 02.05.11