

GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Graig Community Hall Bassaleg 7pm 27th April 2011

Apologies for absence: Cllrs M Cornelious, D Williams, R Powell.

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

Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held 30th March 2010, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Stokes seconded Cllr Evans.

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting:

The footbridge over the A467 is in the process of being resurfaced. The trimming of shrubbery and clean-up of the areas under the footbridge have been completed. A complaint was received from a resident who was concerned that some trees had been felled which helped to screen the bridge and traffic noise from the houses in Park View. Clerk to contact and advise that specimen trees are being planted in the Autumn. As part of the area's improvement, Clerk to write to the Environment Agency to request they consider cleaning up the banks of the river to compliment Council's efforts.

Cllr Mountain joined the meeting at 7.05pm.

The Viaduct Way adoption is ongoing, as is the Rhiwderin Community Centre lease. The rumble strips on Forge Road are still going to be altered, although NCC are unable to give a date as yet. Clerk to contact NCC Highways Dept to ask permission for Council to erect 'No Parking on Verges' signs on Forge Road. The branches which had been left in the open space at Bassaleg had been removed, they had been mistakenly forgotten by NCC when they felled a tree on the green. NCC agreed with Council's complaint at the number of fly-posters and signs being used around the villages and have removed a number of them. The overhanging trees in Orchard Close have been inspected by NCC's Tree Preservation Officer, as the trees are subject to a TPO, Clerk to submit application to prune back. In addition Council agreed that the other trees in the area needed to be assessed, Clerk to arrange for a tree consultant to produce a report.

Projects:

Bassaleg CC: Unfortunately, Council were unsuccessful in their bid for lottery funding. It was agreed that other avenues should be explored including the possibility of re-applying. Councillors were asked to bring ideas for criteria for re-application to the next meeting. Cllr Williams commended Cllr Fry for all the hard work he put into both the application, and the time spent answering queries with the lottery fund organisation afterwards, all Council expressed their disappointment at not being successful at this time.

Priority List: Not discussed.

Reports:

Police – Not Present, but Cllr Williams brought up the subject of the motoring dangers on Tredegar Roundabout, especially since the traffic lights have been in operation full time. Clerk to contact the Police to see if they can help with the issue.

City Councillors – Not Present.

Graig CC – The sad passing of Mr Gary Burns was announced, Council expressed their deepest sympathy to his family at this difficult time, and agreed that he was a much valued and well respected gentleman, who, even throughout his illness continued to work tirelessly and selflessly for the community and especially the Graig Hall.

The end of year accounts were also discussed, as was the resignation of one of the hall cleaners, and the need to employ a replacement.

Rhiwderin CC – An external inspection report had been compiled and is to be presented to the Centre's Committee who will then review it and report back to Council with recommendations for repairs.

Best Kept Villages Group – Clerk to arrange a skip for the group to use when carrying out the St Basil's Churchyard clean-up on 21st May. NCC had offered the use of some planters (please see Planning meeting details below).

Bassaleg Allotments – An allotment inspection was planned for Sunday 8th May.

Play Areas – Clerk to arrange for the re-certification of a local contractor to carry out weekly inspection of play equipment in all play areas under the Community Council's responsibility. The annual inspections are being arranged by the Clerk for Langstone and are in hand.

Burial Board – NTR.

Items for Next Agenda: Graig Hall refurbishment funding & Community Council logo competition.

Planning – Discussed at this Meeting:

Clerk informed Council that the application for development gain against the former Rhiwderin allotment site development had been rejected.

CONEX/11/0289 – Installation of 8no. floodlights on 4no. columns (2no. lights per column) Site:

Whiteheads Sports Club, Park View, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8LA. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections provided neighbours are consulted and agree.

CONEX/11/0339 – Installation of solar farm on two parcels of land comprising of a total of 9120 frame mounted solar PV panels installed in arrays together with associated inverter housing. Site: Clearwell Farm, Pentrepoeth Road, Cardiff. Application Type: Full. Comment: Whist Council supports sustainable energy initiatives, it has deep concerns regarding the visual impact such a proposal will have on the countryside and feels developing this site in such a way will inevitably spoil the surroundings. Council wishes its comments on this application to be noted as it is affecting an area close to the Graig ward boundary.

Planning – Discussed at Planning Meeting on 13.04.11:

(Although there were no planning applications to consider, Council held a meeting to discuss other environmental issues). The Clerk had contacted NCC to discuss the possibility of making visual improvements to the tarmaced area alongside Caerphilly Road/Caerphilly Close junction. During these discussions, NCC offered to loan the Community Council a number of cast iron planters, some of which could be used for this area, this was discussed and it was decided to take as many planters as NCC were willing to provide as they could be used in other areas in the ward too. Councillors were asked to bring suggestions for locations to the next meeting.

Items for Discussion/Action

Cllr Steve Pickard tendered his resignation to the Council due to work commitments. Council expressed their thanks for his services and reluctantly accepted. Clerk to advertise for a replacement.

Improvements to junction area of Caerphilly Road and Caerphilly Close – Following on from the discussion at the previous full Council meeting and Planning meeting Clerk to contact the utility providers to ask if they would have any objections to a development of the site, as NCC would only agree to the Community Council pursuing options with the consent of the companies who have services running through the area.

Update on fulfilling audit recommendations & meeting of Sub-Committee reviewing paperwork produced – following a meeting of the sub-committee formed to review the paperwork, the Clerk forwarded a copy of all procedures, policies and risk assessments produced to all Councillors. It was agreed that Councillors would read and bring comments to the next Planning meeting on 11th May. Discounting small clerical errors, if the contents were approved at that time, Council would adopt the procedures as proper Council documents. Cllrs Sayer and Stokes left the meeting at 9.05pm.

Presentation of accounts being submitted to internal auditor for scrutiny – The Clerk submitted the completed accounts to the Council for scrutiny prior to submission to the Internal Auditor in June. Council were happy to submit without alteration.

Invitation to comment on draft equality & diversity strategy for fire & rescue services in Wales – Cllr Caston to review and let Clerk have comments if necessary.

Lack of central recycling facilities in ward – Cllr Williams commented on the fact that there are few recycling facilities in the ward. It was felt that there were not many places recycling facilities could be added without being problematic and unsightly, and that although there are occasions when they are full, local supermarkets in the area have recycling bins for public use.

Correspondence for Information - Not discussed

Accounts Approved for Payment

Clerk salary and expenses for April 2011	£1521.71
C Ricci – bin cleaning April 2011	£180.00
Aon Insurance – annual fee	£4102.75
SLCC – annual membership fee	£151.00
Rob Williams – works to open space, community centre & under footbridge (2 invoices)	£3276.00

Receipts

Newport City Council – 1 st precept	£13903.50
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Any Other Business

Cllr Gregory asked about holding a competition in the local schools to design a logo for the Community Council. It was agreed that this was a good idea, Clerk to agenda for the next meeting to discuss in detail.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.20pm. Confirmed, this 25th day of May 2011.

Signed..... (Chair) – May 2011

Posted to notice boards 31.05.11