

# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Graig Community Centre Rhiwderin 7pm 27<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

**Apologies for absence:** Cllrs A Whitfield, D Evans, R Powell, C Williams, P Gregory, G Morris.

**Present:** Cllrs L Fry (Chair), R Caston, P Stokes, M Smart, K Harries, N Mountain M Cornelious, D Williams. Also present were three residents including Mr S McCorquodale representing a delegation to discuss children's play facilities.

The residents were heard first, Mr McCorquodale spoke on behalf of the group. They were concerned that the swing at Fort View/Highfield play area had been removed and urged for its replacement. Council confirmed that the Clerk had the swing removed as it did not meet current safety standards at the latest inspection. The residents also expressed concerns that the facilities in the ward for children over the age of 5 were very poor. Mr McCorquodale stated that the play area was heavily used but was being neglected. Council agreed that the play facilities in the ward were poor and that they would be discussed at the forthcoming meeting in mid August where the long term needs will be assessed. In the meantime the Clerk had obtained quotes for the replacement of the swing which would be discussed later in the meeting. Council welcomed the residents getting involved with the issue. The residents left the meeting at 7.25pm after being informed that Council would get back to them in one month to advise them what had been decided as the best way forward.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Stokes seconded Cllr Harries.

## **Clerk's Report:**

A new report was generated by the Clerk in an effort to reduce meeting time spent going over the updates for matters arising which can be read prior to the meeting and only discussed if necessary. A copy of the report will be kept with each set of meeting minutes, and will be published along with the agenda for reading prior to the meeting. Council agreed this was a good idea and should enable ongoing matters to be dealt with swiftly, leaving more time for other items to be discussed.

## **Projects:**

Bassaleg CC: The Clerk was waiting for one more quote for replacement windows and doors before a company could be chosen. Work had been completed on raising the patio area outside one fire door to make it DDA compliant.

Caerphilly Rd/Close Junction landscaping: Clerk to write to NCC approved contractors to gain quotes for completing the landscaping project. New plans were drawn up to meet the requirements of NCC Highways Department.

Priority List: Not discussed.

## **Reports:**

**Police** – Not present, no report received. Ongoing matters regarding Police involvement have been reported in the Clerk's report.

**City Councillors** – Cllr Cornelious reported that she has been trying to persuade planners that 40 plus houses on the development site at Rhiwderin would be too many. The Planning Dept says density is not a problem, but she has lodged her disapproval. Also reported was that the Mansion House is now open for marriage ceremonies and a new face-to-face centre is in the process of being set up on the old station building where the public can drop in and talk to NCC officers from all departments. Cllr Cornelious also presented an email she received from a NCC Traffic, Transport and Road Safety officer stating that mostly due to financial restraints unless a safety issue can be proved, NCC are unable to introduce more traffic calming measures in Afon Village.

**Graig CC** – Accounts for the Centre had been passed by the internal auditor.

**Rhiwderin CC** – The need for a new boiler was discussed, the accounts for the centre had been passed by the internal auditor.

**Best Kept Villages Group** – The group expressed concerns over Council's plans for installing more planters around the village and the plans to landscape the Caerphilly Rd/Close junction, both of which they believe will be expensive to maintain. They would not be able to assist with the maintenance as their group is now so small they are in danger of disbanding if any more leave. Cllr Sayer also commented that the cut

backs on grass cutting by NCC and NCH means that they are not carried out often enough to compliment what the group achieves in the ward.

**Bassaleg Allotments** – The planning application is being dealt with by the architect.

**Play Areas** – As the play areas would be discussed in depth at the mid month meeting, as many Councillors were unable to attend this meeting due to holidays, the replacement of the swing was deferred to the mid month meeting.

**Burial Board** – The annual accounts were presented.

### Items for Next Agenda

Invitation to join in Jubilee celebrations for 2011 to be discussed at the October full Council meeting.

Cllr Stokes left the meeting at 8.32pm

### Planning:

None

### Items for Discussion/Action

Council agreed that suitable issues could be deferred to the mid month Planning & Environmental meetings to ease pressure on Full Council Meetings. Any items deferred will be put on the agenda and properly published to both Councillors and the notice boards to ensure everyone is aware of the items to be discussed.

Quote for completion of planter refurbishment was received and accepted.

### Correspondence for Information - Not discussed

#### Accounts Approved for Payment

Clerk salary and expenses for July 2011	£1354.75
C Ricci – bin cleaning, litter picking & maintenance July 2011	£250.00
BBM – Annual inspection Graig CC	£324.00
BBM – Annual inspection Rhiwderin CC	£222.00
Nigel Davies Accountants – 3 invoices for audits to Council and both CC's accounts	£786.00
NCC – Cost of litter bin for Laurel Drive	£120.00
Staples – Office supplies	£90.85
Greenmoor Nurseries – Hanging Baskets for both CC's	£264.00
M&M Gas Services – Repair heating fault to Graig CC Boiler	£179.04
Steve Ambler – Tree consultancy Wentworth Lane	£354.00
Marine Shipping – New notice boards & planters refurbishment	£1718.40
Mr S Rose – Redecoration to Graig Hall toilets	£585.00
<b>Receipts</b>	
NCC – Concurrent Payment for 2011/12	£10550.00

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.15pm. Confirmed this day, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011.

Signed..... (Chair) – August 2011

Posted to notice boards 07.09.11