

GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Graig Community Centre Bassaleg at 7pm on 30th November 2011.

Apologies for absence: Cllrs K Sayer, M Cornelious, R Powell.

Present: Cllrs C Williams (Chair), R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, P Stokes, M Smart, K Harries, D Williams, P John, L Fry, N Mountain, P Gregory, G Morris, J Harris. Also present Lee Myson & PCSO Chris Evans of Gwent Police and 4 members of Graig Best Kept Villages Group.

Police: The Police report was heard first to enable them to go about their business. 116 calls had been received, 19 of which were crimes. Crimes breakdown as follows: 1 theft from an unlocked vehicle, 2 shoplifters. 1 garage break-in, 3 of criminal damage, 6 of vehicle damage, 2 stolen number plates, 1 theft from a dwelling, 1 theft from a farm, 1 pushbike stolen from a young male and 1 burglary. Additionally, 1 local youth has been issued with an anti-social behaviour contract, 1 cannabis warning has been given and speed checks have been carried out on Cwm Cuddy Drive. The Police representatives left at 7.20pm.

Best Kept Villages: The group were invited to discuss their concerns regarding the Caerphilly Rd/Close junction project currently being considered. The group felt that the project would be costly to maintain and that money could be best spent in other areas. Council explained that the project is nothing more than a paper exercise at present and that no decisions have been made as costings have not yet been analysed. The group stressed that sustainability would be an issue, and that better maintenance of the facilities already in the ward would be more beneficial. Council asked the group for suggestions for improvements, it was agreed that one main issue is litter, and Council will attempt to have more small litter bins replaced with large free standing bins. It was agreed that the group would continue to be informed of any decisions being made regarding the junction project, and Council welcomed any input they can give on improvements needed or maintenance issues in the area. The group left at 7.40pm.

Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held 26th October 2011, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Gregory seconded Cllr Caston.

Clerk's Report:

The Clerk's report previously circulated had been read, Council were satisfied that all issues in the report were being dealt with appropriately. Cllr Whitfield asked that the A-frame advertisement boards outside the Tredegar Arms public house be addressed as the boards encroach on the footpath, are unsightly and a distraction to motorists. Clerk to add this item to the Clerk's Report and email NCC.

Projects:

Bassaleg CC: The second more competitive quote for replacement windows and doors was accepted, proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Evans. Cllr Fry to engage the services of the contractor to begin works in the New Year. Work has begun on the decoration of the foyer, with the meeting room and kitchen to follow. Colours for the kitchen to be chosen after the meeting.

Caerphilly Rd/Close Junction landscaping: Not discussed except with Best Kept Village Group above.

Christmas lighting event. The organisation of the event was discussed, preparations were made.

Reports:

Police – Reported above.

City Councillors – Cllr Williams handed over funding information for the Clerk to investigate. He reported that he had been to the Flood Plan meeting held prior to this meeting which was reasonably well attended. He advised Council that he believed there was a possibility of having the boundary wall at the rear of the Tredegar Arms public house listed which would ensure its restoration, and was looking into the matter. He spoke of the boundary wall between the Tredegar Arms and the Church. This wall is listed and the Church has been advised that restoration must take place. He is to speak to the Church and will come back to Council with a request for assistance, it is anticipated that the cost of restoration will be in the region of £25K. Cllr Caston reported that a meeting had taken place between himself, Cllr Harries and Canon Williams regarding the lych-gate memorial and plaques, and that presently the Church's main concern is restoring the wall. It was noted that work is taking place at the Coach house next door to the Tredegar Arms. No-one is yet aware if this work is remedial or if the planning permissions previously granted by NCC are now being carried out. This will be monitored and revisited in the New Year. Cllr Williams left at 8.17pm.

Graig CC – Discussed above.

Rhiwderin CC – An email had been received from NCC Estates Dept stating that no decision on the lease for the Centre could be discussed until their review had been carried out; this was now scheduled for spring 2012, Clerk to chase in the spring. Cllr Williams asked about the cleaning arrangements for the Centre. The gas governor housing was being repaired and made safe with new metal doors.

Best Kept Villages Group – Discussed above.

Play Areas – Not discussed.

Burial Board – The Clerk produced an email from the Clerk of Rogerstone Community Council which included a request for both Chairs and Clerks to meet to draw up scenarios and an agenda for a meeting between both full Councils to discuss future plans for the organisation. Cllr Williams said she felt to do so would undermine the trust Council has in the Board representatives and the Board's own Clerk, and declined the invitation. The Board had met recently and agreed that a meeting between both Councils is necessary. Council agreed that they would be happy to meet. Clerk is awaiting suggested dates for the Rogerstone Clerk.

Items for Next Agenda

Play Areas Upgrade (January Planning & Environmental Meeting (11.01.12)

Area to the rear of the Tredegar Arms & ST Basil's Church (January 25th Meeting)

Notice boards (January 25th Meeting)

PPL/PRS responsibilities for Community Centres (January 25th Meeting)

Planning:

CONEX/11/1169 – Erection of single storey extension. Site: 17 Forge Lane, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8NG. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections provided neighbours are consulted and agree.

CONEX/11/1172 – Demolition of garage and construction of side extension with dormer to front and single storey rear extension. Site: 18 Sunny Bank, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8JP. Application Type: Full. Comment: Council has concerns regarding parking. Parking in this area is already badly restricted, and is exacerbated during school pick-up and drop-off times

CONEX/11/1180 – Felling of conifer T1, crown raising of willow T2 and group of mixed species G1 and pollarding of oak tree T3 protected by Lower Machen conservation area. Site: Machen House, Old Road, Lower Machen, Newport. NP10 8GU. Application type: Tree preservation order. Comment: Happy to support the TPO Officer's suggestions.

CONEX/11/1186 – Erection of two storey rear extension. Site: 14a Park View, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8LA. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections provided neighbours are consulted and agree. Please also consult the neighbour in 47 Park View Gardens who would also be affected by this development.

CONEX/11/1218 – Conversion of double garage to annex for disabled relative. Site: 3 Lavender Way, Rogerstone, Newport. NP10 9BA. Application Type: Full. Comment: Council strongly objects as parking space is being reduced in an area where parking restrictions are already causing a lot of difficulties.

Items for Discussion/Action

Diamond Jubilee beacons – Cllr Harries looked into whether the Council could be involved and reported back that the suggested beacons would be impractical for this Council. Council agreed, but decided that the occasion should be marked with some other event. Clerk to agenda this item for discussion in February 2012.

NCC's response to letter sent regarding lack of communications between the Community Council and City Council was read out. NCC apologised that the Community Council are not having correspondence replied to in a timely manner and would contact all departments to ensure matters improve.

Cllr John put forward a solution to the grass being worn away under the goalpost area on the open space. Cllr Fry to organise the manufacture of brackets to allow the posts to be moved periodically to wear the grass more evenly.

A letter was received from a resident in Orchard Close speaking of his dissatisfaction with the trimming of trees lining Wentworth Lane. The Clerk had sought advice from both a qualified tree consultant and NCC's Tree Preservation Officer. As the trees are subject to TPO's, no further trimming should be carried out. Both professionals agreed that the Council had acted in a proper and responsible matter, and that the trees posed no threat to either the resident or his property. Clerk to write to the resident to explain the situation and that the Council now consider the matter closed.

The Council had been able to acquire a substantial number of flowering bulbs in return for a nominal donation to charity from Mrs Lesley Pike of Wilkinson Ltd. Council wished to record a vote of thanks to Mrs Pike for allowing them to benefit from the company's generosity and will distribute the bulbs to organisations in the ward.

An email was received from a resident concerned that the erection of some gates at the top of Highfield Lane were blocking off a public footpath. Clerk had written to NCC Planning and Footpaths officers to notify them of the issue and attempt to resolve the situation. Clerk to also write to the Police as this could be considered an unlawful blocking of a public footpath. The issue to be added to the Clerk's report and action taken as necessary.

NCC's response to Councils request regarding the erection of wooden bollards on the green at the top of Laurel Road, this issue to be added to the agenda for the January 11th meeting.

It was agreed to agenda discussion on the post box at the top of Laurel Road. This will be added to the January 11th Meeting.

Information regarding the NCC document on The Community Infrastructure Levy Consultation Document was passed on to Cllr Harries to read and report back to Council at the 14th December meeting.

Correspondence for Information - Not discussed

Accounts Approved for Payment

Clerk salary and expenses for November 2011	£1289.60
C Ricci – bin cleaning, litter picking & maintenance November 2011	£250.00
G Smith – Rhiwderin CC Caretaker honorarium	£200.00
P Reid – Rhiwderin Booking Clerk honorarium	£50.00
Burial Board – 2011-12 Precept on account pending alteration	£456.00
Griffiths Signs – No Golfing and Permissive Pathways Sign (2 invoices)	£101.40
Staples Business Account – Stationery & Office Supplies (3 invoices)	£190.06
SW Directories – Article published	£160.00
WM Garden Services – Purchase & installation costs of Fort View swing replacement	£3772.80
Nominal donation for flowering bulbs to be donated to Age Concern via Wilkinson's Ltd	£20.00
Cllr C Williams (re: Christmas lighting event) - Refund for purchase of hi-vis vests	£15.98
S Rose – redecoration of Graig Hall plus cleaning	£1900.00
M Yearsley – re: allotment extension planning application and assoc. NCC fees (2 inv)	£633.50
Cllr G Morris (re: Christmas lighting event) - Refund for PA rental costs	£45.00
Clerk (re: Christmas lighting event) – Refund for Refreshments costs	£22.87

Receipts

None.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10pm. Confirmed this day, 14th December 2011.

Signed..... (Chair) – 14th December 2011

Posted to notice boards 21.12.11