



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at the Graig Community Hall Bassaleg 7pm 29th February 2012.

Minutes of Meeting held at the Graig Community Centre Bassaleg at 7.00pm on 29th February 2012.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs D Williams, R Powell.

Present: Cllrs C Williams (Chair), R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, P Stokes, K Harries M Cornelious, P John, L Fry, N Mountain, P Gregory, G Morris, J Harris.

Also present: PC Sally Ladd

Police: PC Ladd was heard first to enable her to carry on with her duties. She reported that the Police had received 129 calls in February, 16 of which were crimes, 1 of which had been detected. The breakdown was as follows: 7 x criminal damage, 3 x assault without injury, 1 x burglary, 3 x theft and 2 x violence. There had been several cautions issues in the Rhiwderin area since the beginning of the year for misuse of cannabis, there have been several thefts of diesel from farms, various acts of vandalism to Pentrepoeth and Bassaleg Schools and a continued confiscation of alcohol from youths in the area. Police urge residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity, especially in the school grounds. There are also criminal damage and anti-social behaviour issues in the Viaduct Way area and the rear lane behind Caerphilly Road.

2. Public Representations: None

3. Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held 25th January 2012, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Evans seconded Cllr John.

4. Clerk's Report:

The Clerk's report previously circulated had been read, Council were satisfied that issues in the report were being dealt with appropriately. With regard to Rhiwderin Community Centre lease, Cllrs Gregory and Caston met with Cllr Cornelious and NCC representative D Waters to discuss the lease. The meeting was positive and all are hopeful that a long lease can be negotiated. An email from NCC Streetscene regarding the reduction of traffic speed to 20 mph in both Afon Village and Laurel Road was discussed. NCC stated that no reduction on either of these roads could be considered as reports on vehicle speeds and road safety did not highlight a need. Council agreed to reply to NCC that it was dismayed that problems in the ward are highlighted but no action is forthcoming, and that other areas which appear to have lesser issues take priority. Also to request that if any supplementary funds are found, these issues will be re-considered. Clerk to respond and diarise to review again in 6 months time. It was noted that a delegation of residents would attend the next mid-month meeting to put forward their views regarding the proposal to place wooden bollards on the greens at the top of Laurel Road.

5. Projects:

- a. Bassaleg CC - Cllr Fry submitted a quote for rubber stoppers to be fitted to all furniture legs to prevent damage once the cleaning and re-sealing of the floors of the hall have taken place, the quote totalled under £100 and was approved. Cllr Evans agreed the invoice would be paid from the Graig Hall funds. Some quotes for replacement blinds and a deep clean had been received and would be brought to the next mid-month meeting for review as more quotes were expected. Cllr Williams suggested that as Council had spent a considerable sum in the refurbishment of the hall, that the hall itself look to fund the blinds and clean. Cllr Evans submitted a cheque from the hall funds to Council to put towards the recent refurbishments.
- b. Caerphilly Rd/Close Junction landscaping – Cllr Cornelious informed Council that she is exploring the possibility of taking the bulge from the edge of the junction to enable an extra lane on the junction for traffic exiting from Caerphilly Close and turning left onto Caerphilly Road westbound. This would alleviate congestion at school pick-up and drop-off times and make the junction safer.

6. Reports:

- a. Police – Discussed above.
- b. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious reported that she is watching the new housing developments and waiting for the trigger point where the developers release Section 106 monies which will be

allocated for leisure and education facilities in the ward. She also reported that the proposed LDP had been taken to the City Council to be passed, and was expected to be accepted. The Tredegar Park development had been given permission for the flood prevention scheme and work on the development is expected to begin in the near future. The Viaduct Way adoption is still not settled as there have been problems with previous developers but it is hoped to be resolved soon. The Pye Corner railway station planning application is expected to be submitted soon. The old Alcan site earmarked for development was discussed. It was agreed that the site would be large enough to support a good sized leisure facility which could include tennis courts, a swimming pool etc. As these kind of facilities are lacking in the area. Cllr Cornelious advised that when a planning application is submitted, Council should comment and highlight the need for these facilities.

- c. Graig CC – Cllr Cornelious' concert at the hall in aid of Leukaemia raised £1500.
- d. Rhiwderin CC – Cllr Fry submitted a quote for installing a temporary toilet block. The quote amounted to approximately £5K for a 3 year period. Council agreed that until the lease situation was resolved it would not be prudent to proceed with this venture.
- e. Best Kept Villages Group – Councils response to the group's email which was discussed at the previous meeting was submitted, answering their queries and detailing how their suggestions would be taken forward.
- f. Allotments – Cllr Caston reported that the list for allotments currently had 12 people awaiting a plot. He had the extension plans and Mr Barber had agreed to assist by helping to set up specifications. Clerk to invite a local contractor to quote for the work to enable a proper costing analysis to be submitted prior to a decision to move forward with the extension.
- g. Play Areas – Cllr Whitfield had done much work on seeking out funding for upgrading the areas, a meeting is to take place with one group who can hopefully assist with the funding. Clerk to arrange for a time suitable for Cllrs Williams, Whitfield and the Clerk to attend.
- h. Burial Board – A letter was received from the Burial Board Clerk detailing Rogerstone CC's belief that the vote taken to increase the precept at the recent meeting of both Community Councils to discuss the Burial Board issues was void. Rogerstone CC also stated that in order to move forward they required that the Burial Board Clerk employ an outside party to write up a business plan which took the Board forward. Cllr Evans to inform the Burial Board Clerk that Graig Council suggested that as the Rogerstone Council did not appear to have a problem with the increase in the precept and was only holding out for a formal business plan drawn up by an independent body, that they discuss and approve paying the increased precept now, and the issues with service continuity be discussed at a later date.

7. Items for Next Agenda

Agreed.

8. Planning:

CONEX/12/0103 – Proposes single storey extension (to replace existing conservatory) and partial garage conversion. Site: 26 Ffos-y-fran, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8LU Application Type: Full. Comment: Objections due to the loss of a garage in an already congested area. As the owner is in the motor trade, there are regularly extra cars to be accounted for; the situation will be exacerbated with the loss of a garage.

CONEX/12/0110 – Demolition of garage and utility room and erection of two storey side extension and timber decking and balustrading to rear and side. Site: 14 Penylan Close, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8NU Application Type: Full. Comment: Objections, the loss of a garage on this narrow road in an already congested area will exacerbate the parking problems which already exist.

9. Items for Discussion/Action

- a. Decision of prizes from Christmas event: It was decided to incorporate any unclaimed prizes into the next even Council holds.
- b. Jubilee Event: Cllrs asked to consider and bring back to the next end of month meeting, suggestions for Council to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Cllr Stokes tabled the idea of offering a student at the primary school a prize and an annual endowment, the details of which would need discussion with teachers and Councillors. Cllr Evans to explore with the Headmistress. Other suggestions will be discussed at the next meeting.
- c. Children's choir Spring event: Cllr Evans to co-ordinate and let Council have details.
- d. Council Elections: The Clerk had attended a meeting run by the Electoral Dept of the City Council to advise Clerks on procedures, which the Clerk relayed to Council.

- e. SLCC courses and conferences available: Clerk submitted a list of courses available to Cllrs, none were taken up at this time.
- f. Countryside Council for Wales re: maps of open access to mountain, moor, heath and registered common land. Opportunity to review and make comments: Cllr Harries took the details to analyse and will report back to the next meeting.
- g. Letter from Draethen Community Group re: various local issues: This issue was deferred to the mid-month meeting due to time constraints.
- h. Greene King's lack of response to letters sent regarding the boundary wall with St Basil's Church: Clerk advised Council that even though there had been 5 attempts to open up a dialogue with the company to discuss the issue of ownership of the boundary wall. No responses have been received.

10. Correspondence for Information - Not discussed

11. Accounts Approved for Payment

a. Clerk salary and expenses for February 2012	£1331.46
b. C Ricci – bin cleaning, litter picking & maintenance February 2012	£250.00
c. Steve Rose – redecoration of meeting room	£240.00
d. Calico UK – annual website fee for domain name	£18.00
e. Staples – stationery costs	£62.08
f. Alcoplan – replacement windows at Graig Community Centre	£12594.00
g. Mazars – external audit fee for accounts 2011/12	£480.00
h. Alberto Ubaldi – plumbing works to Graig Community Centre	£875.00
i. Marine Shipping Ltd – manufacture of 6 goalpost inserts & cap connections	£258.00

Receipts

None

Additionally, it was noted that Cllr Gregory had been appointed as NCC's representative onto the Board of Governors at Pentrepoeth School.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10pm. Confirmed this day, 28th March 2012.

Signed..... (Chair) – 28th March 2012

Posted to notice boards 05.04.12