



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at the Graig Community Hall Bassaleg 6.30pm 25th July 2012.

Minutes of Meeting held at the Graig Community Centre Bassaleg at 7pm on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs A Whitfield, D Williams, N Mountain, P Gregory, K Ashton.  
**Present:** Cllrs L Fry (Chair), R Caston, D Evans, P Stokes, K Harries, M Cornelious, G Morris, J Harris, W Haigh. Also Present: PC Sally Ladd & PCSO Mandy Dean.

The Police were heard first to enable them to carry on with their duties. PC Ladd reported that July had been a good month. Cllr Haigh spoke of the problems with residents parking on the junction of Channel View and Laurel Road. PC Ladd suggested that a letter be written to the Road Transport Team at NCC to request that double yellow lines that have been worn away or have disappeared through resurfacing be re-instated, they would then be able to help.

- 2. Public Representations:** None
- 3. Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Haigh. Arising from the minutes, Cllr Harris updated Council on progress with the proposed Jubilee Path project. A draft of the walk, way markers and publicity documents should be available by September.
- 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. The hedge at the top path off Highfield lane needed trimming. It was believed to be privately owned, Cllr Haigh to look into ownership and responsibility for its maintenance. Cllr Stokes mentioned the poor state of the Coach House on Caerphilly Road and asked that the City Councillors chase up progress. It was reported to Council that a response had been received regarding putting directional arrows on Forge Road roundabout and a concealed entrance sign for Duffryn Close. Both these requests were denied by NCC. Council again expressed disappointment and frustration that almost all requests to NCC for improvements to the Graig ward are refused.
- 5. Projects:**
  - a. Play areas – It was agreed that if Council were successful in gaining funding via the Viola project that Cllr Whitfield was working on, that Council would be willing to find the £8k contribution towards the scheme if necessary.
- 6. Reports:**
  - a. Police – see above.
  - b. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious reported that she may be able to obtain some money for a MUGA for the area, but a finding suitable a site to house it would be difficult. She told Council of the difficulty for NCC to raise money, and that funds are very restricted at present. Cllr Fry to resurrect the dilapidation schedule he compiled some three years previously, check what has been attended to and update it with further issues to be reported to NCC.
  - c. Graig CC – Cllr Evans reported that due to unforeseen expenses, the initial £3K promised from the hall funds to the Council to assist in paying for the upgrade of the hall may not be able to be given. Spiralling costs meant that money is very tight. The new blinds and curtains were being installed during the last few days of July.
  - d. Rhiwderin CC – NTR
  - e. Best Kept Villages Group – an email from the group highlighted grounds maintenance issues which were noted and will be attended to.
  - f. Allotments – Cllr Caston reported that Cllr Gregory had approached a lady who rented multiple plots and that she was willing to give up a plot to help satisfy demand. Cllr Harries reported that he was now keeping bees on his allotment plot which seemed to be successful.
  - g. Play Areas – Clerk highlighted an issue with someone placing large amounts of rubbish in the toddlers play area which has over-spilled and strewn rubbish all around the park. The issue had

been dealt with and enquiries made as to where the rubbish originated from to prevent it happening again in the future.

- h. Burial Board – The next meeting is to take place in September, the current Clerk has given notice of her resignation and will finish in March.

## 7. Items for Next Agenda

Agreed – Clerk was requested to add the Jubilee Path to the Projects section of the next agenda.

## 8. Planning:

None

## 9. Items for Discussion/Action

- a. Erection of bollards on Wentworth Lane update - Cllr Fry reported that the bollards were almost complete and would be installed by the end of August.
- b. Review of Council's policy and procedures – Clerk to arrange a meeting of the Finance and Administration sub-committee to review and if necessary bring changes back to Council to be discussed and altered as necessary.
- c. Review of wish list – deferred to the end September meeting.
- d. Networkrail - Installation of railway communications mast at Lower Machen – Council logged no objections.
- e. Newport Volunteer Awards – Council agreed to nominate the Best Kept Villages Group in recognition of their tireless work for the community, Clerk to put the group forward.
- f. Proposed Alcan development – Councillors agreed to attend the public exhibition of development proposals and discuss the findings at the next Planning meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> August.  
Cllr Stokes left the meeting at 8.40pm.
- g. Environment Agency – Invitation to attend a meeting and presentation regarding the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station proposal – Cllr Harries to attend and report back to Council.
- h. Update on Bassaleg Comprehensive School Governor position – Cllr Cornelious told Council it was not policy for Community Councillors to be invited onto the board as the school catchment area consisted of a number of Council wards who could not all be accommodated with a seat, but she would look into the matter.
- i. Request for Donation – Whitehead Steelers Junior RFC – Council agreed to donate to the group but were interested in if it would be possible to advertise the Council logo on the children's sportswear. Clerk to investigate.
- j. NCC - Re-tender of socially necessary bus services – A letter had been received informing of the re-tendering of these services. Council wished to comment that these services were absolutely vital and well used.
- k. GAVO – Opportunity for volunteer workforce assistance – Council agreed that an offer of volunteer labour should be taken advantage of; one area suggested by Cllr Fry was to clean up the grounds of Pentrepoeth School. Clerk to explore.

## 10. Correspondence for Information:

Not discussed.

## 11. Accounts for Payment: Approved – Proposed by Cllr Caston, seconded by Cllr Evans.

Clerk salary and expenses for July 2012	£1605.90
C Ricci – bin cleaning, litter picking & maintenance July 2012	£480.00
Chairman's allowance	£200.00
Rogerstone & Bassaleg Burial Board – Precept 2012-13	£608.00
BPU Chartered Accountants – internal audit costs	£960.00
Boiler & Burner Maintenance Ltd – boiler service to Graig Hall	£219.00
Boiler & Burner Maintenance Ltd - boiler service to Rhiwderin Centre	£351.60
Staples – stationery & ink supplies	£77.26
Greenmoor Nurseries – hanging baskets for both halls	£327.00
Newport City Homes – Fort View grass-cutting July 2012	£212.04
Griffiths Signs – signage for notice boards	£20.00
R Charles Plastics – work to notice boards & Graig Hall	£210.00

### Receipts

HMRC – repayment of VAT 2011-12	£6942.13
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**12. Dates of next meetings:**

Planning & Environment Meeting – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2012  
Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2012

**13. Urgent Business not on discussed above.**

- a. Welsh Government – Community & Town Council Payments consultation – Cllr Caston to review and bring comments to 8<sup>th</sup> August meeting.
- b. Cllr Caston expressed concern over NCC's decision to switch off every other street light late at night to cut costs. Cllr Cornelious to investigate which lights will be turned off.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.26pm. Confirmed this day, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

Signed..... (Chair) – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Posted to notice boards 07.09.12