



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at the Graig Community Hall Bassaleg 7pm 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

Minutes of Meeting held at the Graig Community Centre Bassaleg at 7pm on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs A Whitfield, P Stokes, M Smart, K Ashton.  
**Present:** Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, D Evans, K Harries, M Cornelious, D Williams, P John, N Mountain, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, V Cox-Wall.
2. **Public Representations:** None
3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and the Planning and Environmental meeting minutes held 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Haigh for 28<sup>th</sup> November minutes and Proposed Cllr John seconded Cllr Evans for 12<sup>th</sup> December minutes.
4. **Clerk's Report:**  
The Clerk's Report had not been produced as due to the Christmas holiday no updates were available. The Report to be re-introduced for the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013 meeting.

Cllr Cornelious informed Council of the sad news that Mrs Audrey Hull had passed away just before Christmas. Council wished to express its sincere condolences to Mrs Hull's family. Mrs Hull was a pillar of the community and in her time as a Community Councillor was recognised as achieving many good things, not least of all, she was particularly instrumental in raising funds for Graig Hall.

### 5. **Induction of New Councillor:**

The new Councillor representing the Bassaleg ward was welcomed. Ms Victoria Cox-Wall was asked to swear and sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was given all the necessary paperwork for the post.

The Chairman Cllr Gregory welcomed Council back after the Christmas break, thanked Council for all their support to both the Chairman and Clerk, thanked the City Councillors for their continued support and recapped on the positive and productive 2012 achievements made by Council. These included: The success of making the public aware of the proposed changes to the Local Development Plan; Making inroads to securing funding for the upgrade of Fort View play area; arranging and holding a Summer concert given by Pentrepoeth schoolchildren and the Christmas lighting event; installing bollards at Laurel Road to improve safety and protect the green area; installing bollards at Wentworth lane to improve pedestrian safety; carrying out grounds maintenance to various places such as the lane at the rear of St Basil's church to improve pedestrian safety and the negative visual impact it had on the area; making substantial improvements to Graig Hall; negotiating a new long term lease to secure Rhiwderin Community Centre; becoming a more informative and effective Council via notices in the local directory and the addition of new notice boards; becoming more effective in dealings with the City Council; being proactive in securing planning permission to extend Bassaleg Allotments should the need arise; obtaining planters for distribution throughout the ward; supplying a Jubilee shield to the primary school to encourage students; working with the City Council and the Countryside wardens to develop a Jubilee Path which will open in the summer (special thanks to Cllr Harris who has worked particularly hard on this project) and many other things not mentioned above. Cllr Gregory thanked all Councillors for their sterling work, without which these things would not have been possible. He gave special thanks to the Burial Board members who have been working hard to resolve issues regarding future financial security. He mentioned Ex-Councillors Caroline Williams the previous Chair who resigned due to moving out of the area, and Richie Powell and Gary Morris who unfortunately had to resign from their posts due to increased work commitments recognising their contributions to the list above, and welcomed back Cllr Haigh who returned to the Council following a break, and also new Councillors Kathryn Ashton and Victoria Cox Wall. It was noted that Ex Councillor Powell still regularly works with City Councillors to resolve issues in Afon Village.

## **6. Projects:**

- a. Play Areas: Unfortunately the 11<sup>th</sup> January deadline for final submissions could not be met, but Council are able to submit for the next deadline.
- b. Jubilee Path: Cllr Harris submitted a draft of the Frank Rees memorial, it was agreed that the Council logo intended to be put on both the memorial and the way markers did not enlarge well enough to be used. Clerk to ask Bassaleg School if a copy of their logo could be supplied to be adapted as it was similar to the Council logo. It was decided that to have Derek Brockway officially open the path would be too expensive and was dismissed. It is planned that the path be opened as soon as it is complete with an official opening ceremony to take place later Summer/Autumn. Details to be discussed at a later date. Cllr Harris to look into whether commercial sponsorship would be an option.

## **7. Reports:**

- a. Police – Unable to attend, but the submitted report was read to Council, it stated that during December there had been 114 calls to the police 15 of those were crimes. Two crimes had been detected with inquiries ongoing with the remainder. The breakdown of crime calls were as follows: 7 x Theft Other, 1x Vehicle Crime, 1 x Burglary Other, 1 x Burglary Domestic, 2 x Fraud, 1 x Harassment, 1 x Assault w/o injury. There is an ongoing operation in place in the local area to counter the threat of vehicle crime and burglaries which have been taking place of late. Residents are asked to be extra vigilant and to ensure that their premises are secure at all times because most of the incidents have been opportunist where doors or windows have been left open both during the day and at night. Residents are also asked to ensure that their vehicles are properly secure when left unattended and anything of value is not left on display. There is still an action plan in place for the off road bikes, operations have taken place since the last PACT meeting but to date no bikes have been impounded, residents are asked to assist the local team with identifying the riders and their vehicles whenever possible, please ring 101 if you have any information about this matter. Reports have also been received from the areas of the old Tredegar Park golf course and the river path in Afon Mead regarding off road bikes using these areas mostly on Sundays. One local youth has been served with a section 59 warning for using his vehicle on the pavement, and a section 59 warning has been issued for the improper use of a vehicle which is likely to cause alarm, harassment or distress.  
Several youths are in the process of receiving first time warning letters for their anti-social behaviour in the area of McDonald's. Anyone interested in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme please contact Rogerstone Police Station 01633 895019.
- b. City Councillors – Cllr Williams reported that following requests for some street lights to be turned back on in some areas of the ward after the City Councils decision to switch off every other light he had been successful in having one switched back on. He was concerned that some lights are being switched off earlier than they should and asks residents to let him know if they find this to be the case. Also, if anyone feels that a light has been scheduled to be switched off in an area that particularly needs to be left on, can report it to him to see if it can be changed. Cllr Haigh reported a lamp opposite Garth Terrace which was out, it was not thought that the light was one selected to be turned off so it had been reported to the contact centre. Cllr Williams to follow it up. Viaduct Way has now been adopted by the City Council and Cllr Williams reported that he hoped to have litter bins installed and street lighting repaired. Cllr Mountain reported that one Sunday during the Christmas period the kissing gate at the rear of St Basil's church has been chained and padlocked, as this was a public right of way this should not be so. Cllr Williams to investigate. The Clerk was asked to report large potholes that were an issue on Penylan Road to the contact centre for repair, and to suggest to the Highways Department that they contact the landlord to request he ditch the fields lining the road to prevent water ingress as historically this been an issue on this particular stretch.
- c. Graig CC – Cllr Fry reported that a dado rail was needed to prevent furniture damaging the walls of the meeting room and radiators needed to be moved to accommodate replacement furniture to better utilise the space available, Cllr Evans agreed to speak to the hall management committee to see if the cost could come from hall funds.
- d. Rhiwderin CC – Cllr Gregory reported that he and Cllr Fry had met with an architect and surveyor to produce a structural report of the Centre to aid with future plans for upgrading facilities. The surveyor highlighted a concern that the structure of one wall was suspect and it was decided That in order to eliminate any risk, the outside play area of Meithrin would be out of bounds until a full assessment was carried out and solution found.
- e. Best Kept Villages Group – NTR

- f. Allotments – Cllr Caston reported that Mr Barber was in the process of filling the available plots with waiting list applicants.
- g. Play Areas – The Clerk reported that following the weekly routine inspections, it was noted that a seat in the toddlers play area needed replacing. This is being sourced at present. In the meantime the seat is safe to be used. It was noted that there was no movement on the Rhiwderin play area situation.
- h. Burial Board – Cllr Harris to request the Chairman of the Burial Board call a meeting to discuss the terms of employment for the new Clerk

## **8. Items for Next Agenda**

- a. Council's policies & procedures review – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013 meeting (committee meeting to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 for suggestions to be formulated to present to Council)
- b. Cllr Fry's proposals for improvements to Station Approach/Viaduct Way junction – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013 meeting (Cllr Fry has asked an architect to come up with some preliminary suggestions)

## **9. Planning:**

- a. CONEX/12/1178 – Erection of rear conservatory. Site: 91 Laurel Road Bassaleg Newport NP10 8XS. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections provided neighbours are consulted and agree.

## **10. Items for Discussion/Action**

- a. Newport Community Infrastructure Levy questionnaire – it was agreed that the Chair and Clerk could work together and submit a response.
- b. Review of structural and architects report for Rhiwderin Community Centre – discussed under Reports above.
- c. National Assembly for Wales – invitation to consult on the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill – Cllr Caston discussed the contents and Council were happy to agree that no comment would be necessary.
- d. Update on Liaison meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012 – it was reported that the Councillor for Resources attended the meeting. Concurrent expenditure was discussed, but it seemed that the Finance Department could find no solution to the unfair distribution of funds.
- e. Signage for Pentrepoeth School update – Cllr Evans reported that he had been able to obtain a quote for the required signage that amounted to £1563.75 plus VAT for supply and installation. Cllr Cox-Wall commented that the signage should be in both English and Welsh to satisfy legislation. Cllr Gregory questioned why the Community Council should be expected to pay for this as surely this was an issue for the school and the City Council to resolve. It was agreed that Cllr Evans and Gregory discuss with the Headmistress during the next Governor's meeting, and that the Community Council would consider contributing towards cost, but should not bear the whole costs itself.
- f. Dog fouling – it was discussed that the issue of dog fouling was becoming more prevalent, and that at the very least some new signage was needed to deter this practice. City Councillors to try to obtain extra signage and Cllr Cornelious to speak with the City Dog Wardens to step up patrols in the area.
- g. Mc Donald's potential change of opening hours – Following on from Cllr Cornelious' report that she had been contacted by the franchisee requesting a meeting; the Clerk had also been contacted with the same request which was denied by both. A local resident's email outlining their concerns was discussed. Council agreed that it would fully support the local residents if they wished to oppose any changes to the outlet's working hours. Clerk to contact the resident and offer full support, continue monitoring the City's licensing and planning websites for any applications that could be made and request that opposition be gauged in order to act should an application arise.
- h. Parking issues on Laurel Road – the issue of parking on the triangular green at the top of Laurel Road was discussed. It was agreed that the parking was a safety issue and that the Police should be more involved.
- i. Open space at the rear of Church Crescent – the area was discussed, it was agreed that at present, no action should be taken, but that a close eye should be kept to ensure the area remains open to the public for their enjoyment.
- j. The Coach House Caerphilly Road – it was noted that the building was full of materials which was hoped to be being stored in anticipation of works commencing to utilise the property. Clerk to contact the owner in the spring for an update as this is when Council has been advised that development will hopefully begin.

- k. Fly postings response from NCC - Clerk presented an email from the City Council with a response to Council's request to erect signage to deter fly postings. The City Council denied the request but were willing to remove any fly posters when reported and to step up patrols in the area to attempt to deter the practice.

**11. Correspondence for Information:**

Not discussed.

**12. Accounts for Payment:** Approved – Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Harris

- a. Monmouthshire County Council – bollards installation at Laurel Road Bassaleg £1857.42
- b. Centregreat Ltd – maintenance and installation of Christmas tree lights £630.00

**Receipts**

- c. Newport City Council – 3<sup>rd</sup> Precept payment £14202.65

**13. Dates of next meetings:**

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Planning & Environment Meeting – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013

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

It was reported that a vehicle for sale had been parked in the lay-by on Caerphilly Road outside Graig Hall for some considerable time. Cllr Williams to check with Trading Standards if anything could be done to deter this practice.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.15pm. Confirmed this 30th day of January 2013.

Signed..... (Chair) – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Posted to notice boards 08.02.13