



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting & AGM held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm 29th May 2013.

Minutes of the Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg at 7pm on 29th May 2012.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs A Whitfield, P Stokes, M Smart, D Williams, P John, V Cox-Wall.
Present: Cllrs P Gregory, R Caston, D Evans, K Sayer, K Harries, M Cornelious, N Mountain, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, K Ashton.
2. **Public Representations:** None
3. **To hold internal election and appoint members to sub-committees:** The internal elections to appoint members to Chairman, Vice-Chairman and sub-committees was held. Clerk to update the website and notice boards with the new appointments. Cllr Gregory was appointed Chairman for a second term, and Cllr Fry Vice-Chairman for a second term. Cllr Gregory thanked Council for their confidence in appointing him for another year and for their support during the past year which he felt was trying at times, but for the most part very enjoyable. He and Council asked for a vote of thanks to be noted to the Clerk for her support, without which the post would have been much more difficult. An extra sub-committee was formed to be known as the Events and Social Committee, this committee will oversee and arrange any events held by Council in future.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 24th April 2013, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Evans seconded Cllr Harries.
5. **Clerk's Report:**
The Clerk's Report previously circulated was discussed. With regard to item 2, Cllr Haigh is dealing with the issue of a sapling hedge which has been planted at the top of Highfield Lane and will report back to Council with the outcome. Regarding item 11, Cllr Harris is making inroads into investigating of who owned the land when the A467 was diverted to run past Orchard Close which may help to determine what happened with the strip of land between Orchard Close and Caerphilly Road historically.
6. **Projects:**
 - a. Play Areas: The Clerk reported that the planning permission for the proposed play area had been submitted and was in the process of being reviewed.
 - b. Jubilee Path: Cllr Harris showed Council the draft layout of the leaflets and map being produced for the walk and reported that he had spoken to Rev. Lane who is happy to do a dedication service for the memorial plaque for former Cllr Rees when the path is ready to be opened.
 - c. Fencing between open space and Caerphilly Road: Cllr Fry reported that planning permission had been granted and Council looked over the quotations for the work in preparation for the chosen company to be approached to finalise the quote. It was decided that Ridgeway Fencing Contractors be offered the work as they came in with the most competitive quote, and were local contractors (proposed Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Ashton and agreed with a majority of 8 votes with 2 abstentions). Cllr Caston again raised concerns regarding security if placing a kissing gate alongside the allotment fence. Cllr Fry agreed that the chosen company would be asked to make amendments to the allotment fencing to ensure that the security of the allotment site was not compromised. It was discussed whether it was necessary to have a kissing gate in this location at all or whether it should be fitted retrospectively if necessary, Cllr Fry to discuss with the fencing contractor. Cllr Caston also re-iterated his wish to see the path through the open space upgraded to a more suitable width and resurfaced. It was agreed that this would be looked at when funding was available.
7. **Reports:**
 - a. Police – Not present. Cllr Harris reported that the car previously reported as vandalised on Caerphilly Road was damaged by someone walking over it. It was also reported that there had been an arrest in the village, a 20 year old man charged with assault against a schoolgirl, the incident happened near the Junction 28 restaurant. The police had also been notified again about further vandalism to the Council's notice board at St Basil's Church.

- b. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious reported that residents in Afon Village were very upset at the amount of rubbish in the area and that she had worked with NCC to arrange a litter pick. She also reported that there were problems once again with motorbikes travelling between Viaduct Way and Afon Village. She offered Council the opportunity to hold a Community Day event which had already been held by Marshfield Community Council with success. Council agreed that this would be a good event for residents and Cllr Cornelious to liaise with the newly formed Events and Social Committee to begin arrangements. She also told Council it was very unlikely that the proposed new nursery facilities at Pentrepoeth School would go ahead for this coming September.
- c. Graig CC – NTR. Cllr Fry reported to Council that the bolts on the goalposts on the open space had been replaced after the Clerk was notified that the posts were becoming loose at the last play equipment inspection.
- d. Rhiwderin CC – Cllr Gregory reported that Welsh Government had suggested that Council move forward on submitting a formal request for permission to borrow money to fund the Rhiwderin Community Centre refurbishment and other smaller projects. Cllrs Gregory, Whitfield and the Clerk to action. Clerk to chase up response from Networkrail regarding the boundary wall between the Centre and the railway. It was noted that a lady who had an accident at the Centre in December was looking to make a claim against Council's insurance. The Clerk had passed on the information to the insurance company who was dealing with the matter. Cllr Cornelious asked Council if they wished to start having PACT meetings again, Council asked Cllrs Cornelious and Williams to arrange for the offer to be taken up as it was agreed that they had been missed. Cllr Evans to let the City Cllrs know when there would be a free space at the Graig Centre for this purpose.
- e. Best Kept Villages Group – Council received a thank you email from the Group for funding the skip for the annual St Basil's churchyard clean-up.
- f. Allotments – Cllr Harris left the room because as an allotment holder he had an interest in this item. Cllr Caston reported that an inspection had taken place. Overall the condition of the site was good, especially in view of the bad spring experienced. It was agreed that the Clerk should send gentle reminder letters to 2 plot holders who's plots did require some work to bring them up to an acceptable standard. There are currently 3 vacant plots on the site. Cllr Harris returned when the allotments discussion ended.
- g. Play Areas – NTR
- h. Burial Board – The Clerk had received a complaint via the Council website from a gentleman who was unhappy about the maintenance schedule for the cemetery. He wrote that he had never seen the cemetery looking so unkempt. This complaint was passed on to the members who sat on the Burial Board to report to the next meeting, and the Clerk forwarded the email to the Burial Board Clerk for urgent attention.

8. Items for Next Agenda

LDP Presentation - June 12th meeting (meeting to start at 6.30pm)

Authorisation of accounts prior to sending to external auditor - June 26th meeting

Review of the effectiveness of the internal auditor – July 10th meeting

9. Planning:

CONEX/13/0454 - Erection of two storey rear extension plus provision of new window in side wall of existing bedroom. Site: 27 Delphinium Road, Rogerstone, Newport. Np10 9JF. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections provided neighbours are consulted and agree.

10. Items for Discussion/Action

- a. Review of Welsh Government's letter regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy (RC) - Cllr Caston reviewed this document and reported to Council that under the Localism Act of 2011 in Wales, Community Councils will be entitled to 15% of any CIL monies collected by NCC on developments in their wards.
- b. Items for Liaison meeting agenda - It was agreed that as the 2 items of most interest to the Council were already on the proposed agenda it was not necessary to add anything further for this forthcoming meeting.
- c. Bassaleg & Rhiwderin Directory submission - Council reviewed the submission drawn up by Cllr Stokes for the Directory. It was commented that perhaps it would have made for easier reading if it were formatted in bullet points, but as the submission had already had to be submitted to reach the publication deadline it could not be altered. This will be noted for any further submissions.
- d. Request for extra bus stop at Viaduct Way - Cllr Stokes had been made aware that residents in the new Parc Eglwys development had no bus stop close by. The Clerk had written to the Contact

Centre to request consideration be given to placing a bus stop in the area as some residents who were unable to walk to the nearest bus stop had to rely on taxis to travel into Bassaleg or Newport.

- e. Update on meeting with Orchard Close residents - Cllr Gregory reported that a meeting had been held. Only one resident's representative had been able to attend, but emails and conversations with other residents had been taken into account. It was agreed that the land in question did not belong to the residents, but that most had informally adopted the land outside their houses and treated it as an extension of their gardens. The Chairman and Clerk will visit all the houses in the Close and speak with the residents, then hold another meeting in the autumn. In the meantime it was decided to ask a local contractor to trim back the trees a little on the pinch point if the road to improve safety and clean away the detritus from underneath the trees to widen the footpath a little.
- f. Decision on extending the committee room - It was agreed that with the number of Councillors and the possibility of visitors to meetings, the current committee room is not large enough to accommodate Council meetings. Discussions took place to find a solution and it was deemed best to move the kitchen to the side room and extend the committee room into the kitchen area. This will be considered should the Welsh Government agree Council may borrow funds for works needed.
- g. Response to maintenance request for Lower Machen planter - The Clerk had received an email from NCC stating there was no funding available to repair the planter. This item to be discussed at the next full Council meeting when the Lower Machen Cllr (Cllr John) should be able to attend.
- h. Councillor training - Clerk asked Council what training needs they felt they had to forward the information to NCC as they requested.
- i. Request for assistance from Welsh Water re: pumping kiosks - Poster put up in notice boards, but it was thought there were no stations of this type in the ward.
- j. Notice of, and invitation to One Voice Wales AGM - noted but not taken up.

11. Correspondence for Information:

Not discussed.

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

Clerk salary & office allowance May 2013	£1616.82
May miscellaneous expenses	£280.00
C Ricci – bin cleaning, litter picking & maintenance May 2013	£280.00
Staples - office supplies	£9.00
Newport City Homes - grass cutting to Fort View play area for March 2013	£212.04
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Welsh Water - Nov 2012 - May 2013 water bill for Bassaleg Allotment site	£42.63
Best Kept Villages - donation to the group to pay for planting as agreed	£100.00

Receipts

Newport City Council - 1st annual precept payment	£15139.20
HMRC - VAT refund	£4807.76

13. Dates of next meetings:

Planning & Environment Meeting – Wednesday 12th June 2013 (6.30pm start)
Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 26th June 2013

14. Urgent Business not on discussed above.

Cllr Gregory received a complaint that not enough was done to prevent the church hall being demolished and sold for development. He advised the gentleman that the Community Council did object to the application, but had no powers to do anything further as the land belonged to the church who were free to sell the property if they so wished. The gentleman was concerned about an event which was previously held at the church hall and Cllr Gregory suggested that he consider hiring either Graig Hall or the Rhiwderin Community Centre instead.

A call had been received from a local resident asking Council to contact BT to complain about the bad condition of public telephone boxes in the area. Clerk to email to ask if they can be repaired and maintained.

Cllr Fry requested that Parking Issues in Laurel Road be added to the next agenda.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.35pm. Confirmed this 26th day of June 2013.

Signed..... (Vice-Chair) – 26th June 2013

Posted to notice boards 05.07.13