



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at Rhiwderin Community Centre Bassaleg 6.30pm 31st July 2013.**

Minutes of the Meeting held at Rhiwderin Community Centre Bassaleg at 6.30pm on 31st July 2013.

**1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs M Smart, P John.

**Present:** Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, D Evans, A Whitfield, P Stokes, K Sayer, K Harries, M Cornelious, D Williams, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, K Ashton, V Cox-Wall.

**2. Public Representations:** None.

Following a tour of the Community Centre, Cllr Gregory thanked Cllr Caston who showed Council around the upstairs rooms occupied by the Railway Society, it was agreed it was a worthwhile exercise in order to see the work that needs carrying out for the intended upgrade.

**3. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 26th June 2013, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Evans.

Arising from the minutes Cllr Cornelious confirmed that NCC officers see no safety issues with the light opposite Garth Terrace being switched off at night. Cllr Gregory agreed to forward a name and contact details of a lady who had fallen on the path/steps recently which she felt was due to the area being so dark, Cllr Williams to investigate.

**4. Clerk's Report:**

The Clerk's Report previously circulated was discussed. Arising from the Report - Item 5: Cllr Cornelious confirmed that NCC officers see no safety issues with the light opposite Garth Terrace being switched off at night. Cllr Gregory agreed to forward a name and contact details of a lady who had fallen on the path/steps recently which she felt was due to the area being so dark, Cllr Williams to investigate. Item 8: Cllr Cornelious intends to have some disabled parking bays marked up to help ease the problem, and will progress this with NCC. Item 9: Cllr Cornelious reported that NCC have agreed to put up a fence along the verge of the footpath to satisfy H&S concerns. Item 10: The trees were to be cut back on the Caerphilly Road side of Orchard Close during the week of this meeting. Item 16: Chair and Clerk to inspect and take appropriate action.

**(Reports(a)Police):** PCSO Chris Evans attended the meeting at 7.15pm and was heard out of order to allow him to return to his duties. He reported on survey results and actions taken recently. the results and actions are as follows:

Concern : Dog Fouling in the Rhiwderin area - Action: Council enforcement officers informed and joint walk and action to take place.

Concern: Speeding on Pentrepoeth Lane - Action: There are plans to put a mobile camera operation in place in the near future.

Concern: Bus timetable vandalised on Rivermead Way - Action: High visibility patrols are carried out in the area on a regular basis.

Concern: Lamping taking place between Rhiwderin and Lower Machen - Action: Email sent to farm liaison officer and patrols carried out in areas of concern with no result to date.

Concern: Parking issues on Laurel Road - Action: Various tickets issued, leaflet drop in the local area.

Concern: Traffic speeding in Park View - Action: One operation carried out with average speed under 30mph, another is planned for the near future

Concern: Scrap dealers and associated theft - Action: All scrap dealers in the local area are registered, email sent to waste management to clarify if loaded vehicles can be parked outside private residences overnight. Response is awaited.

Pact Update: High visibility patrols carried out in HOT SPOTS resulting in 5 first time warning letters issued for anti-social behaviour, and 2 ABC contracts issued for continuous anti-social behaviour.

PCSO Evans reported that there has been a large reduction in calls to McDonald's in Afon Village since the fitting of an ANPR system and new management regulations to reduce the amount of youths allowed in the premises at any one time. Leaflets have been delivered to Park View, Laurel Road and Park View Gardens prior to tickets being issued for illegal parking.

Council were advised that in answer to their concerns that the Police do not regularly attend Council meetings, the reason for this is that PC's and PCSO's are now required to cover a very large area and are not allowed to attend meetings unless they are working at that time. Previously they were able to attend if they were on leave and regularly did do this. Council understood the reasons and felt that if time had been taken to explain the situation, Council would not have been as concerned. Cllr Whitfield asked if there was an update on the theft of lead from St Basil's Church but PCSO Evans was not aware of the situation as it would have been dealt with by other officers. PCSO Evans agreed that if no-one was able to attend meetings that he would ensure Council receives an email update bi-monthly from now on. Council discussed with him the fact that the Police had not made representation at the McDonald's licensing hearing which was surprising to him as he had experienced much trouble in the area and was unhappy that it had been approved. Cllr Williams reported that there is an issue with youths parking up in Springfield Lane and sitting in their cars, the area is becoming littered and Cllr Williams is attempting to get a litter bin installed in the area. Cllr Gregory added that this is also becoming a problem at Bryn Hedydd and engaging Community Payback teams was discussed. Cllr Gregory also reported that a resident is experiencing problems with bikers and youths using the lane into Grosvenor Road which PCSO Evans promised to investigate. He then left the meeting at 8.05pm.

Cllr Cox-Wall suggested that Council take up the offer of meeting with the Deputy PCC Paul Harris as concerns regarding communications between the Council and the Police could be taken up with him. Clerk to arrange for him to attend a Planning meeting when his diary permits.

## **5. Projects:**

- a. **Play Areas:** The Clerk reported that the planning permission for the proposed play area at Fort View had been submitted and was in the process of being reviewed. Cllr Gregory informed Council that there had been an incident of unauthorised use of Fort View play area by a builder working on the rear of a house in Caerphilly Road. this had initially been dealt with by the Clerk and Newport City Homes, but as the unauthorised access persisted, Cllr Gregory, the Clerk and NCH representatives met with the builder and came to a compromise whereby he was allowed access under strict conditions. Council discussed a letter received from the landlords of the land on which the current Rhiwderin play area sits which informed Council they must remove all play equipment from the area as soon as possible as notice to quit the land had been properly served when it was also served on the old Rhiwderin allotment site. Council agreed for the Clerk to reply stating that the equipment will be removed in early September. The equipment will be stored until a suitable location is found. Cllr Gregory questioned City Cllrs Cornelious and Williams as he had been aware that 2 NCC officers had been touring the rear of Rhiwderin Community Centre, upon asking they said they were looking at maybe putting a park there. Cllr Gregory asked the City Cllrs to investigate and report back to Council what NCC intentions are.  
Cllr Ashton joined the meeting at 8.24pm.
- b. **Jubilee Path:** Cllr Harris Reported that he was waiting for final details from Mr Derek Brockway and had finalised arrangement for Ex-Councillor Frank Rees' plaque to be dedicated at a service on Sunday 25th August 2013 prior to placement for the official opening of the path. The Social and Events Committee to assist with arrangements for the opening event which will be held on Sunday 1st September 2013.
- c. **Fencing between open space and Caerphilly Road:** Cllr Fry reported that the fencing should be received and be ready to install during the third week of August, and that the installation should take approximately one week.

## **6. Reports:**

- a. **Police – Discussed above.**
- b. **City Councillors –** Cllr Cornelious reported that Whiteheads Social Club were now using a new car park and that parking issues in the area should be much relieved. It was noted that a set of traffic lights had been installed on the road but Council were concerned they were in a very bad spot and the reason for placing them there is not evident at present. Cllr Cornelious was asked to find out why they had been placed there. The play scheme at Rhiwderin Community Centre was being run again this summer and again it appears to have been a great success. Cllr Caston asked Cllr Cornelious if she knew why the fencing around the old church hall development in Bassaleg was set back so far from the road, was it because NCC were intending to make a dedicated right turn into Laurel Drive as had been suggested? Cllr Cornelious was not aware of the reason. Cllr Williams reported that Afon Mead Resident's Association were to pay for a motorcycle inhibitor to be placed in Afon Village, and asked that the Community Council consider paying for an area at the Cwm

Cwddy entrance gates of Pentrepoeth School to be strimmed and tidied up. Council agreed and Cllr Fry to engage Council's regular contractor to carry out the work.

- c. Graig CC – NTR. Cllr Fry reported that he had been able to locate the goalposts brackets in the ground to move them to another position with the help of Mr Godfrey Jordan one of the Graig Bowlers. Council would like to thank Mr Jordan for his kind help it was much appreciated. The Hall's AGM to take place on Monday 12th August 2013.
- d. Rhiwderin CC – Cllr reported that the planning permission for upgrading the toilet block was expected to be decided imminently, and signs were that it was going well so Council should expect a favourable decision. He, Cllr Whitfield and the Clerk were making progress with the application for permission to take out a loan for that and other projects on the wish list to be completed and the application would be submitted soon.
- e. Best Kept Villages Group – Council noted that poppies were being stencilled on the planters on Caerphilly Rd/Close junction and that they were very attractive. Council also commented on the lovely floral displays throughout the villages and commended the group for all their efforts.
- f. Allotments – Cllr Caston reported that some vandalism had taken place at the site, and that more security was needed. The Clerk had received an email from Mr Barber suggesting that angled arms with wire should be placed over the gates which should solve the problem. Cllr Fry to ask the fencing contractors to look at the issue.
- g. Play Areas – Discussed above..
- h. Burial Board – Cllr Harris has been voted as this year's Vice Chairman of the Board. It was noted that the Board had placed a notice in the Bassaleg & Rhiwderin Directory regarding the pre-booking of burial plots.

## **7. Items for Next Agenda**

Review of the effectiveness of the internal auditor – August 14th meeting

## **8. Planning:**

- a. a. CONEX/13/0599 - Works to trees protected by tree preservation order 1/79. Site: Bryn Deri, Caerphilly Road, Newport. NP10 8LS. Application Type: Tree Preservation Order. Comment: Council were happy to be guided by the Tree Preservation Officer.
- b. CONEX/13/694 - Demolition of existing single storey toilet block and erection of new replacement single story toilet block to rear of existing Rhiwderin Community Centre. Site: Rhiwderin Community Centre, Pentre Tai Road, Rhiwderin, Newport. NP10 8RX. Application Type: Full. Comment: Council fully supports this much needed development.

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

- a. Welsh Government survey responses update - Cllr Whitfield gathered Cllr's responses to the survey to collate and form a reply to the survey.
- b. Resident concerns in Pen y Groes Grove - Cllr Fry reported that a resident had issues with a development across the road from her as her property was now very overlooked by an extension which had been built by a neighbour. The issue was discussed and Cllr Ashton agreed to call on the lady and report back to Council at the ext Planning meeting.
- c. McDonald's license update - The licensing hearing proceedings were reported back to Council. The license had been approved much to the disappointment of all. Council discussed whether an appeal should be lodged but it was decided that the best course of action was to encourage residents that any issues regarding the premises be reported to the proper authorities for a log of evidence to be built should it be necessary to call for a review of the license at a later date as suggested by the licensing committee.  
Cllrs K Sayer and P Stokes left the meeting at 9.05pm.  
Cllr Ashton suggested that Council should write to the committee regarding the process of the meeting as in her experience she felt that procedures were not followed as they should have been. Cllr Ashton to advise the Clerk on the wording of the letter.  
Cllr Harries left the meeting at 9.07pm.
- d. Meadowland's Drive visibility issue update - Cllr Gregory and the Clerk to progress.
- e. Grosvenor Road footpath issue update - This issue was reported to the PCSO who attended the meeting and Cllr Harris to discuss the matter with a NCC pathways officer.  
Cllr Cornelious left the meeting at 9.14pm.
- f. Footpaths between Caerphilly Rd and Woodland Drive - Discussed earlier.
- g. Speed camera on Caerphilly Road update - Clerk has asked for the traffic camera information, this issue is ongoing.

- h. Dog fouling - Cllr Williams told Council he had some 'no dog fouling' signs and would have them erected at the open space in Bassaleg and by the footbridge over the A467.
- i. Clerk's salary award - The Clerk was entitled to a small increase in salary from a recent pay award which was accepted by Council and approved.
- j. Welsh Government - Review of new statutory guidance - Cllr Caston had reviewed the document and suggested that Council comment upon it to say that it supported the review and proposed changes. Clerk to action.

**10. Correspondence for Information:**

Not discussed.

**11. Accounts for Payment:** Approved – Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Haigh

Clerk salary & office allowance July 2013	£1577.45
July miscellaneous expenses	£137.60
C Ricci – bin cleaning, litter picking & maintenance July 2013	£340.00
Newport City Homes - grass cutting to Fort View play area for June 2013	£212.04
Whitehead Steelers - donation	£150.00
BPU Chartered Accountants - audit fee	£1080.00
WM Garden Services - repairs to Toddlers play area in Bassaleg	£452.00
S Rose - refurbishment of Best Kept Villages sign	£320.00
Greenmoor Nurseries - hanging baskets for Community Centres	£285.00
Staples - office supplies	£104.50
Boiler & Burner Maintenance Ltd - Rhiwderin CC boiler service	£264.72
R Charles Plastics - maintenance work	£90.00

**Receipts**

None

**12. Dates of next meetings:**

Planning & Environment Meeting – Wednesday 14th August 2013

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 28th August 2013

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

Cllr Fry expressed concern that a contractor had left two 40 gallon drums of bitumen emulsion on the junction of Caerphilly Rd/Close and was worried that if the drums were to be broken the contents would seep into the drainage close by. Cllr Gregory to report to NCC for removal.

Cllr Gregory expressed concern regarding the barriers around road works opposite Garth Terrace which completely blocked the pavement forcing pedestrians onto the busy main road. Cllr Caston said he had complained to workmen in the area working on the gas mains. Cllr's Gregory, Whitfield and Williams to investigate and report to the necessary authority.

Cllr Gregory reported to Council that the recent plans sent to Council for comment on the new fencing at Pentrepoeth School were incorrect. He had reported this and NCC are in the process of correcting the plans as necessary. Concern was that the error may delay the erection of the fence if planning permission procedures needed to be restarted. Cllr Williams to investigate.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.26pm. Confirmed this 28th day of August 2013.

Signed..... (Chair) – 28th August 2013

Posted to notice boards 06.09.13