



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm 28th August 2013.

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1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs N Mountain, K Harries.
Present: Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, P Stokes, K Sayer, M Cornelious, D Williams, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, K Ashton, V Cox-Wall.
2. **Public Representations:** None.
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 31st July 2013, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Stokes.
4. **Clerk's Report:**

The Clerk's Report previously circulated was discussed. Arising from the Report - Cllr Gregory reported that the open manhole opposite Garth Terrace had at last been closed and the barriers removed. Item 13 - Cllr Cornelious reported that NCC were looking at whether they would be responsible for the area. It was noted that youths were using the area and the back of Rhiwderin Community Centre as a skateboard park. Cllr Gregory also reported that despite 5 months of requests by the Clerk, NetworkRail had still not agreed to look at the embankment wall abutting the Rhiwderin Community Centre grounds, this was being pursued. Item 8 - Council agreed it was unacceptable that NCC were still not in agreement that the footpath was their responsibility despite proof to the contrary and were concerned that school terms were about to start again shortly putting schoolchildren safety at risk. Cllr Cornelious had assurance that gaps in the fence alongside the former Garthfield Cottage development would be made safe but NCC had not given a date. It was agreed that a date should be requested. Cllr Fry reported that Council's contractor had carried out a cleanup of the path and steps to ensure it was safe for pedestrians. This should be carried out by NCC, but as it would have been unlikely to have been completed by them soon, so the Community Council agreed to carry out this work as a one-off job due to safety concerns.
5. **Projects:**
 - a. **Play Areas:** Rhiwderin play area - Cllr Gregory reported that the Clerk had written to the landowner's agent and informed them that all play equipment would be removed from the play area by mid September as requested. In a conversation between Cllr Gregory and the agent the Community Council was offered to purchase the land and another section beyond between the play area and Gloch Wen Farm for £100K. It was agreed that this was far beyond the reach of Council's finances. It was noted that there was a lot of dog fouling on the open space at Harlech Drive, City Cllrs to speak with NCC Dog Wardens and Cllr Williams to check if he has some signs to erect. It was also noted that the Council is aware that NCC Officers have been inspecting the rear grounds of Rhiwderin Community Centre, and when approached had said that they were looking at the area with a view to installing a play area. To date Council had not been able to find out anything about this visit and asked City Cllrs to look into the matter. Council were concerned that they had not been consulted regarding this and the Clerk to ask for the issue to be added to the Liaison meeting agenda for discussion as much had been made in the Charter about improved communication between the two Councils.

Fort View play area - Cllr Gregory had been to see the builder who had previously arranged access over the play area to get materials into a house in Caerphilly Road. He requested an extension to the time he was allowed access. Cllr Gregory advised him that he should seek permission from NCH as they were the landlords, and that he was unable to give that permission himself. The funding application has been submitted for the park upgrade and a decision is expected in October/November.
 - b. **Jubilee Path:** Cllr Gregory thanked everyone who attended the service to dedicate the plaque for ex-Councillor Frank Rees which was to be installed within the week on a gate in Park Wood, and particularly thanked Cllr Stokes who said a few kind words about Cllr Rees as the service. A meeting of the Events & Social Committee was arranged to finalise details of the event taking place on Sunday 1st September.

- c. Fencing between the open space and Caerphilly Road: Cllr Fry reported that the fencing was under way, and all agreed that it much improved the area. It was expected to be finished within the week then the hard surfaces in front of the allotment gates and under the kissing gates could be attended to. Council were asked to think about what would be the best options for the remaining triangle of green at The Griffin junction.

6. Reports:

- a. Police – Not present. Cllr Ashton reported that the owners of White Barn Farm were having trouble with vehicles driving with excessive speed on Coc y North Lane which was scaring horses. More traffic is using the lane and driving at higher speeds since the lane had been resurfaced which is an increasing problem for riders and horses. Cllr Gregory reported that a house in Caerphilly Close had been broken into by breaking a window with a house brick. and that 2 vehicles in the area has been vandalised.
- b. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious confirmed that the new light controlled pedestrian crossing at Park View had been installed in readiness for the new proposed housing estate on the old Tredegar Park Golf Course development. It was a condition of the planning permissions that the crossing had to be in place prior to any development of the site. It was noted that the new development on the old Church Hall site at Bassaleg had begun, and it is expected that due to the developer donating a strip on land along the pavement boundary, a new dedicated right hand turn lane will be added to Caerphilly Road to ease congestion. Cllr Cornelious had also been contacted by a resident in Lavender Way, Afon Village to urge City Cllrs to push for crash barriers to be installed on the left hand side of Meadowlands Drive when approaching the A467 from the Rivermead Way roundabout. A recent accident saw a vehicle mount the pavement which could have potentially gone over the embankment and ended up in the residential area. Cllr Cornelious was exploring this with the Highways Dept. It was also noted that the summer play scheme at Rhiwderin CC had been very successful again this year, and following the decision by NCC not to place parking time restrictions outside St Basil's shops in Bassaleg, Council agreed that an extra couple of disabled parking bays should help with the issue of elderly residents being unable to park to shop. Cllr Cornelious to progress.
- c. Graig CC – Cllr Evans reported that the Hall had held it's AGM and that the committee agreed to the removal of the coin operated telephone at the Hall as it was not cost effective. It was agreed that the Community Council take on the payment of utilities bills for both Community Centres (proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Stokes and agreed by all).
- d. Rhiwderin CC – Cllr Gregory reported that the planning permission for upgrading the toilet block had been approved, that borrowing approval had been sought from WG to carry out works to the building and other various projects in the ward, and a decision is awaited. The Centre to hold its AGM on 2nd September.
- e. Best Kept Villages Group – It was reported that some planters had been damaged, Council were disappointed at this mindless vandalism which detracts from the excellent work carried out by the group. Cllr Fry asked that Council consider if the use of the planters loaned to us from NCC should be utilised, and if so, where they should be located. Clerk to agenda for next Planning meeting.
- f. Allotments – Cllr Caston reported that only 1 allotment plot is now available for rental and an inspection is to take place on Sunday 15th September at 10.30am.
- g. Play Areas – Discussed above.
- h. Burial Board – NTR except that the new Clerk seemed to be settling into the job well.

7. Items for Next Agenda

Review of the effectiveness of the internal auditor – September 11th meeting

8. Planning:

CONEX/13/0674 - Erection of 2.4 high vertical bar fencing affecting public right of way 393/100. Site: Pentrepoeth Primary School, Cwm Cwddy Drive, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8JN. Application Type: Full. New plan received. Comment: Council fully supports this application.

9. Items for Discussion/Action

- a. Approve Council's financial accounts after external auditor's report - Council were satisfied that the accounts were in order and were pleased that there were no matters of concern raised by the external auditor. The annual return was signed by both the Clerk and the Chair for signing by the external auditor prior to publishing.
- b. Resident concerns in Pen y Groes Grove - Cllr Ashton advised Council that she had spoken with the resident who raised an issue with a development which overlooks her property. On investigation

NCC advised her that even though the original planning consent had not been adhered to, nor a new plan submitted and as such these changes were unauthorised, the officers did not consider the issue was worth pursuing. Cllr Cornelious to take up the matter with the planners and Community Council to offer support to the complainant. Cllr Ashton to assist the Clerk with a letter which the resident may use in her complaint whilst taking the matter further.

- c. Laurel Road Parking (resident's meeting request) - Following a discussion regarding the issue it was agreed that as the land does not belong to the Council, and that Council does not have the funds to help with a solution, therefore any changes would be unfeasible at this time. Clerk to attempt a land registry search to determine who owns the green before proceeding with a meeting.
- d. Meadowland's Drive visibility issue (update) - The Clerk and chair visited the site to assess the issue and the Clerk has emailed the complainant with the offer of a meeting to discuss how to resolve the issue.
- e. Grosvenor Road footpath issue (update JH) - No update available at this time.
- f. Footpaths between Caerphilly Rd and Woodland Drive - following denial from NCC that there were any maintenance issues, the Chair, Cllr Whitfield and Clerk made a site visit and discovered the path extremely overgrown and difficult to use. The Clerk emailed photographic evidence of this and requested that the issue be revisited by NCC.
- g. Speed camera on Caerphilly Road - Following Council's request for a static speed camera at the Caerphilly Rd/Close junction, and the response that it would not be deemed necessary, the Clerk requested information from the mobile unit to see if Council could petition for a static camera on community safety grounds.
- h. Dog fouling signs (update DW) - discussed above.
- i. Invitation from Whitehead Steelers - The Clerk informed Council that an invitation had been extended for them to attend a kit launch on 15th September.
- j. Funding from NCC for website improvement - The Clerk informed Council that she had applied for, and gained, a grant of £500 via NCC from the Welsh Government to make improvements to Council's website.
- k. Newport Volunteer Achievement Awards invitation to nominate - Given the opportunity to nominate someone to a category, Council agreed that it wished to nominate Cllrs Whitfield and Evans, Cllr Whitfield, a longstanding Community Councillor, for her dedication and hard work during her 30 years with the Council, and Cllr Evans for his hard work and dedication in his 18 years with Council, especially his involvement with Graig Community Hall.

10. Correspondence for Information:

Noted - a letter composed to the Queen informing her of the work on the Jubilee Path and its forthcoming opening event was read out and approved, Clerk to send by post.

11. Accounts for Payment: Approved – Proposed Cllr Stokes seconded Cllr Evans

Clerk salary & office allowance August 2013	£1540.20
August miscellaneous expenses	£63.37
C Ricci – bin cleaning, litter picking & maintenance August 2013	£310.00
Newport City Homes - grass cutting to Fort View play area for July 2013	£212.04
Saldo Pipe & Construction Services - Repairs to Rhiwderin CC	£90.00
Celtic Displays - Costs for production of Jubilee Path Plaque	£102.00

Receipts

None

12. Dates of next meetings:

Planning & Environment Meeting – Wednesday 11th September 2013

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 25th September 2013

13. Urgent Business not on discussed above.

Cllr Harris reported that the raised path on Caerphilly Road close to the Friendly Fox needed maintenance as brambles were encroaching the path, Clerk to write to NCC Contact Centre.

The Clerk informed Council that the Finance Department of NCC had advised her that following Council's decision to make part payment of the election recharge invoices for the items which they believed were attributable to them, NCC are seeking full payment of all items on the invoice and it was thought that if this was not paid, the outstanding amount would be deducted from next year's precept payment.

Cllr Fry was in receipt of a quote to lop the overgrown trees at Orchard Close of £900 which would be to remove the top 4-5 metres. It was agreed that carrying out this work would set a precedent which was a concern. Clerk to write to NCC tree preservation officer again and express concern that these trees were coming to the end of their life and are becoming a real safety concern.

Apologies were accepted for Cllrs Whitfield Haigh and Stokes for September planning meeting, Cllrs Whitfield and Stokes for September full Council meeting, and Cllr Haigh for Rhiwderin AGM on 2nd September.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.15pm. Confirmed this 25th day of September 2013.

Signed..... (Chair) – 25th September 2013
Posted to notice boards 04.10.13