



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm 25th September 2013.

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1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs A Whitfield, P Stokes, K Harries, D Williams, K Sayer.
Present: Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, D Evans, M Smart, M Cornelious, 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 28th August 2013, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Evans.
Cllr Cox-Wall arrived 7.05pm
4. **Clerk's Report:**
The Clerk's Report previously circulated was discussed. Arising from the Report - Item 10: The Clerk notified Council that a response had been received from Newport bus which highlighted difficulties but that it could be possible. Clerk to write again to NCC and urge consideration be given to installing the bus stop.
5. **Projects:**
 - a. Play Areas: Rhiwderin play area - Cllr Gregory reported that he had been contacted by the agent for the landowner of the play area and was requested to leave all the play equipment in situ for a further two months.
Fort View play area - Council are awaiting a response to the funding application from Veolia.
 - b. Jubilee Path: Cllr Gregory read out a letter from Buckingham Palace written by the Chief Clerk to The Queen which stated "The Queen was most interested to learn of the opening of the newly developed Graig Diamond Jubilee Path which took place on 1st September and has asked me to convey her appreciation for the efforts made by all the organisers and volunteers who were involved with its development." The opening event was very successful, and Derek Brockway walked a part of the path with some of the volunteers and walkers. Council expressed annoyance that despite publicising the event with a press release and the attendance of a photographer from the South Wales Argus, the event was not deemed worthy of coverage in the paper in the days following the event.
 - c. Fencing between the open space and Caerphilly Road: Cllr Fry reported that the fencing had been completed. Feedback to date was very positive, and the only job remaining was to lay a suitable surface under the kissing gates. Council asked Cllr Fry to explore a cost effective surface and return to Council for approval to commence work. It was also decided that in the interim period, the remaining chain link fencing close to the Best Kept Villages sign should be removed with a view to deciding if the fencing should be continued along and around to The Griffin, or if the area should be left open or timber/metal bollards should be installed to finish off the project. A decision will be made if and when borrowing approval from the Welsh Government is obtained.
6. **Reports:**
 - a. Police – Not present. A short report was read out but it contained no statistics. Cllr Cornelious reported that there was clear evidence of drug taking where youths in cars are parking in Springfield Lane.
 - b. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious reported that WasteSavers are concentrating their efforts on recycling to try to persuade people who don't already recycle to do so. It was also mentioned that there is a new consultation regarding the M4, and Council were urged to take part and submit comments. The Rhiwderin Meithrin had applied for a Lloyds Bank grant and needed people to vote in order to be in with a chance of gaining funding, Councillors were urged to encourage people to vote. No dog fouling signs had been erected by NCC's dog wardens, and Cllr Cornelious was asked to urge NCC carry out a clean-up of Bryn Hedydd. Clerk to email NCC regarding dog fouling in the area.
Cllr Cox-Wall left the meeting at 8.10pm

- c. Graig CC – Cllr Evans reported that users were being disturbed by anti-social behaviour outside the hall during the evenings, the matter was in hand and the Police are involved. A quote is awaited for improved ventilation to the toilets.
- d. Rhiwderin CC – Cllr Gregory reported that following a meeting with a NetworkRail representative, the retaining wall adjacent to the railway was NetworkRail property and maintenance would be carried out by them. The new buttresses to strengthen the wall at the rear of the building which was identified as a possible issue had been completed and the area is now safe. Following receipt of the asbestos report, he felt that the report was not detailed enough and had asked for it to be resubmitted. The architect had been asked to prepare tendering documents for the upgrade of the toilet block in readiness for approval of the loan to complete the work. There was an issue with drainage in the Meithrin area and a quote for repairs was approved by Council.
- e. Best Kept Villages Group – NTR
- f. Allotments – Cllr Harris offered to remove himself from the meeting as he was an allotment holder and had an interest in the item. It was not deemed necessary for him to do so and he was invited to stay. Notes of the recent inspection were discussed. Cllr Fry was asked to contact a company who would be able to assist with altering the gates to improve security.
- g. Play Areas – Discussed above.
- h. Burial Board – It was agreed that nothing apart from headstones and a pot should be put on graves at the cemetery and Cllr Harris suggested a book of rules should be produced to everyone is aware of conditions. It was noted that recently a handbag had been stolen from the car of a visitor to the cemetery. Visitors are requested to exercise caution and not leave valuables on show when parking to visit graves.

7. Items for Next Agenda

Review of the effectiveness of the internal auditor – October 8th meeting
 Budgeting and 2014/15 Precept request - October 8th Meeting
 Lorraine Bottomley, Assistant Chief Constable - December 11th meeting

8. Planning:

CONEX/13/0883 - Part retention/part completion of dwarf retaining walls to divide garden. Site: West Barn, Tabernacle Drive, Rhiwderin, Newport. NP10 8UA. Application Type: Full. Comment: No Objections.

CONEX/13/0897 - Erection of part single storey, part double storey rear extension. Site: 82 Caerphilly Road, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8LH Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections provided neighbours are consulted and agree.

9. Items for Discussion/Action

- a. LDP Alternative Sites: Discussed - Clerk to respond by deadline to object to all proposed changes.
- b. Use of planters loaned from NCC - Deferred.
- c. Resident concerns in Pen y Groes Grove - It was noted that NCC Planning Department stated that nothing could be done by their department and that the only course of action open to the resident was to refer the issue to the Ombudsman. The resident had already taken this step and the issue was being reviewed.
- d. Laurel Road Parking - Council agreed that the parking issues at the top of Laurel Road could not be resolved without considerable funds to create parking spaces. These funds were not available to either the Community Council or NCC. Clerk to write to resident who emailed to advise that the Community Council were not in a financial position to be able to assist.
- e. Grosvenor Road footpath issue (update JH) - Cllr Harris had spoken with the homeowner experiencing problems who is keeping a diary of any events of anti-social behaviour. No action can be taken until evidence has been obtained. Council and the Police to keep an eye on the situation.
- f. Dog fouling signs (update DW) - Cllr Williams was unable to attend the meeting. Also discussed under 6b.
- g. Liaison meeting update - It was reported at the meeting that NCC intends to take any outstanding payments with regard to election recharges from the 2014 Precept allocations. Presentations were given on the LDP Revised Alternative Sites consultation stage and on Play Sufficiency. Changes to the Charter between NCC and Community Councils were approved and new copies will be sent to Clerks.
- h. Invitation to review Welsh Government's proposed Designated Persons Order - Cllr Cornelious to review and report back to Council.

- i. Lower Machen planter - Following approval, Cllr Fry to engage Council's local contractor to uplift the stones of the planter and create a mound around the tree.
- j. Arrangements for honorariums - The usual honorariums to volunteers at Rhiwderin Community Centre were approved in readiness for October's cheque run.
- k. Christmas lighting event - The date was set for Friday November 29th and the event organisation will be carried out by the Events & Social Committee who will report back regularly to Council.
- l. M4 Corridor Improvements consultation: Discussed in 6b. Clerk to investigate as no consultation documents have been received.

10. Correspondence for Information:

Noted

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

Clerk salary & office allowance September 2013	£1540.40
August miscellaneous expenses	£172.62
C Ricci – bin cleaning, litter picking & maintenance August 2013	£310.00
Newport City Homes - grass cutting to Fort View play area for August 2013	£212.04
Ridgeway Contractors Ltd - purchase and installation of open space fencing	£13392.00
Combined Playground Services Ltd - play areas annual assessments	£216.00
Hedland Civil Engineering Ltd - works to Rhiwderin Community Centre	£2659.63
Celtic Fire Protection Co - Fire extinguisher testing for Graig & Rhiwderin Centres	£98.29
British Legion - donation to organisation and wreath payment	£100.00
HMRC - PAYE & NI July to September	£1590.95

Receipts

NCC - 2nd Precept payment	£15139.20
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12. Dates of next meetings:

- Planning & Environment Meeting – Wednesday 9th October 2013
- Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 30th October 2013

13. Urgent Business not on discussed above.

None

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.30pm. Confirmed this 30th day of October 2013.

Signed..... (Chair) – 30th October 2013

Posted to notice boards 08.11.13