



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 29th January 2014.**

Minutes of the Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg at 7pm on 29th January 2014.

**1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs V Cox-Wall, K Ashton, N Mountain.

**Present:** Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, P Stokes, M Smart, K Sayer, K Harries, M Cornelious, D Williams, P John, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry. Also PC P Jones.

PC Jones was heard first to enable him to leave and carry out his duties.

Since 8th January there had been 73 calls to the police, 12 of which were crimes. 5 had been detected with enquiries ongoing with the remainder. They were broken down as follows: 4 x theft other, 1 x vehicle crime, 2 x burglaries, 1 x shoplifting, 2 x criminal damage, 2 x violence without injury. The 5 detected crimes were: 2 x burglaries (two young males arrested and remanded to court for dwelling burglaries which happened during the evening), 2 x violence without injury and 1 x shoplifting. The police reminds residents to be extra vigilant, to ensure their premises are secure at all times and that vehicles are properly secured when left unattended with anything of value not left out on display. Continued patrols are being carried out in Springfield Lane with negative results to date. Concerning speeding in the area, the ward team are working with the road traffic safety partnership to carry out speed trials. Residents are urged to sign up to OWL and look out for Tweets and Facebook information on current incidents. Anyone interested in OWL (Online Watch Link) to receive updates about crime in the ward either by email, text message or home phone message can contact Rogerstone Police Station on 01633 895019. Cllr Cornelious discussed the arrangement of a community open day at Graig Hall in May and invited the police to attend.

PC Jones was thanked and left the meeting at 7.15pm.

It was noted that City Cllr D Williams had become a member of the Police & Crime Panel. He confirmed that there is now a written protocol for police attendance at meetings which had come about with pressure from the Police Commissioner.

**2. Public Representations:** None.

**3. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 11th December 2013, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Harries.

**4. Clerk's Report:**

The Clerk's Report previously circulated was discussed. Arising from the Report - Item 9: Cllr Whitfield expressed frustration concerning the reply from NCC that it had no funds available for installing an extra street lamp on Laurel Road. She pointed out that Council had been lobbying the City Council for an extra lamp on this road since the 1980's. This area is pitch black in places and hazardous for pedestrians and asked City Cllrs to obtain the criteria NCC uses for determining when lighting should be installed. Cllr Fry noted that as this is a bus route and the dark patch is close to a bus stop, it was important for residents to feel safe when waiting for or alighting busses. Regarding Item 12: Cllr Whitfield had again emailed the tree officer about overhanging branches obscuring light and the fact that a street light previously reported is still out. The report was accepted as a true reflection of matters to date. Proposed Cllr Harries, seconded Cllr Stokes.

Cllr Haigh joined the meeting at 7.30pm.

**5. Projects:**

- a. Meeting room & kitchen refurbishment at Graig Hall: Cllr Fry reported that estimated initial costs had been reduced to around £15K which would be to enlarge the room by incorporating the current kitchen, move the kitchen into the side room which will be split to allow for a small meeting room and reasonable sized kitchen, renewal of the central heating boiler and partial renewal of the heating system. It was agreed that the work needed to be carried out and it was noted that the current heating system is in desperate need of renewal to make it much more energy efficient. The timing system is unreliable leaving it working at full power when unneeded, and energy costs for running the system have approximately doubled in recent times. Solar panels were also discussed and Cllr Fry agreed to look into whether it would be beneficial to consider using this energy at the

Hall. It was agreed that the Chair and Clerk would look at Council's finances and update the list of works anticipated, adding solar panels to the list for consideration. The re-marking of the badminton court was discussed and it was agreed that this matter was one for the management committee to discuss and fund. Three storage cupboards were available for use. The Clerk requested one to be used for Council and one was agreed for the Railway Society at Rhiwderin Community Centre.

- b. Fencing between open space and Caerphilly Road: Cllr Fry reported that finishing the project had still been impossible due to the weather problems experienced lately.
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade: Cllr Gregory reported that he had been unable to get an update from the architect in time for the meeting, but hoped that plans were still on schedule for beginning demolition of the old toilet block during the Easter holiday.

## **6. Reports:**

- a. Police – Discussed above.
- b. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious discussed the plans for the open information day mentioned during the Police report above, asked that Council invite as many organisations as they think will be useful to the community, and also to supply refreshments for the day. She also reported that after consultations with residents on the Parc Eglyws development there is a desperate need for a bus service in the area even if it is quite limited. The Seren Group had purchased the residences which were not sold privately, so both City Cllrs agreed to lobby the Group to see if they would be willing to subsidise the bus company and come to some arrangement for a limited service for the area since the Community Council were told it could not be funded by the City Council or the bus company. Cllr Williams asked if there had been any developments with Fort View play area and Cllr Gregory informed him that he had been told a feasibility study had been completed on all parks in the area by an NCC officer. This officer had presented the paperwork to his Director who was to take it to NCC's Cabinet. Cllr Williams informed Council that a proposed motorcycle barrier for the Afon Mead to Rhiwderin path is being progressed, and that a tree for this coming Christmas has been offered to Council which was readily accepted with thanks.
- c. Graig CC – Discussed above.
- d. Rhiwderin CC – Discussed above.
- e. Allotments – NTR
- f. Best Kept Villages - NTR, it was suggested the group may be interested in being represented at the open information day being organised. Cllr Smart to advise the group and let the Clerk know.
- g. Play Areas – Discussed above.
- h. Burial Board – NTR, next meeting 3rd March 2014.

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

Agreed, it was also agreed to keep the agenda for the next planning meeting to a minimum to allow plenty of time for DCC Bottomley's presentation and Q&A session.

## **8. Planning:**

Cllr Smart expressed her frustration that planning comments sent to the City Council seem to be ignored, this was the feeling of the Council as a whole too.

- a. CONEX 13/1301 – Two storey link side extension together with first floor link extension to existing garage. Site: 5 Pentre Tai Road, Rhiwderin, Newport. NP10 8RL. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections provided neighbours are consulted and agree and there is sufficient off-road parking retained.
- b. CONEX 13/1314 – Demolition of garage and erection of two storey side extension. Site: 168 Laurel Road, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8PT. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections provided the visibility splay of the junction is not impaired.
- c. CONEX/13/1235 - Replacement agricultural buildings. Site: Plas Machen, Caerphilly Road, Lower Machen, Newport. NP10 8GW. Application Type: Full. Council fully supports and is encouraged by the local farming community wishing to expand operations, and recognises that the proposed new access would be a big improvement to the current access for the site. Council does however have some safety concerns due to the fact that the A468 is such a fast and busy road especially at this point.

Cllr Sayer left the meeting at 8.45pm

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

- a. PWLB Direct Debit form for signatures in readiness for approved Council borrowing repayments - approved and signed for Clerk to return to the Board.

- b. Review of banking arrangements - Clerk given permission to open a new account at a different bank for proceeds of the above loan to be kept separate from Council's other accounts, and also to switch Council's other accounts to the new bank when practicable to be more convenient for the Clerk to carry out Council business.
- c. NCC response to request for additional lighting on Laurel Road - discussed above.  
As an aside, Cllr Gregory read out a letter compiled to the Argus Editor regarding the lack of response to previous letters sent recently, and the Editor's apology and invitation to attend a meeting to discuss a way forward.  
Cllr Stokes left the meeting at 9.03 pm.
- d. Request for donation to the new Rainbows group based at Rhiwderin Community Centre - a formal request email to be forwarded to the Clerk for consideration at the next end of month meeting.
- e. Update on NCC's LDP submission to the Planning Inspectorate Wales for examination - noted.
- f. Proposed Fairtrade policy - deferred to the next end of month meeting.
- g. Update on Orchard Close trees issue - Deferred to the next end of month meeting.
- h. Youth Forum - Cllr Harris reported to Council on the meeting he had been invited to attend by Rogerstone Community Council. He suggested it might be beneficial if Graig were to hold their own meetings. Cllr Harris to take the idea forward and return to Council with ideas.
- i. Review of grounds maintenance contract - Following an invitation to renew grounds maintenance contracts with Monmouth Council, Cllr Fry to review Council's needs and discuss with Monmouth.
- j. Request for donation to the Support Group of Windsor School of Dance - noted but unable to supply a donation at this time.
- k. Invitation to Tenovus VIP reception - Noted, but no-one available to attend.
- l. Request from NCC for volunteers to lead Community Walks in the area - Cllr Harris to respond.

**10. Correspondence for Information:**

Noted but not discussed.

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

Clerk salary & office allowance January 2014	£1540.40
January miscellaneous expenses	£62.60
C Ricci – bin cleaning, litter picking & maintenance January 2014	£250.00
Griffiths Signs - Jubilee Path map for pump house	£108.00
Cllr L Fry - ink costs	£21.63
R Charles Plastics - Graig map & Graig Hall door fixings	£90.00

**Total to date: £2042.63**

**Receipts**

None

**12. Dates of next meetings:**

Planning Meeting – Wednesday 12th February 2014 at 7pm  
Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 26th February 2014 at 7pm

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

Cllr Gregory reported some large trees had been cut down on the former Garthfield Cottage site, and that the fencing along the boundary with the footpath was not properly shorn up. Clerk to write to NCC to ask for investigation.

Cllr Smart reported that work had been carried out on the banking both sides of the river to meet the Natural Resources Agency safety guidelines, and that a grass bank was being installed.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.30pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 26th February 2014

Posted to notice boards 07.03.14

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