



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 26th February 2014.

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1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs D Williams, P John, K Ashton.

Present: Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, P Stokes, M Smart, K Sayer, K Harries, M Cornelious, N Mountain, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, V Cox-Wall. Also PC Paul Jones.

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

He reported that during February in the Graig Ward 96 calls were made to police, of those 20 were crimes, of which 1 had been detected and the remaining 19 were under investigation. The breakdown was as follows: 4 x criminal damage, 4 x vehicle crime, 3 x burglary non-dwelling, 2 x burglary dwelling, 1 x theft other, 1 x public order offence, 1 x rape, 1 x shoplifting and 1 x violence without injury. Following last month's meeting, it is confirmed that the police will be represented at the Community Event to be held in May. As there are no PACT meetings at present, a mobile police surgery is held quarterly to enable the team to meet residents, the latest being held in Rhiwderin. To date there have been no calls or complaints regarding parking in Laurel Road since the last fixed penalty notices were issued. The last recorded complaint about a parking issue was in Channel View in October 2013 but no offences were being committed at the time. Residents are encouraged to join OWL, leaflets have been given out but more are available from the police on 01633 895019 or from Cllr Gregory who is the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the area. Cllr Cornelious reported that she is looking at resurrecting Neighbourhood meetings in the near future. Cllr Whitfield expressed surprise that no parking issues had been reported as she had reported a truck parking on verges herself. PC Jones thought this may be due to the complaint not being logged as a parking issue but as something else and would look into the matter. PC Jones was thanked and left the meeting at 7.25pm.

2. Public Representations: None.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held 29th January 2014, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Stokes.

4. Clerk's Report:

The Clerk's Report previously circulated was discussed. The report was accepted as a true reflection of matters to date. Proposed Cllr Evans, seconded Cllr Haigh.

5. Projects:

- a. Meeting room & kitchen refurbishment at Graig Hall: Cllr Fry reported that estimated initial costs had been reviewed again from the 17 quotes submitted and now came in at £16,844. This included an upgrade of the heating system to improve energy efficiency. The Hall would need to close for 3 weeks in order to carry out the works. Council thanked Cllr Fry for all his hard work on the project and supported his suggestions. Details to be considered and discussed at the mid March meeting to push the project forward.
- b. Fencing between open space and Caerphilly Road: Cllr Fry reported that finishing the project was still weather dependant and Council should consider if anything should be planned for the triangular area of green on which the BKV sign stood.
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade: Cllr Gregory reported that papers had been submitted to NCC for building regulation approval, but Council were still concerned that the project would be delayed as the architect was now on holiday.

6. Reports:

- a. Police – Discussed above.
- b. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious reported that concerns had been expressed to NCC Planning Officers over the Former Tredegar Golf Club proposed development in light of the recent bad weather and flooding risks. The request to re-route the No. 37 bus to take in Parc Eglwys is still being refused on the grounds that there is no appropriate turning point for a bus and that the schedule is too tight for it to be included, but that she is pursuing the issue and has not given up

hope of a positive outcome. She advised Council of a Community Transport Service where users can dial-a-ride which is available to all. Cllr Stokes stated that the community deserved a bus service they can rely on rather than this option.

- c. Graig CC – Cllr Evans reported that as the minimum wage is to rise and energy costs for running the Hall have spiralled, the Hall finances are struggling to stay in the black. Cllr Fry submitted quotes to Council for photovoltaic cells which would supply the Hall with electricity and be able to produce spare energy to sell back to energy companies. He asked that Cllrs consider this as an option and for the suggestion to be discussed at the mid March meeting. Cllr Smart added that she had personal experience of this and felt it was a really good idea.
- d. Rhiwderin CC – Discussed above.
- e. Allotments – Cllr Caston reported that the tree which recently fell on the open space had damaged the fencing to the allotments and would need repair. It was not thought to be a high security risk at present but needed repair reasonably soon. Clerk to arrange.
- f. Best Kept Villages - The group asked that Council supply a skip for the annual churchyard clean-up at St Basil's Church in May as usual. This was approved, Clerk to arrange.
- g. Play Areas – Cllr Gregory wrote to NCC regarding information he had been given that a large sum of money was available from Section 106 contributions and asked that progress be made on approval for the play areas in the ward to be upgraded asap. Following a letter from the representative of the owner of the land on which Rhiwderin play area sits, Council has been given 2 weeks to remove play equipment for the land to be returned to the owner following notice being served to quit the land. Clerk to action as soon as the half term holiday is over. Equipment to be stored until a suitable replacement site is found.
- h. Burial Board – Next meeting 3rd March 2014, following a request for the 2013/14 precept the payment was approved and paid in Accounts for Payment (item 11 below).

7. Items for Next Agenda

None

8. Planning:

- a. CONEX/14/0075 - Construction of an agricultural farm management building on existing scrub land to facilitate the housing of primary cattle to incorporate modern feeding and breeding facilities - a pre-requisite of modern farming methods; together with incorporating an external slurry pit in the ground and associated hard standing areas. Site: Graig-y-saeson Farm, Forge Lane, Bassaleg, Newport. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections.

9. Items for Discussion/Action

- a. Council finances and wish list - Discussed below.
- b. Request for donation to the new Rainbows group based at Rhiwderin Community Centre - It was agreed by a majority vote (8-3) to donate £150.00. Cllr Cornelious expressed an interest and took no part in the decision or vote.
- c. Proposed Fairtrade policy - Cllr Cox-Wall presented a proposal to Council that it consider adopting a policy to support Fairtrade values. This was very briefly discussed and will be added to the 26th March meeting agenda for further discussion and a decision.
- d. Update on Orchard Close trees issue - Council were advised that some trees which were of concern are to be lopped shortly.
- e. Youth Forum - Following Cllr Harris' invitation to join the Rogerstone Youth Forum meeting, he reported that it was felt it would be useful for the Council to hold one of its own for the children in the Graig Ward. This was agreed, Cllr Harris to progress.
- f. Review of grounds maintenance contract - Cllr Smart agreed to investigate the maintenance needs and include the BKV group in an advisory capacity to determine Council's needs before committing to another contract at this time.
- g. Membership invitation for One Voice Wales - not considered financially viable due to the high cost for Council to join.
- h. Local Government (Wales) Bylaws Act 2012 for review - Cllr Caston to review and report back to Council at the next meeting.
- i. NCC Planning Update Conference - The conference was attended by Cllrs Gregory, Cornelious and the Clerk. It was considered very informative and useful. One major point taken from the conference was that when the new Community Infrastructure Levy is introduced in 2015, the Community Council will be able to have access to 15% of the cost of the development as a levy to make

improvements in the community. This money can only be drawn down if Council develops a version of the LDP for the ward and can prove the need for the funds to be appropriated.

Cllr Cox-Wall left the meeting at 8.55pm.

- a. Council finances and wish list - The Clerk circulated the latest accounts figures and produced a budget plan for the forthcoming year which included items on Council's wish list which were not covered by the recent loan obtained. Cllrs were asked to study the figures in readiness for full discussion at the mid-March meeting.

Cllr Cornelious left the meeting at 9.05pm.

Cllrs Sayer and Stokes left the meeting at 9.12pm.

10. Correspondence for Information:

Noted but not discussed.

11. Accounts for Payment: Proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Evans

Clerk salary & office allowance February 2014	£1540.20
January miscellaneous expenses	£30.60
C Ricci – bin cleaning, litter picking & maintenance February 2014	£250.00
Earth Anchors Ltd - replacement bin liner and keys	£101.88
Griffiths Signs - 4 x NO PARKING ON GRASS VERGE signs	£79.20
Rogerstone & Bassaleg Joint Burial Board - annual precept	£608.00
Total to date:	£2609.88

Receipts

None

12. Dates of next meetings:

Planning Meeting – Wednesday 12th March at 7pm

Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 26th March 2014 at 7pm

13. Urgent Business not on discussed above.

Cllr Fry reported that on the footpath from Caerphilly Close to Pentrepoeth School there was a spoil heap left by the contractors erecting the new fencing around the school which needed to be looked at. Clerk and Chair to investigate.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.20pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 26th March 2014

Posted to notice boards 04.04.14

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