



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 6.45pm on 29th October 2014.

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1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs P Stokes, V Cox-Wall.

Present: Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, D Evans, M Cornelious, D Williams, N Mountain, J Harris, K Sayer, K Harries, W Haigh, L Fry, A Whitfield, K Ashton. Also present, Mr Gareth Rees of Gwent Solar.

Mr Rees was introduced and gave a presentation on photovoltaic cells for Council to discuss the viability of installing cells on the roof of Graig Community Hall. Mr Rees gave council the figures for a 20 year investment which could generate £2360 per year over the 20 year period. He advised that as the Hall would not use much of the electricity created during the day, but would need to use it in the evenings, the installation should be looked on as an income generator rather than a source of free energy as electricity generated during the day would be of little use to the Hall but would be sold back to the national grid. Electricity used during the evening would be purchased from the grid as normal. He suggested that storing electricity for use at a later time was possible but cost prohibitive. Mr Rees was thanked and left the meeting at 7.05pm.

2. Public Representations: None.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held 1st October 2014, previously circulated were read and approved - proposed Cllr Harries seconded Cllr Caston.

4. Clerk's Report:

The Clerk's Report previously circulated was briefly discussed. The report was accepted as a true reflection of matters to date. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Haigh. Regarding item 2, Cllr Cornelious reported that she had not yet heard from the NCC Officer as expected, but was aware that he was busy on other issues and would look at the item the following week. Cllr Sayer advised that the previously reported overgrown footpath on Caerphilly Road had still not been cleared, Cllr Cornelious to look into the matter.

5. Projects:

- a. Graig Hall coffee room vision panel: Cllr Fry reported that the installation did not require Building Control approval as long as the panel complied with current regulations. He submitted quotes for the work which amounted to £480 and was accepted by Council, Cllr Fry was asked to progress the work.
- b. Footpath through open space in Bassaleg: Cllr Fry was keen to join this project to the Caerphilly Rd/Close project in order to obtain the best price for the work. Council decided that the path upgrade should be progressed as soon as possible and that it should not wait until the Caerphilly Rd/Close project ready to be costed. Cllr Fry was asked to move forward on this project as soon as possible.
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade: Cllr Gregory told the group that the toilet block was complete and only minor works and snagging remained. It had been used at a function recently, and feedback was very favourable.

6. Reports:

- a. Police – Not able to attend, but the report for the month was read out to Council. The report detailed that there were 108 calls made to the Police, 17 of which were crimes catalogued as follows: 9 x all other theft, 2 x criminal damage, 3 x drug related offence, 3 x non dwelling burglary. 3 people were arrested in connection with 1 of the drugs offences. An operation took place during October which resulted in a number of drugs searches being carried out. 2 males in a vehicle were dealt with for a drugs offence under the footbridge on Forge Mews and following concerns by Morrison's Store Manager one vehicle occupant in the car park was dealt with for a drug offence. The mobile Police unit was well attended at Afon Village on 17th October and crime prevention leaflets were handed out. It was noted that the area's Inspector had once again moved on and that this was the 4th Inspector to do so in the past 2-3 years. It was decided that as ACC Bottomley had previously advised Council that stability of officers in key senior positions would be more static following Council's concerns on this issue, Council would write to both her and Mr Ian Johnson regarding the fact that this issue seems to

have worsened not improved. Cllr Ashton asked for the mobile speed camera information previously promised to Council by the Inspector who was leaving.

- b. City Councillors – Cllr Williams told the group that he had been unsuccessful in having the light at the foot of the steps opposite Garth Terrace switched on at night, and that the NCC Officer who has refused will give the reason if asked. Clerk to contact him to request an explanation. He asked if Council were interested in having an NCC Budget Consultation meeting for the Ward, which Council were keen to have. Cllr Williams to arrange. Clerk to forward the user timetables for both Centres to Cllrs Williams and Cornelious for inclusion in NCC's information packs.
Cllr Cornelious reported that she was still trying to get the street sign replaced for Garth Terrace and Cllr Sayer informed her that signs at Church Crescent had been missing for 3 years after tarmacing of the grass verges had taken place. Cllr Cornelious to investigate.
- c. Graig Community Hall – Cllr Evans reported that the Hall Committee had met to discuss the licensing of the Hall and the proposed vision panel. He thanked Council for their recent financial assistance and stated that Hall hiring costs had been raised by 50p per hour for users. Cllrs Gregory and Harris had arranged to meet with the landlord of The Ruperra to discuss the parking issues in the Hall car park.
- d. Rhiwderin CC – Discussed above, and Cllr Gregory informed the group that he had met with the new treasurer and secretary of the centre. The Centre had enough money in reserves to offer Council some assistance with some extra work planned along with the upgrade being carried out. Council were pleased to hear that Mr Smith had agreed to still be involved with the Centre.
- e. Best Kept Villages – NTR
- f. Allotments – Cllr Caston reported that an inspection and follow up meeting had taken place. The overall standard of the allotments had deteriorated somewhat, however there were some plots which were very well tended and should be complimented. The composting area had become a dumping ground and the material it contained needed to be removed, the central track needed defining and some carpeting on one plot needed to be removed. Council approved asking a local contractor to carry out the work. He also told Council that following NCC's plans to create a play area on the junction of Caerphilly Road and The Griffin, that he had informed the Allotment Secretary of this as Council had gained planning permission on the area to extend the allotments should it be necessary. Mr Barber was keen to keep the planning option open if possible. He was also keen to advertise vacant plots in order to fill the site. Presently there were a few plots spare with some people on a waiting list, but Mr Barber had problems contacting the potential plot holders to offer them the plots.
- g. Play Areas – Cllr Gregory spoke of NCC's plans to organise drop in consultations for the play areas at Graig and Rhiwderin Centres, and that a letter drop would be taking place with all residents directly affected. NCC also planned to consult with the schools.
- h. Burial Board – NTR, the next meeting of the board takes place on 3rd November.

7. Items for Next Agenda

None

8. Planning:

- a. CONEX/14/0918 - Proposed new detached dwelling including replacement garage. Site: Land to the west of and adjacent to 2 Russell Close, Bassaleg, Newport. Application Type: Full. Comment: Objections due to overdevelopment of the site and detracting from the ambience of the area.

9. Items for Discussion/Action

- a. Financial position and Precept allocation – Following a meeting held by the Finance and Administration Sub-Committee, recommendations were made to Council that an annual increase of only 52p per year be made to each household. Cllr Harris proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Caston and carried unanimously. City Cllrs to check if all Afon Village residents in the Graig Ward are paying towards Graig's precept as it was thought that some residents were wrongly placed in the Rogerstone ward.
- b. Website (update - Technologies Sub-Committee) – Cllr Harris informed Council that the information he had recently placed on Facebook informing of gas works between Bassaleg and Lower Machen had received 1100 views. The website was almost complete and ready to be handed over to Council.
- c. Dilapidations schedule (KS) – Cllr Sayer told Council he had looked at the previously compiled schedule and found many items needed to be updated. He would work on the schedule with a view to updating it by the end of the financial year.
- d. Chairman's board – The Clerk submitted a quote and visual for the creation of a Chairman's board to hang in the newly created conference room at Graig Hall at the cost of approximately £1000. With the exception of a few minor adjustments the board was accepted. Clerk to progress the order.

- e. Christmas Lighting Event – The tree lights and the lighting around the hall were to be inspected by an electrician in preparation for the event. The next meeting of the committee overseeing preparations to take place 4th November.
Cllr Sayer left the meeting at 8.55pm.
- f. Donation request from Whitehead Steelers – Council agreed to donate £150 to Whitehead Steelers following a written request. Proposed Cllr Evans seconded Cllr Caston.
- g. Wales Rural Development Programme (Usk Vale Group) – Cllr Harris told Council that applications to join a committee for the overseeing of a fund to aid rural districts in the area were being held and that he had applied on behalf of Council to be a member of the committee.
- h. AMEC meeting – The Clerk reported that she had met with engineers of AMEC regarding proposed gas pipeline replacement works between Bassaleg and Lower Machen, She had been given details of the proposed timescale for the works which had been given over to the Technologies Committee for advertising on Council's social media.
- i. Dog litter bins – Deferred.
- j. Trees at Wentworth Lane – Following the scheduled inspection of trees on Council ground alongside Wentworth Lane, the Clerk advised Council that she would obtain quotes for the remedial work advised by the consultant and bring the quotes to the next meeting.

10. Correspondence for Information:

Noted but not discussed.

11. Accounts for Payment: Accepted. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Mountain.

Clerk salary & office allowance October 2014	£1674.99
October miscellaneous expenses	£72.00
C Ricci – bin cleaning, litter picking & maintenance October 2014	£290.00
British Legion - annual wreath payment and donation	£100.00
Honorariums - annual gift to Rhiwderin CC volunteers (2 x £200)	£400.00
M&M Catering Equipment - Table for Kitchen at Graig Hall	£96.00
Newport City Homes - grass cutting at Fort View play area for September	£212.04
Cllr L Fry - mileage expenses to pick up table for Graig Hall (45p x 58 miles)	£26.10
Mr M Yearsley - architect fees for Rhiwderin CC project (2 invoices)	£601.05
R Charles Plastics - repairs to notice boards & work at Graig Hall	£300.00
Staples - office supplies	£52.67
Total to date:	£3824.85

Receipts

None

12. Dates of next meetings:

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

13. Urgent Business not on discussed above.

Cllr Harris asked Council if they were aware of some kind of warning sound being transmitted in Rhiwderin and did they know what it was for. No Cllrs had heard anything or knew what it was about.

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

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

Posted to notice boards 05.12.14

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