



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 25th March 2015.

1. Apologies for absence: None

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, N Mountain, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, V Cox-Wall. Also in attendance PCSO Evans.

2. Public Representation: 4 members of the public attended, Mr Appleton, Mr Thompson, Mrs Appleton and Mr Garrett all of Caernarvon Drive in Rhiwderin. The group were welcomed and Council were told they were attending as they wished to debate the proposed play area at Caernarvon Drive Rhiwderin. They questioned the robustness of the consultation letter drop and the advertisement of the consultation events which were carried out to inform residents of the proposals. They felt that the consultation was not thorough enough and were upset and dismayed that they had not received communication by post about the consultations. They felt that the amount of online advertising did not have any impact on those who were not on Facebook, Twitter, viewing the Community Council website or checking Council notice boards, and that the area at Caernarvon Drive was unsuitable for developing into a play area. They suggested that the funds being used could be more appropriately directed elsewhere. Cllr Gregory explained that even though the Community Council had been aware for the past 2 years that the City Council intended upgrading play areas in the villages, it was not until the approval of City Cllrs had been gained that the Community Council were invited to a meeting to be shown the City Council's full intentions, this took place in October 2014. At that point the Community Council stressed it was imperative that a full consultation with all residents in close proximity to any of the proposed play areas were consulted to gauge the level of support. The City Council agreed that a letter drop to all residents in the vicinity of any play area would be carried out. From that point the Community Council assisted in adverting and hosting consultation events in both Community Centres, posted information in the form of posters and meeting minutes in all notice boards and on the Council website, sent out information via Facebook, Twitter, email listings and by placing an article in the Bassaleg & Rhiwderin Directory (which is hand delivered to every home in both Bassaleg and Rhiwderin), supplied posters to both Pentrepoeth Primary and Bassaleg Schools, and the information was also advertised in the South Wales Argus. The City Council carried out the letter drop to residents. Following the consultation events, as they were not as well attended as hoped, a further online consultation was undertaken by the City Council and this too was advertised on behalf of the City Council by the Community Council in the same manner. The group still felt that those most affected by the proposal at Caernarvon Drive had not been effectively consulted and asked for the City Cllrs to support them, to speak to City Cllr Ken Critchley, press for another proper consultation and to hold a public meeting. They suggested that instead of supplying a park in the area that some form of indoor activity would be more appropriate such as somewhere to play snooker or pool. They informed Council that they intended to draw up a petition against the proposal. Cllr Gregory told the group that he would speak again with the Officer in charge of the project at the City Council and the group left the meeting at 7.45pm.

6.a Police: PCSO Evans was heard early to allow him to return to his duties. He reported that there were 81 call to Police in March, 9 of which were crimes. 3 had been detected and the remainder were under investigation. The breakdown was as follows: 2 x Theft Other, 2 x Criminal Damage, 2 x Vehicle Damage, 2 x Violence without Injury and 1 x Miscellaneous Crime. Police had received reports of anti-social behaviour in the Bassaleg area and in the Afon Village youth club area., the same names were coming up in conversations with members of the public and the youths would be dealt with soon. A number of surgeries had been carried out during the month and issues reported were being dealt with. Parking issues in Court Gardens, the areas close to Bassaleg School and parking and noise issues in the Forge Road area were also being dealt with. Patrols in the area of Penylan Close had been carried out following complaints of anti-social behaviour in the lane between the houses and there had been complaints of anti-social behaviour involving parking in the Afon Village area which were being investigated at the time. PCSO Evans told the group that the Police Station in Rogerstone had now become the home of the Schools Liaison Officer, and that PC Sally Ladd had left the area to work elsewhere. From 20th April, the area's new Sergeant would be Lee Myson and the new Inspector Neil Muirhead. POCS Evans left the meeting at 8.05pm

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held 25th February 2015, previously circulated were read and approved - proposed Cllr John, seconded Cllr Evans.

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 5, Cllr Cornelious confirmed that the premises does hold a license but Environmental Health were looking into suspected burning of materials on site. Regarding Item 11, Cllr Williams had been in contact with NCC officers regarding their previous intentions to tarmac grass verges to ask if they would consider doing so at the location in question but were told that there is presently no budget to do so. Cllr Williams will continue to lobby.

5. Projects:

- a. Footpath through Bassaleg open space - It was agreed that with the exception of some car park spaces line painting, the project is complete and this item will be removed from future agendas.
- b. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade - Cllr Gregory reported that a fire risk assessment had been completed and that he was waiting for the report. Both he and Cllr Whitfield had attended a site meeting with a stone mason with regard to obtaining a quote for the lime mortar re-pointing of the building. This came in at approximately £35K so Cllr Whitfield was looking to apply for funding to aid with the costs. Thanks were given to Cllr Whitfield for her research into the issue and offer to spearhead a fund finding exercise for the project and Cllrs Smart and Caston offered assistance when needed. Cllr Williams gave Council another contractor's details who would be able to supply a further quote for the work.

6. Reports:

- a. Police – Discussed above.
- b. City Councillors – Cllr Williams reported that he had received calls regarding the proposed new development of 14 houses at the rear of Ruperra Close and Church Crescent, and that there was a lot of opposition to the proposals. He had also been in touch with NCC regarding the flooding issues on Penylan Road and had been informed that NCC had reached an agreement with the landowner of the fields alongside to put in a drainage ditch close to the field boundaries to take water away from the road. Work was expected to be carried out this Spring.
- c. Graig Community Hall – Cllr Fry had put together a proposal and costings for the refurbishment of the toilets and entrance foyer of the Hall, costs were estimated to be in the region of £19K in total although he did think they could be improved upon. He asked Council to consider carrying out this work to bring the area up to a good standard. Following debate it was agreed that although desirable, these items were not essential and other projects in the ward were higher in priority. It was agreed to add this to the wish list and return to it in the future as funds became available. Cllr Evans told Council that the Hall finances were in better shape than previously and things were improving. Cllr Haigh suggested that when finances were back on track that the Hall save towards future projects such as the one just discussed so money would be available to help pay for these things. It was agreed that the Hall is a valuable asset to the Community and already has very good facilities which could always be improved upon but not at the expense of other projects more in need. Cllr Haigh proposed that the Rhiwderin Community Centre project be completed first then Graig Hall needs revisited, seconded by Cllr Whitfield and a vote carried with most in favour and only 1 against.
- d. Rhiwderin CC – Discussed above and Cllr Gregory added that the Centre Management Committee had given the Clerk a £15K cheque to Council towards the current refurbishment costs.
- e. Best Kept Villages – It was noted that the tubs and planters in the villages looked lovely and Council gave thanks to the BKV Group for all their hard work. Litter picking had started again and the group are desperate for new volunteers. Cllr Smart had agreed a new planting scheme for the roundabout at St Basil's shops which would be implemented soon.
- f. Allotments –Cllr Caston reported that 3 plots had been given up recently and asked that the previously gained planning permission for extending the allotments if necessary be renewed when it was due. This was agreed.
- g. Play Areas – Discussed above. Cllr Gregory told the group that following a discussion with NCC the Council were unable to retrieve it's old play equipment from the play areas during the refurbishment and so would be unable to scrap it to help fund other projects.
- h. Burial Board – Cllr Harris reported that an incident with a stray horse getting into the graveyard and damaging the grounds had been dealt with recently.

7. Items for Next Agenda

Allotment inspections - 29th April meeting

Proposal to reopen the Caerphilly to Newport rail link - 29th April meeting

8. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Planning training course - It was explained to the group that some online planning training had been purchased and it was agreed to meet at 6.30pm prior to the Planning meeting on 8th April in order to watch the training material together for all who were able to attend.
- b. Graig bi-lingual logo - Cllr Harris had arranged for the Council logo to have the Welsh version of Council's name added, this was shown to Council and approved for future use.
- c. Caerphilly CBC invitation to comment on proposed LDP (VCW) - Cllr Cox-Wall had kindly agreed to review the information provided by CCBC and relayed the relevant details which could affect the ward to Council. It was agreed that an increase in housing further up the valley posed a potential problem to the road infrastructure through the villages and this should be relayed in comments to CCBC. Clerk to arrange.
Cllr Sayer left the meeting at 9.06pm.
- d. Litter bins - Following an email sent by the Clerk to NCC requesting that if the Community Council supply extra litter bins in the ward that they be added to NCC's emptying schedules, the reply was read to Council. The response from NCC was that there was no funding available to have any increase in the workload on their waste emptying schedules and they would not be able to support the request.
- e. Website - Following issues with the new website, Council agreed to the Technologies Sub-Committee's suggestion that the website be removed and Council return to using the old website until such time that the new site could be configured for easier administration. Clerk to implement.

9. Planning:

- a. CONEX/15/0149 - Demolish a single storey shed, erect a two storey side extension, resubmission following refusal and discussed at appeal application number 14/0811. Site: 12 Church Crescent, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8NQ. Application Type: Full. Comment - No objections.

10. Correspondence for Information:

Noted but not discussed.

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

Clerk salary and office allowance for March 2015	£1674.99
March miscellaneous expenses	£138.39
Mr C Ricci - bin cleaning for March 2015	£190.00
J&D Water Consultants - cleansing and chlorination of water tanks at Graig Hall	£312.00
K Jones Heating Services - works to Graig Hall	£162.00
S Barber - reimbursement of insurance costs at Bassaleg Allotments	£79.50
SLCC - annual subscription	£187.00
Advanced Fire Technologies - Fire risk assessment to Rhiwderin CC	£360.00
Cllr Whitfield - reimbursement of graffiti removal materials	£16.14
HMRC - Jan-Mar PAYE & NI payment	£1771.97
Total to date:	£4891.99

Receipts

Rhiwderin CC - donation towards costs of Centre upgrade	£15000.00
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12. Dates of next meetings:

Planning Meeting - Wednesday 8th April 2015 at 7pm

Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 29th April 2015 at 7pm

13. Urgent Business not on discussed above.

Cllr Gregory told Council he had been given information which stated that Newport had been declared a poor inward investment city and that a £485K investment has been secured to bring empty properties in Commercial Street in Newport back into use.

Cllr Harris requested that Council consider making a donation towards the costs of the forthcoming Folk and Food Festival being held at Graig Hall on 18th April. Council discussed this and agreed to a small donation as the event was being run as a commercial enterprise. They agreed that £50 was appropriate. Clerk to arrange.

Cllr Gregory read out a letter which had been compiled to Cllr Ashton following the previous months concerns expressed at her absence. Following Council's approval of its content, Clerk to post the letter out to Cllr Ashton.

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

Signed..... (Chair) – 29th April 2015

Posted to notice boards 08.05.15

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