



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting & AGM held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 27th May 2015.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs M Smart, R Caston, P John, D Williams
Present: Cllrs P Gregory, W Haigh, D Evans, A Whitfield, K Sayer, P Stokes, K Harries, M Cornelious, N Mountain, J Harris, L Fry, V Cox-Wall
- 2. To hold internal election and appoint members to sub-committees:** Cllr Paul Gregory was nominated to be Chairman for a fourth term (proposed, Cllr Fry, seconded Cllr Harries), and Cllr Fry as Vice-Chairman for a fifth term (proposed Cllr Stokes, seconded Cllr Evans). Cllr Gregory thanked Council for their support, and for the support of the Clerk. Cllr Stokes proposed that accreditation to both the Chair and Clerk be noted which was supported by all. Councillors were voted onto the various committees of interest to Council, details to be posted in the notice boards and on the website. It was noted that as Cllr Ashton had not been in contact with any members of the Council or the Clerk since the end of November, despite the Chairman and Clerk contacting her both formally and informally, and that as she had been absent for 6 Full Council Meetings she had, by default, excluded herself from continuing to be a Graig Community Council member. Clerk to write to advise her of this and take steps to advertise the post.
- 3. Public Representation:** None
- 4. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 29th April 2015, previously circulated were read and approved - proposed Cllr Sayer, seconded Cllr Mountain.
- 5. Clerk's Report:**

The Clerk's Report previously circulated was briefly discussed. The report was accepted as a true reflection of matters to date. Regarding Item 4, Cllr Gregory had written to the NCC Officer who had responded to the Clerk's initial query asking for him to reconsider NCC's position, but had received the same response. Regarding Item 7, it was agreed that the clerk write to the owner on behalf of Council to request that he move the fencing back as asked to do so by NCC. Cllr Cornelious to also lobby NCC to move progress on this issue. Cllr Whitfield to ask the Head of Streetscene to attend a meeting in order to try to resolve many outstanding issues. Regarding Item 8, it was agreed that placing bollards on the verges would not be a solution, but the best course of action would be to continue to report the issue.
- 6. Projects:**
 - a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade - Cllr Gregory reported that the final bill from the contractor who resurfaced the car park and built the new toilet block had still not been submitted. Quotes for the fire alarm upgrade had been submitted and ranged from £2.5K to £8K; these were being looked at in detail. Cllr Whitfield had met with someone who had suggested that a schedule of works be commissioned for the lime mortar works needed to the exterior of the building, this could be used for tender purposes. She was also looking into obtaining funding to assist with the costs. Wi-Fi was being installed at the Centre.
- 7. Reports:**
 - a. Police – No attendance and no report given. Cllr Gregory had attended a meeting where Police representatives were present and made Council aware that following a reshuffle, the Graig Ward now belongs to the Newport West division of the force and had a new Sergeant and Inspector. He had been advised that the Police send out monthly reports to City Councillors, but Cllr Cornelious reported that she had never received such a report. Council expressed concern that there was no stability or continuity and that Council does not have a regular Police presence at meetings.
 - b. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious reported an open day had been held at Rhiwderin Village Hall that had been well attended. The Police had attended as did some NCC department representatives. She also reported that some residents who were objecting to the play area consultation at Caernarvon Drive had taken their concerns to the Ombudsman. Cllr Fry gave Cllr Cornelious a copy of a dilapidation schedule he had written up concerning maintenance issues around the footbridge over the A467 and asked her to lobby NCC to attend to the issues which were its responsibility. Of most

concern was a gap in railings between Viaduct way Road and the river bridge which had a 10ft drop down to the river's edge. Cllr Cornelious to look at as a matter of urgency due to it being a public safety issue.

- c. Graig Community Hall – NTR
- d. Rhiwderin CC – Discussed above and Cllr Gregory added that there was an issue with leaks in the roof and broken tiles. Recently the children's play equipment had been stacked against the buttresses of the building and it was thought that someone had gained access to the roof via this to look for lead.
- e. Best Kept Villages – The skip had been ordered for the churchyard clean-up.
- f. Allotments – The Clerk reminded Cllrs on the Allotment Committee of the forthcoming allotment inspection which had been set for 7th June 2015.
- g. Play Areas – Cllr Gregory told the group that he had been made aware that NCC intended to consult with schoolchildren, but this had been delayed due to the children taking exams.
- h. Burial Board – Cllr Harris reported that there was to be a meeting of the Board on 15th June when a new Chairman would be appointed.

8. Items for Next Agenda

Planning Training 10th June Planning meeting (6.30pm start)

9. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Velathon Wales 2015 update (if available) – Information on road closures were noted and the Cllrs administering Council's social media were to update residents regularly to keep them informed.
- b. Derek Vaughan MEP invitation – Correspondence and posters had been received and were made available to those Cllrs interested.
- c. Invitation to enter Newport in Bloom competition – Clerk to email details of the competition to the Bassaleg Allotment Association Secretary and Cllr Harris.
- d. Speeding Issues on Pentrepoeth Road (PS) – Cllr Stokes reported to the group that he had had several complaints from residents regarding the speed of traffic on Pentrepoeth Road. He asked that Council try again to lobby NCC to have the speed of the road reduced to 20mph considering the fact that there are very few pavements and the road is well used by pedestrians, especially schoolchildren. If not that maybe signage could be erected. Cllr Cornelious to take up the issue with NCC.

10. Planning:

- a. Information on possible application to come for solar farm in Rhiwderin – Council briefly discussed the meeting that many attended. It was thought to have been very worthwhile and informative.
- b. CONEX/15/0395 - Demolition of existing attached garage and erection of two storey side extension. Site: 32 Park View Gardens, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8JZ – Comment: Council has concerns regarding adequate provision of off-road parking.

11. Correspondence for Information:

Noted but not discussed.

12. Accounts for Payment: Accepted. Proposed Cllr Stokes seconded Cllr Harries

Clerk salary and office allowance for May 2015	£1755.77
May miscellaneous expenses	£25.20
Mr C Ricci - bin cleaning for May 2015	£270.00
Networkwaste - St Basil's churchyard clean-up	£354.00
Zurich Municipal Insurance - annual insurance premium	£2955.12
Newport City Homes - grass cutting at Fort View play area for March 2015	£212.04
R Charles Plastics - repairs to the roof of Rhiwderin Community Centre	£80.00
Total to date:	£5552.13

Receipts

None

13. Dates of next meetings:

Planning Meeting (and planning training) - Wednesday 10th June at 6.30pm
Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 24th June 2015 at 7pm

14. Urgent Business not on discussed above.

- a. Cllr Fry reported that he had noticed the footpath from the Ruperra to Garth Terrace was in a poor state, it was very dirty and full of rubbish, the hedge boundary of one of the houses was overhanging the pavement and needed cutting back and the whole area needed to be cleansed. Cllr Cornelious to look at the issue.

- b. Cllr Fry also informed Council that following the notice board at Park View being vandalised, the door needed to be modified and repaired.
- c. Cllr Harris asked if Council were willing to help pay for more Graig Diamond Jubilee Walk leaflets to be printed. Cllr Harris to find out costs and return to Council.
- d. Cllr Cox-Wall informed Council that the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner had tweeted apologies for the non-attendance of Police representatives at the meeting.
- e. Cllr Cox-Wall also advised that a group of residents had formed an organisation and were trying to raise funds to purchase the land that was recently subject to a planning application for 14 houses to the rear of Church Crescent. Their plan is to save the land from development and hopefully make it into an area for wildlife and residents to enjoy. It was also noted that there are rumours that the Junction 28 restaurant owner was interested in the land for car parking purposes. Cllr Cornelious said she was aware that the area contained rare bats and lizards and protected trees. It was agreed that a spokesman for the group be invited to a meeting in the future once they have clear plans.
- f. Cllr Haigh reported that a local resident had identified the drains on Penylan Road ready for NCC to clean them out which should eliminate the flooding problems experienced on that road for many past years.
- g. Cllr Sayer reported that there was an issue with the Best Kept Villages sign and that the Bethel Baptist Church sign had been removed. New brackets were needed and Cllr Fry agreed to deal with both signs.
- h. Cllr Stokes gave apologies for both the next planning and full council meetings held in June.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.50pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 24th June 2015

Posted to notice boards 03.07.15

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