



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 24th June 2015.**

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs P Stokes, K Sayer, K Harries, V Cox-Wall, M Cornelious, D Williams  
**Present:** Cllrs P Gregory, R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, M Smart, P John, N Mountain, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry. Also present were Community Cllrs A Gunn, J Tollman and V Dudley (Rogerstone Community Council)
- 2. Public Representation:** No members of the public apart from the abovementioned Rogerstone Community Councillors attended. They were welcomed by the Chairman, and they advised Council that the only purpose for their attendance was to observe how Graig Community Council held its meetings.
- 6.a. Police:** With the attendance of PCSO Evans, this item was brought forward to allow the officer to leave early and continue his duties. He reported that 110 calls had been made during May, 16 of which were crimes, the breakdown was as follows: Theft other 3, Shoplifting 1, Violence with injury 1, Violence without injury 3, Vehicle crime 5, Burglary dwelling 2 burglary non-dwelling 1. This was an increase in crime over the same period last year. Your Voice has now replaced the previously known PACT. Your Voice surveys have been completed online and in person with officers and Police have responded to resident's concerns. Local officers have undertaken a number of successful covert initiatives in the area in an effort to reduce criminal activity. Police are to attend Council meetings on a quarterly basis but submit reports each month to be read out to Council. Cllr Haigh asked if any more action could be taken regarding the issues of parking on the junction of Channel View and Laurel Road. PCSO Evans agreed to look again at the problem, he had spoken to residents but was unable to enforce any laws to prevent the issue, he agreed to continue to monitor. Cllr Whitfield was concerned that both PCSO's for the area are on leave at the same time but was assured that even though this is the case, other officers are poised to act should cover be necessary. Cllr Gregory told the group that following the recent re-structuring, the Force has now reverted to the previous "old style" policing format. PCSO Evans reported that the newly appointed Sergeant hopes to attend the next meeting.
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 13th May 2015 and 27th May 2015, previously circulated were read and approved - proposed Cllr John, seconded Cllr Caston (for 13th May meeting) and proposed Cllr Haigh and seconded Cllr Evans (for 27th May meeting)..
- 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 John, seconded Cllr Evans. Regarding Item 6, it was noted that NCC has cut some of the undergrowth back. Regarding Item 7, it was noted that the Haras fencing had been moved back and the issue could be removed from the report.
- 5. Projects:**
  - a.** Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade - Cllr Gregory reported that the fire inspector had said 2 doors needed to be upgraded and he was waiting for a quote to carry out the work. 4 quotes had been obtained for the works needed to the fire alarm system which ranged from £2.5K to £8K and were being looked at. Cllr Whitfield was exploring funding avenues for helping with lime mortar repair costs to the exterior of the building. Cllr Gregory suggested it would be better to use the money set aside for the external painting of the building to decorate the inside of the building.
- 6. Reports:**
  - a.** Police – Discussed above.
  - b.** City Councillors – No attendance at the meeting by either City Councillor but Cllr Haigh reported that a resident at the top of Highfield Lane had told him he had received a letter from NCC stating that the road was going to be adopted. Clerk to investigate with NCC.
  - c.** Graig Community Hall – Cllr Fry reported that an appraisal had been carried out of the newly set up fire/escape procedures and they were all now fully compliant. Cllr Gregory congratulated the group responsible and thanked them for all their hard work on the project. Cllr Harris reported that now each

new Hall user is given new paperwork setting out all the procedures which must be followed. Cllr Gregory requested assistance from the group to use their experience in setting up similar procedures at Rhiwderin Community Centre.

- d. Rhiwderin CC – Discussed above and Cllr Gregory reiterated that the current Secretary is to leave her post in September. He was waiting on a quote for repairs to plasterwork in the main hall and that the Wi-Fi should be operational soon. The annual summer play scheme is due to start in August.
- e. Best Kept Villages – A letter of thanks to Council was read out from the BKV regarding the supply of the annual skip for St Basil's churchyard clean-up. It was noted that the shrub beds on the St Basil's shop's roundabout were looking very poor and it was thought a lack of watering was the issue. Clerk to investigate.
- f. Allotments – As Cllr Harris had an interest he offered to leave the meeting but it was not deemed necessary. Cllr Caston reported that the site had been inspected, that it was in reasonable shape but some plots were below the expected standards. Some were exceptional, so it was decided that in addition to sending out warning letters, commendation letters should be sent to those making a particularly good effort. It was agreed that rents should be increased by 6p per perch to help cover running costs. Following a request from a plot holder to erect a greenhouse on his site, Council debated the request and although the decision was not unanimous (6 for, 1 against and 2 abstentions), it was decided to allow greenhouses, provided strict rules were adhered to. Clerk to compile a list of rules, have them approved, then inform all plot holders as soon as possible. Cllr Caston also suggested to Council it would be desirable to trim and cover vacant plots so they might be re-let in a better condition than was the norm. Clerk to obtain quotes for the work.
- g. Play Areas – Cllr Gregory reported that he had been given the final plans for the layout and type of equipment decided for each play area and would display these in the Community Centres. Things seemed to be positive and to his knowledge, things were moving forward.
- h. Burial Board – Cllr Harris reported that there had been a meeting and inspection the previous week and that some maintenance work had been carried out in the grounds. The water tap had been removed from the site and visitors were to be encouraged to bring their own water with them rather than using the stream in the grounds. The next meeting was to be set in September 2015.

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

Events Committee to arrange a meeting to be preparing for the Christmas event

## **8. Items for Discussion/Action:**

- a. Velathon Wales 2015 review - The event appeared to be successful. The road through the village was opened again on time.
- b. Approval of financial accounts from internal auditor to enable submission to external auditor - accepted as a true reflection of Council's position at the end of March 2015. Proposed Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Mountain and agreed by all. The Clerk was thanked for the hard work put into preparing the accounts and the Annual Return was duly signed. The Clerk was given permission to submit the paperwork to the external auditor to complete the financial auditing process.
- c. Planning Aid Wales (training reminder) - Cllrs were reminded of the event and names added to the list for attendance.
- d. Councillor vacancy - The vacancy was being displayed as required. Council were disappointed at the wording of the notice but were assured by the Chair and Clerk that the wording was supplied by NCC to fit legal requirements and were not used by choice.
- e. Chairman's allowance - The Clerk put forward a request for payment of the Chairman's allowance which was accepted. Proposed Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Evans and carried unanimously.
- f. Dog fouling (Torfaen Green Dog Walkers Initiative) - a video was watched by the group regarding a new initiative NCC wished to adopt in an effort to cut down incidents of dog fouling. Although the group felt this was a good idea, NCC were requesting that the Council pay towards the costs of the initiative which would be around £1K to participate. Council felt that at this time it would be unable to fund this.
- g. Proposed Welsh school at Duffryn - Noted, Cllr Harris reported that the consultation process has been completed and that the first intake of secondary education pupils would be in September 2016 to the best of his knowledge.
- h. The Big Lunch (DW) - As Cllr Williams had asked for this item to be added to the agenda but was unable to attend the item has been deferred pending more information from Cllr Williams.
- i. Arrange Community Centre AGM's - The AGM's were set for: Graig Community Hall - 10th August 2015 and Rhiwderin Community Centre - 14th September 2015.
- j. Liaison meeting - Cllr Gregory reported that this was to be an important meeting on the 25th June 2015 as Concurrent expenditure was to be discussed and he was sorry to be missing it. Cllr Caston

was authorised by Council to put forward that Graig CC would be happy to support Langstone CC's suggestion of how funds could be allocated more fairly.

- k. AMEC proposal and gas pipeline update - Following a request from AMEC to use the land on the corner of The Griffin and Caerphilly Road, the clerk was given permission to allow AMEC to site some equipment and containers on the land provided that the trees on the site were well protected and the site was returned to its current condition or improved once the works were complete.

## 9. Planning:

Discussed later in the meeting

## 10. Correspondence for Information:

Noted but not discussed.

<b>11. Accounts for Payment:</b> Accepted. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr John Clerk salary and office allowance for June 2015 (includes repayment of miscalculated salary increase in April '15)	£1518.26
June miscellaneous expenses	£98.10
Mr C Ricci - bin cleaning for June 2015	£260.00
Newport City Homes - grass cutting at Fort View play area for April & May 2015	£424.08
Cllr P Gregory - annual Chairman's allowance	£200.00
Welsh Water – Water charges for Bassaleg allotments	£69.94
CPRW - Annual subscription	£30.00
Staples - Speakers for laptop	£27.99
Noel Fitzpatrick - Stage payment (no. 4 - penultimate) Toilet Bock	£11138.91
Noel Fitzpatrick - Final Payment (no. 2) Car Park resurfacing	£2016.31
Mike Yearsley - Architectural Services for Rhiwderin CC upgrade	£363.65
Mike Yearsley - Project Management for Rhiwderin CC upgrade	£1573.45
<b>Total to date:</b>	<b>£17720.69</b>

## Receipts

Newport City Council – 2015-16 Concurrent allocation	£14037.00
HMRC - VAT Refund for 2014-15 VAT paid	£11771.63

## 12. Dates of next meetings:

Planning Meeting - Wednesday 8th July 2015 at 7pm  
Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 29th July 2015 at 7pm

## 13. Urgent Business not on discussed above.

- a. Cllr Fry had received a quote for reconfiguring the panels in the door of the recently vandalised notice board at Park View. The cost would be approximately £320. This was approved and Cllr Fry to sort.
- b. General complaints about the length of the grass and undergrowth on verges, central reservations and the general untidiness of the ward was discussed. It was agreed there was a noticeable difference between Caerphilly County Borough Council areas in comparison with Newport City Council areas which were much better kept. Clerk to inform City Cllrs.

## 9. Planning:

- a. CONEX/15/0532 – Variation of standard time condition of planning permission 10/0260 for construction of new two storey detached cottage. Site: Ynys Hir, Old Road, Lower Machen, Newport. NP10 8GU. Application Type: Renewals and Variation of Conditions. Comment: Reiterate Council's former complaints regarding overdevelopment of the site.
- b. CONEX/15/0592 – Proposed development of two detached dwellings to plot 4 of the former Garthfield Cottage site off Caerphilly Road, Rhiwderin previously granted planning consent under current planning application 10/0646. Site: Plot 4 Site of former Garthfield Cottage, Caerphilly Road, Newport. Application Type: Full. Comment: Considered to be overdevelopment of the steep and difficult site.
- c. CONEX/15/0637 – Two storey rear extension. Application Type: 13 Tredegar Street, Rhiwderin, Newport. NP10 8RJ. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections.
- d. CONEX/15/0458 - Listed building consent for demolition of UPVC porch and replacement white UPVC window with white aluminium bi-fold doors. Site: Volland House, Old Road, Lower Machen, Newport NP10 8GU. Application Type: Listed Building Consent. Comment: No objections.
- e. Communication from Stratus regarding a proposed solar farm at Pantglas Farm near Rhiwderin - Clerk to invite the proposed developer to the next Planning meeting as requested.

The Rogerstone Members thanked the Council for allowing them to sit in on the meeting which they found a pleasurable and informative experience and commented that they felt the way Graig conducts its meetings is "what a Parish Council meeting should be like". The ladies were thanked for their kind comments.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.40pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 29th July 2015

Posted to notice boards 07.08.15

Clerk to the Council: Sian Davies  
6 Vale View, Gelli Park, Risca, Newport. NP11 6HS  
Tel: 01633 614119, Mobile: 07971 094382  
Email: clerk@graigcc.co.uk

Website: [www.graigcc.co.uk](http://www.graigcc.co.uk)



[www.facebook.com/GraigCommunityCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/GraigCommunityCouncil)



@GraigCommCoun