



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 29th July 2015.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs K Harries, P John, D Williams
Present: Cllrs P Gregory, R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, M Smart, K Sayer, N Mountain, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry V Cox-Wall, M Cornelious.
- 2. Public Representation:** Mrs Jones a local resident attended concerning a recently proposed crematorium & remembrance garden to be sited in Bassaleg.
- 8.a.** Proposed Crematorium & Remembrance Garden public awareness event update - Mrs Jones was welcomed and she explained that she had attended as she believed the meeting was being held to discuss this development in particular, and did not realise it was a standard scheduled Council meeting. She was invited to stay and listen as the development was scheduled to be discussed, and this item was brought forward to allow her to leave once it had been addressed if she wished, although she was welcome to stay for the whole meeting as she was entitled to do. Cllr Gregory told the group that he had been speaking with the press and the proposed developers, and expressed his concerns that the leaflet advertising the event at Graig Hall on 27th July 2015 was advertised as a "Public Consultation Event". He had raised the Council's concerns about the location of the development specially with regard to the traffic issues, and was surprised to find out that during their pre-application advice, they were not advised of any traffic issues in the area. The event was attended by almost 300 residents, of which only 4 supported the development. Many residents were under the impression that the Community Council was supporting the scheme, as it had been reported in the Grassroots section of the South Wales Argus and the event was held at the Community Centre. Cllr Gregory reported that in conversation with developers, they admitted that they were concerned at the number of residents who attended the event considering it was not widely advertised, and were surprised at the amount of opposition to the project. They confirmed that the proposal was to be put on hold, and that traffic surveys would be held during September and October to confirm residents statements about the volumes of traffic at certain times of the day. Due to the amount of opposition the company stated that they were 95% sure the project would be shelved, but would keep up a dialogue with the Community Council to advise of future plans. The issue was discussed by the group and it was agreed that although an additional crematorium was needed, Bassaleg was not the right location. It was suggested that an area such as Celtic Lakes would be much more suitable due to it being easily accessible from all major roads and it's distance away from residential areas. Cllr Cornelious stated that many residents had been writing to the Planning Department of NCC to object to the development, but had been asked by officers to ask residents not to do so, as there had been no planning application filed to date. This meant objections could not be considered. Following the discussion of this topic Mrs Jones left the meeting at 7.35pm.
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 24th June 2015, previously circulated were read and following a minor alteration were approved - proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Mountain.
- 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 Stokes, seconded Cllr Sayer. Regarding Item 7, it was agreed that following residents complaints, the Clerk would write to the owner of the Coach House and request that the Haras fencing be removed and only re-erected during periods when work to the building was being carried out.
- 5. Projects:**
 - a.** Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade - Cllr Gregory reported that a small amount of funds were left to pay over to the contractor who carried out the main contracts on the building. The fire alarm quotes had been obtained and ranged between £8300 and £3450. It was agreed to accept the cheapest quote and for Cllr Gregory to engage the contractor, proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Haigh. Cllr Gregory had also been given a quote for other minor electrical testing at the Centre which would cost £450, Cllr Gregory was authorised to action this, proposed Cllr Fry, seconded Cllr Evans. Cllr Whitfield was still looking into funding sources for repairs to the exterior lime mortar of the building.

6. Reports:

- a. Police – No attendance by officers, Police reports are now being forwarded to the Clerk during the first week of the month following the month of reporting. Details of the report will be discussed at Planning meetings in the future. It was noted that 2 vehicles had been broken into at Churchmead and attempts were made on a further 3-4 others.
- b. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious reported that it had been a quiet month due to it being a holiday period for many NCC employees. She did express concern that attendance at NCC meetings was very low. Cllr Sayer asked that Cllr Cornelious look into the issue of missing signage at the western entrance to Church Crescent. Signage had been removed some 5 years ago when the grass verges had been tarmaced, but had never been replaced. He had been trying to get the issue sorted via the contact centre but despite many phone calls and being given numerous reference numbers over a 3 month period, the situation has not been resolved. Cllr Cox-Wall asked that she also look into the broken signage in Churchmead which warns of the danger at the river weir, and it was noted that the issue of the steep drop down to the river next to the river bridge had not been addressed.
- c. Graig Community Hall – Cllr Fry reported that checks to the fire alarm system and evacuation lights were to be carried out.
Rhiwderin CC – It was noted that the Centre Management Committee's AGM would take place on 14th September 2015 and that a new Secretary and Treasurer need to be found.
- d. Best Kept Villages Group - Cllr Fry presented a specification for improvements to St Basil's Shops roundabout following the realisation that the current scheme is not working very well, and he was awaiting a quote to present to Council. He also put forward the idea that the planters stored at Rhiwderin Community Centre could be used in front of the shops to improve the appearance of the large paved area, and he had asked a contractor to attend to the missing and broken bollards. A response from NCC to the request that maintenance be carried out in Rhiwderin village was read out and discussed. This stated that NCC would attend to the broken traffic barrier next to the level crossing and weed kill the roadsides when funds allowed, but no timescale could be given due to lack of funds. Also that any grounds maintenance inside the boundary of the community centre was now the responsibility of the Community Council and NCC would no longer carry out any weed killing or grass cutting unless it was paid for by the Community Council. Cllr Fry also reminded Cllr Cornelious to look into having the area outside the Ruperra Pub on the Caerphilly Road side cleansed, as it was in a very poor state.
- e. Allotments - Cllr Caston reported that some work had been carried out by a local contractor at the site, but not all the jobs on the list had been completed. The Allotment Committee had formed a working party and had agreed to carry out some maintenance themselves in order to save costs for the Community Council, so they would attend to any outstanding issues. There were 3 people interested in taking up some of the vacant plots, and 1 person had been asked to relinquish his plot due to its unsatisfactory condition. Cllr Fry asked that it be considered to offer easy access disabled plots if it was found there would be a demand. Cllr Caston to discuss with the Allotment Association Secretary.
- f. Play Areas – Cllr Harris reported that he had received lots of positive feedback on the new play areas being installed at the open space in Bassaleg. Cllr Cornelious reported that there had been issues with the play areas being installed on Caernarvon Drive in Rhiwderin and that she had attended a meeting with NCC officers and the residents regarding this - the Community Council were disappointed that they had not been invited to attend. Cllr Gregory said he had spoken with the NCC officer in charge of the project and expressed his concern that the Community Council had not been informed of this meeting, nor had the Council been given any timescales or proper layout plans for the schemes as promised. Cllr Harris reported that he had spoken with one of the contractors at Bassaleg who admitted that he did not have a layout plan of where to site the play areas either. Council were a little disappointed that the play areas took up so much of the green as it was felt it could have been a little more compact to leave a larger useable open space.
- g. Burial Board – Cllr Harris reported that the next meeting would be held on 9th September 2015.

7. Items for Next Agenda

Cllr Sayer asked Cllr Fry to forward an up-to-date dilapidations schedule to him, as some items on the original list had been attended to. He also asked Cllr Cornelious to report that areas of the Jubilee Path were overgrown and almost unusable.

8. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Proposed Crematorium & Remembrance Garden public awareness event update - discussed above.
- b. Community Councillor vacancy interviews - It was agreed that the interviews will take place on 9th September 2015.

- c. Ordinance Survey Subscription update (VCW) - Following Cllr Cox-Wall's review of the site Council recently subscribed to, she reported that she found the site to be very complicated but once mastered could be a useful tool to the Council. She suggested that Council should look to make an investment and commitment to training for the use of the site in the next 12 months as it could be valuable to log Council's responsibilities and assets and help in developing a Local Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Cox-Wall was thanked for giving her time to this venture and Council agreed it would be a worthwhile project to consider.
- d. Request for donation to the Ruperra Castle Heritage Open Doors event - Council discussed the request but agreed that at this time it would be unable to assist. Clerk to reply and suggest the group considers asking CCBC for assistance and advise of other small scale funding available.
- e. Pant Glas Farm Solar Panel proposal invitation to conduct a site visit - Following the invitation by the owners of Pant Glas Farm, Council agreed to send a delegation of Cllrs to visit the site on 5th August 2015, and report findings back to Council.
- f. NCC's proposed CIL draft charging schedule proposal for review (RC) - Cllr Gregory reviewed this item and reported that information appeared confused, that CIL would be introduced in the spring of 2016 and that CIL amounts would be more flexible than the current Section 106 rules.
- g. Arrange Events Committee meeting re Christmas event - Cllr Harris reported that the landlord of the Ruperra was interested in being involved in the event and that maybe a Winter Fayre could take place at the same time. Meeting to be arranged in the near future.
- h. Small scale project funding application - Information had been received and would be looked into by Cllr Gregory.

9. Planning:

CONEX/15/0811 – Erection of single storey extension to east elevation, infill of existing door opening and replacement of existing entrance door. Site: Unity 1 Afon Ebbw Road, Rogerstone, Newport NP10 9HZ (McDonald's). Application Type: Full. No objections provided the scheme would not further affect local residents in close proximity.

10. Correspondence for Information:

Noted but not discussed.

11. Accounts for Payment: Accepted. Proposed Cllr Whitfield seconded Cllr Stokes

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| Clerk salary and office allowance for July 2015 | £1716.12 |
| July miscellaneous expenses | £38.25 |
| Mr C Ricci - bin cleaning for July 2015 | £260.00 |
| Newport City Homes - grass cutting at Fort View play area for June 2015 | £212.04 |
| British Gas - Final invoice prior to switching suppliers for Graig CC | £70.51 |
| Rob Williams Fencing - Various works to allotments, Graig Hall & open space and underneath footbridge over the A467 | £1062.00 |
| BPU Chartered Accountants - internal audit costs | £1128.00 |
| Greenmoor Nurseries - cost of Community Centres hanging baskets | £300.00 |
| Griffiths Signs - signage brackets and tool | £28.49 |
| Performing Rights Society - annual cost for Graig Hall | £433.56 |
| R Charles Plastics - various maintenance works (2 invoices) | £540.00 |
| Total to date: | £5788.97 |

Receipts

None to date

12. Dates of next meetings:

Planning Meeting - Wednesday 12th August 2015 at 6.30pm

Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 26th August 2015 at 7pm

13. Urgent Business not on discussed above.

- a. Cllr Cox-Wall had noticed that the notice board at Park View had no door but was assured it had been taken away to be repaired and had not been vandalised again.
- b. Cllr Evans advised Council that fellow Cllr Keith Harris was presently very ill and was in hospital. Council asked the Clerk to send a card on their behalf, wishing him well and a speedy recovery.
- c. Cllr Caston advised Council he was aware that flood defence work was being carried out at the former Tredegar Park Golf Club site.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.15pm

Signed..... (Vice Chair) – 26th August 2015
Posted to notice boards 04.09.15

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