



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 26th August 2015.**

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs K Harries, P John, D Williams, P Gregory  
**Present:** Cllrs L Fry (Chair), R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, P Stokes, M Smart, K Sayer, N Mountain, J Harris, W Haigh, V Cox-Wall, M Cornelious.
- 2. Public Representation:** None
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 29th July 2015, previously circulated were read and approved - proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Haigh.
- 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 Evans. Regarding Item 3, the Clerk was asked to write on behalf of Council to the Cabinet Member for Streetscene and City Services to urge expediency in this matter and ask for her support. Regarding Item 6, it was discussed whether AMEC would assist with the grounds clearance as they had offered to carry out some works as a form of community assistance whilst working on the new gas pipeline in the villages. Regarding Item 8, Cllr Fry offered to assess the damage so the issue could be looked at again in an attempt to improve the situation.
- 5. Projects:**
  - a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade - The fire alarm system and associated automatic shut-off valve was in the process of being installed.
- 6. Reports:**
  - a. Police – Now discussed at mid-month meetings.
  - b. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious reported that the area outside the Ruperra on Caerphilly Road had been cleansed, and that it would be highly unlikely that a planning application for a crematorium would be put forward. The traffic issues due to the new gas pipeline installation were discussed and all agreed that although it was dreadful, that the works were necessary and AMEC were doing all they could to complete the works as quickly as possible. They were experiencing many unforeseen problems, and AMEC were in the process of trying to make improvements to the traffic lighting system to reduce delays. Cllr Cornelious also reported that Newport Bus had lost the contract for schools and she was concerned about how schoolchildren who stay on after school would travel home safely. Cllr Haigh asked Cllr Cornelious to chase up the maintenance for the top of Highfield lane as he was concerned about the safety of children using the footpath when returning to school. Cllr Cornelious had written to request maintenance on the path but said it was difficult to discover who was responsible for the work as the department was in disarray.
  - c. Graig Community Hall – It was noted that the Church using the Hall on Sundays had given up the booking due to a lack of attendance. The safety gas cut-off valve had been installed but not completed and it was also noted that there was a safety issue with Users blocking fire escapes with tables.  
Rhiwderin CC – Discussed above.
  - d. Best Kept Villages Group - Council noted that the flower displays at Caerphilly Close looked very good and commended the group for all their efforts.
  - e. Allotments - Cllr Caston reported that 3 plots had been let, and that the Allotment Association had elected a new Chairman. The group had formed working parties who were making improvements to empty plots and communal areas. More old carpet had been discovered and the group agreed to remove all carpet from the site to an area outside the gates where it could be more easily collected and disposed of. There was a suspected wasps nest discovered and Council gave approval for removal if necessary. Disabled plots were discussed, Cllr Caston had put the idea to the Allotment Secretary and both felt that it would be very expensive to carry out and should not be considered at this time. The Autumn allotment inspection was set for Sunday 27th September at 10.30am.
  - f. Play Areas – Following Council's concern that they had not been given a timetable for completion of the play areas, and that the areas on the open space looked almost complete, Cllr Harris reported that he had been given information by the contractors and the areas would be completed as soon as the

safety flooring could be laid, which was weather dependant. Comments from residents mostly praised the facilities but many felt that the play areas could have been placed closer to one end of the open space to allow for a larger open green. It was noted that the smaller pieces of equipment lining the path through the space which were already in use were proving very popular.

- g. Burial Board – Cllr Harris reported that the next meeting would be held on 7th September 2015.

## 7. Items for Next Agenda

Councillor Interviews - 9th September 2015 Planning meeting (6.30pm)

## 8. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Community Councillor vacancy interviews - The Clerk informed Council that one applicant had withdrawn his application, and that the other two applicants had been invited to attend informal interviews prior to the September Planning Meeting.
- b. Bore hole proposal for water supply to allotments and Graig Hall - Cllr Fry asked Council to consider a sustainable management system for Graig Hall to enable self sufficiency as much as possible. He reminded Council that in 2008 he completed a costing exercise for sinking a bore hole to provide some water for irrigation of the allotment site and for water supply to the Hall (apart from drinking water). The costs were likely to be in the region of £7,300. Cllr Stokes proposed that this be seriously looked into, as well as harvesting rainwater from the roof, this was seconded by Cllr Evans. Council to consider as a future project.
- c. Quotes for improvements to St Basil's Roundabout and shopping area planting scheme - Cllr Fry presented a quote for £1060 for an improved planting and watering regime at ST Basil's Shops roundabout, and a quote for £4030 for a scheme (including maintenance and watering) to improve the paved area outside St Basil's Shops which included using the planters given to Council by NCC. Council agreed that it would be a very nice idea but was costly. It was agreed to progress and develop a scheme which could be revisited at the next Full Council Meeting.
- d. Request for donation from Dance Unity Group - Noted, but Council were unable to assist at this time.

## 9. Planning:

- a. CONEX/15/0987 - Minor alteration of main house including removal of internal wall, reinstating rear door and new external steps onto the rear terrace. Site: Plas Machen, Caerphilly Road, Newport. NP10 8GW. Application Type: Listed Building. Comment: No objections.

## 10. Correspondence for Information:

Noted but not discussed.

## 11. Accounts for Payment: Accepted. Proposed Cllr Haigh seconded Cllr Whitfield

Clerk salary and office allowance for August 2015	£1716.12
August miscellaneous expenses	£34.20
Mr C Ricci - bin cleaning for July 2015	£260.00
Newport City Homes - grass cutting at Fort View play area for July 2015	£212.04
Whitehead Steelers JRFC - donation as agreed at 12th August meeting	£150.00
R Charles Plastics - notice boards maintenance	£140.00
<b>Total to date:</b>	<b>£2512.36</b>

### Receipts

Newport City Council - 2nd precept payment	£17040.53
HMRC - remainder of refund of VAT paid during 2014-15 tax year	£8614.80

## 12. Dates of next meetings:

Planning Meeting - Wednesday 9th September 2015 at 6.30pm  
Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 30th September 2015 at 7pm

## 13. Urgent Business not on discussed above.

- a. Cllr Smart asked that the possible solar farm development in Rhiwderin be added to the Clerk's Report for the situation to be closely monitored.
- b. An events committee meeting was set for Thursday 10th September at 6pm to begin the Christmas Lighting Event arrangements.
- c. A recent licensing application for the Tredegar Arms was discussed.
- d. Cllr Cox-Wall explained to Council the works of the SOWB group and its intentions moving forward. Cllr Stokes left the meeting at 8.50pm
- e. Cllr Whitfield expressed concern that the Ruperra Pub wanted to hold a function on the same day as the Christmas Lighting Event, Cllr Harris explained the context of the Ruperra's proposed involvement.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.57pm

Signed..... (Chair) –30th September 2015

Posted to notice boards 09.10.15

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