



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 28th October 2015.**

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs K Harries, P John, D Williams  
**Present:** Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, P Stokes, M Smart, K Sayer, N Mountain, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, V Cox-Wall, P Appleton
- 2. Public Representation:** None
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 30th September 2015, previously circulated were read and approved - proposed Cllr Whitfield, seconded Cllr Caston.
- 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 Evans.
- 5. Projects:**
  - a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade - The final payment to the contractor authorised at the September meeting was still being held by the Clerk until all issues with the works completed by them have been satisfactorily concluded, as the contractor had not been able to complete the snagging list to date. A meeting is to be arranged to source funding for the lime mortar repairs needed for the exterior of the building.
- 6. Reports:**
  - a. City Councillors – Cllr Williams was unable to attend, but forwarded a list of items he had been working on. He reported that the most pressing issues in the ward were the number of recent burglaries and thefts from vans. He is to speak to the ward's Police Inspector regarding the issue of parking in Court Crescent at school times, and is also working with the school and local residents to alleviate the problem.
  - b. Graig Community Hall – Cllr Whitfield mentioned that she had been made aware that there had been a double booking issue and an incident of the Hall not being opened up promptly for a user. Cllr Harris explained the reasons for the problems which he had resolved quickly.
  - c. Rhiwderin Community Centre - Cllr Gregory reported that the first meeting of the Management Committee since the AGM had taken place, and that it had been decided to increase the hiring charges from the 1st January 2016. The Hall is being very well used and the only free time is a Wednesday and Friday morning. At present there is a plasterer on site carrying out repairs to the main hall.
  - d. Best Kept Villages Group - NTR
  - e. Allotments - Cllr Harris and Cllr Cox-Wall declared an interest as allotment holders and offered to leave the meeting. This was not deemed necessary. Cllr Caston reported that at the follow-up inspection meeting the Allotment Association made some suggestions which included the introduction of taster plots, which Council agreed were a very good idea. They also suggested that the collection dates for rents be moved from April to October in future. The Clerk was in favour of this due to October being quieter for her work wise than April, Council agreed to the change. Cllr Caston also put to Council that the rent be increased by 2.5% which would increase rents by 6p per perch, Council authorised the increase. The Allotment Association had also been working very hard clearing up areas of the allotments, and amongst other things removed a good deal of carpeting which had been used as a weed suppressant over the years but had become embedded in the soil on some plots. Council recognised that without the efforts of the Association, carrying out this work would be costly and offered grateful thanks to all who assisted. It was agreed that the allotment agreement needed revising, the Clerk and Committee members to attend to the matter.
  - f. Play Areas – Cllr Gregory reported that Fort View play area had been completed and that the Bassaleg Green play area was doing well and was very popular. Works were well under way with the play area at the rear of Rhiwderin Community Centre and it was expected to be open soon. Caernarvon Drive play area had been abandoned and only a footpath through the green and some benches were to be placed there. NCC asked if the Community Council were willing to place some litter bins in the area but Cllr Gregory was told that NCC would not empty them. There was concern that now the Caernarvon

Drive site had been abandoned as a play area, there would be no facilities for the children of the village aged 10 years plus. Cllr Gregory had asked what would happen with the funding for the play equipment but had not been given an answer. It had been confirmed that the Community Council was to hold the funding for maintenance of the parks.

**g. Burial Board – NTR**

**7. Items for Next Agenda**

Cllr Fry asked that using Graig Hall to its full potential be added to the 25th November meeting as he was concerned that user group numbers drop during the winter months.

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

- a. Refurbishment of Graig Hall toilets - Cllr Fry produced the quotes that were acquired in March to refurbish the toilets and foyer of Graig Hall. He felt that the condition of the toilets let down what is a desirable building to rent or attend. Following discussions about what needed to be done, Cllr Gregory proposed upgrading the toilets, but not the foyer for the time being, this was supported by Cllr Caston who also proposed that more competitive prices should be sought, this was seconded by Cllr Whitfield and agreed by all. Cllr Fry to return to Council with costings when obtained.
- b. Council flower planters - Cllr Fry asked that Council decide where in the ward to use the planters that were stored at Rhiwderin Community Centre, and on a scheme for the front of St Basil's Shops. He had put forward a proposal for the shops area that most felt too large and costly, so he asked all Cllrs to bring alternative suggestions to the next meeting so a scheme could be decided and progress could be made. Cllr Sayer agreed to assist Cllr Fry if necessary.
- c. Christmas lighting event - Cllr Harris to speak with the landlord of the Ruperra who had offered to purchase and erect some new lighting for the tree that is lit up in the car park. Cllr Appleton reported that the cost to have live reindeer at the event would be £200 and approval was given for the cost proposed Cllr Sayer, seconded Cllr Mountain and agreed by all. It was felt that the reindeer would be a very nice addition to the event.
- d. St Basils Shops improvement scheme - discussed above
- e. Welsh Government invitation to comment on Draft Statutory Guidance for the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 - Cllr Cox-Wall to review and return comments to Council.
- f. Welsh Government invitation to comment on Proposed Changes to Planning Policy Wales Chapter 10 and Technical Advice Note 4: Retail Centre Development - Cllr Whitfield to review and return comments to Council.
- g. Consultation on the draft Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill - Cllr Gregory to review.

**9. Planning:**

None

**10. Correspondence for Information:**

It was noted that the correspondence folder contained a letter to Council from the Chief Clerk to The Queen thanking them for their kind letter of congratulations to Her Majesty The Queen on becoming the longest-reigning Monarch in British history, the Clerk was asked to display the letter.

**11. Accounts for Payment:** Accepted. Proposed Cllr Evans seconded Cllr Mountain

Clerk salary and office allowance for October 2015	£1716.12
October miscellaneous expenses	£116.89
Mr C Ricci - bin cleaning for October 2015	£135.00
Newport City Homes - grass cutting at Fort View play area for September 2015	£212.04
St Michaels & All Angels Church Lower Machen - donation towards repair costs	£250.00
SSE -Graig Hall gas invoice	£72.73
British Gas - Rhiwderin Community Centre final electricity invoice	£108.06
British Gas - Rhiwderin Community Centre final gas invoice	£79.87
TalkTalk Business - Graig Hall broadband charges (for info, taken by DD)	£24.60
GoCardless - Community Council Website Hosting (for info, taken by DD)	£5.00
<b>Total to date:</b>	<b>£3770.31</b>

**Receipts** None

**12. Dates of next meetings:**

Planning Meeting - Wednesday 11th November 2015 at 7pm  
Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 25th November 2015 at 7pm

**13. Urgent Business not on discussed above.**

- a. Cllr Harris asked about insurance cover should Council wish to allow users to use a combination microwave and hob when hiring the Hall. Cllr Gregory confirmed that he had looked into the matter and provided certain rules were strictly adhered to, any competent person using the equipment would be covered by Council's Public Liability insurance.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed 9.10pm

Signed..... (Chair) –25th November 2015

Posted to notice boards 26.11.15

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