



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 6th January 2016.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs N Mountain, P Stokes

Present: Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, M Smart, K Sayer, K Harries, P John, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, V Cox-Wall, P Appleton, M Cornelious, D Williams

2. Public Representation: None

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held 25th November 2015, previously circulated were read and approved - proposed Cllr John, seconded Cllr Sayer. Also the minutes of the meeting held 2nd December 2015, previously circulated were read and approved - proposed Cllr John, 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 John, seconded Cllr Caston.

6. Reports:

- a. City Councillors – Brought forward to allow Cllr Williams to leave the meeting early. Cllr Williams told Council he was aware that the issue with a resident of Rhiwderin's dogs continues, and suggests any resident experiencing problems or incidents should contact the Police or NCC dog wardens. Issues can be reported via NCC's Contact Centre or by filling in a contact form on NCC's website. The recent flooding in Rhiwderin was discussed, Cllr Williams reported that blocked drains and gullies on Cock-y-North Lane and Springfield Lane were mostly to blame, these have now been cleared. The brook that runs through the village also needs attention and he suggested improvements to its drainage would help. He also advised that he is aware that NCC does have funds available which could be used to tarmac the grass verge at the Laurel Road/Highfield Road junction which has been an issue, and that the Community Council could push for action. Cllr Sayer asked if the missing signage at Church Crescent is at last to be replaced, as in the past 4 years he has requested the replacement 7 times but there has still been no action. Both City Cllrs say they have regularly chased for this missing sign and others in the village but keep being told that the budget for such things is small, they are both aware that Streetscene has an under-spend for this financial year and had an even larger under-spend last financial year. Cllr Gregory expressed the Community Council's frustration that every time an issue is reported, the only response received is that "lack of funding" is to blame. Cllr Williams agreed that especially where there is a health and safety risk, lack of funding is no excuse. Cllr Williams left the meeting at 7.35pm.

5. Projects:

- a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade – Cllr Gregory reported that the roof had needed emergency repairs recently, but that these were only temporary repairs and he believes a permanent repair will cost around £3K. Cllr Fry suggested that the roof timbers could be worse than expected and advised a survey be carried out in the Spring. Plastering had been carried out and internal decoration of the Headmaster's House side of the building could now commence. Cllr Gregory is currently looking to have the fire extinguishers assessed and replaced as necessary.

6. Reports:

- a. City Councillors – Discussed above.
- b. Graig Community Hall – NTR, a date was agreed for volunteers to remove the Christmas decorations.
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre – NTR.
- d. Best Kept Villages Group – NTR.
- e. Allotments - Cllr Cox-Wall expressed frustration at not being able to get a reply from the Allotment Association to her request to be given tool store space for her plot. Cllr Caston to advise the Secretary.
- f. Play Areas – Cllr Gregory is still trying to secure a meeting with the NCC Officer in charge of creating the play areas, but as yet no date has been set. It was noted that the Caernarvon Drive space is very muddy but it was realised that this is due to the contractors having to work in such bad weather.
- g. Burial Board – NTR.

- h. Police Report - No Officers were present but the report received for December was read out. The report contained the following information: During November there had been 102 calls to the Police, 92 were classed as incidents and 19 of those were classed as crimes. The breakdown of the crimes were as follows: All Other Theft - 2, Vehicle Crime - 2, Public Order - 1, Criminal Damage - 6, Burglary Dwelling - 1, Violence without Injury - 6, Drug Offences - 1. There had been 1 call to Lavender Way on 9th December. Following the results of the Your Voice survey the Police priority was to target speeding on Laurel Road. There had been calls regarding off road motor cycles in the Five Lanes area, Officers had been made aware, and patrols had taken place when resources allowed A local male had been dealt with for the possession of cannabis in the Springfield Road area by response officers. Patrols were still being carried out in the car park at the bottom of Forge Lane where youths were gathering, the last incident dealt with was on 20.12.15. 2 incidents of theft at Morrison's had taken place, one involved a stolen purse inside the store, and another involved a handbag stolen from a vehicle in the car park. 2 responses were read regarding the letter sent from Council to Gwent's PCC setting out Council's concerns over the lack of Police presence in the ward. The letters from the PCC and Supt. for the area were to reassure Council that the ward is well covered and details were passed to the areas Inspector along with a request for him to contact the Clerk to arrange to attend a Council meeting.

7. Items for Next Agenda:

Proposal to upgrade Graig Hall toilet facilities (LF)

8. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Utilising Graig Hall to its full potential - Discussion not deemed necessary as the Hall's bookings are quite full and doing well.
- b. Council flower planter locations & St Basil's Shops improvement scheme - Deferred to next meeting. Cllr Smart expressed concerns for the cost of last year's maintenance at St Basil's shops roundabout. All agreed that considering the service that had been supplied during the year, the costs were high. It was thought that the contract was the issue, and that hopefully this had been addressed with the new contract so things should improve substantially.
- c. Invitation to comment on the Welsh Government's Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill - It was agreed to forward the relevant information to Cllrs so comments could be brought to the 27th Jan meeting for Clerk to collate and submit if necessary.
- d. Speeding on Pentrepoeth Road - An email from a resident concerned at the speed of traffic on the road was read to Council. All agreed with the comments and Cllr Cornelious confirmed she is still trying to get action on this issue but comes up against the same issues as Council. Clerk to suggest the resident contacts the City Cllrs and considers forming a resident's petition.
- e. No 50 service bus alterations at evenings and weekends - Clerk to check if service is funded by Caerphilly CBC, NCC or a combination of both.
- f. Council finances - discussed briefly. the Clerk provided print outs of the accounts to all Cllrs, and Cllr Gregory requested that these be studied so an informed discussion can be made on which projects could be funded with the money available next year. This will be discussed at the 27th January meeting.
- g. Employee pension responsibilities - The Clerk informed Council of its responsibilities to provide a workplace pension for its only employee, and Council agreed for the Clerk to arrange the pension with contributions set at the minimum 1% of the Clerk's salary.

9. Planning:

- a. CONEX/15/1365 - Proposed garage conversion and additional parking bay. Site: 24 Dewberry Grove, Rogerstone, Newport, NP10 9JY. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections provided neighbours are consulted and agree.
- b. CONEX/15/1465 - Crown thin and crown lift of birch tree within G41 (TPO 3/79). Site: 8 Sunnybank, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8JP Application Type: Tree Preservation Orders. Comment: Council are happy to follow the TPO Officer's recommendations.

10. Correspondence for Information:

Not discussed.

11. Accounts for Payment: Accepted. Proposed Cllr Sayer seconded Cllr Evans

Staples - stationery	£14.99
Mon. County Council - grounds maintenance for St Basil's shops roundabout	£884.24
TalkTalk - Graig Hall broadband - (By DD)	£24.60
Gocardless - website and email costs (By DD)	£5.00
Mr C Ricci - extra bin cleaning and litter picking at play areas	£205.00

SSE - Graig Hall electricity supply costs	£531.86
HMRC - PAYE & NI Oct-Dec	£1794.28
R Charles Plastics - repairs to Rhiwderin CC	£120.00
Total to date:	£3659.97

Receipts

Newport City Council - 3rd precept payment £17040.53

12. Dates of next meetings:

Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 27th January 2016 at 7pm

Planning Meeting - Wednesday 10th February 2016 at 7pm

13. Urgent Business not on discussed above.

It was noted that Cardiff have now completed their LDP but that as they have no brownfield sites on which to build, they have had to allocate greenfield sites.

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

Signed..... (Chair) – 27th January 2016

Posted to notice boards 05.02.16

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