



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 11th January 2017.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr D Williams, V Cox-Wall.
Present: Cllrs R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, M Smart, K Sayer, K Harries, P Gregory, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, P Appleton.
2. **Public Representation:** None
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 30th November 2016 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Harries seconded Cllr Caston.
- 6.a Discussed first to allow the Police to continue with their duties. Officer Evans read the Police report for December. The report contained the following information: During December there had been 93 calls to the Police, 13 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Vehicle Crime - 1, All Other Theft - 3, Shop Lifting - 1, Violence Without Injury - 2, Violence With Injury - 1, Burglary Dwelling - 2, Miscellaneous Crime – 1, Criminal Damage - 1. The Your Voice survey completed in October is now closed and results have been published. The next survey will take place in March 2017, please email <https://www.gwent.police.uk/yourvoicesurvey/> with any suggestions or issues. The ward priority for Graig is now anti-social behaviour in Lavender Way, Rivermead Way and Jasmine Close. Actions and activities by the local teams during December included: The team held another off road bike operation and a bike was seized in the area of Park Wood, Caerphilly Rd. A vehicle was seized in the area of Berkley Rd, Bassaleg due to no tax or insurance. 2 females were spoken to in the area of Lavender Way about their behaviour and lack of respect for their neighbours. 3 youths were spoken to in the area of Channel View about their behaviour and given suitable advice, they were told to leave the area and not return. Patrols were carried out in the area of Springfield Lane over the festive period but no-one was seen at the time of the patrols. Patrols will continue during January. Following complaints about commuters parking in the area of Bassaleg shops, warning letters were left on offending vehicles about limited waiting times and no further calls had been received. Investigations were carried out regarding a car that was thought to be abandoned in Jasmine Close, the owner was traced and the vehicle removed. 2 male pupils from Bassaleg School were spoken to regarding dangerous behaviour on Caerphilly Road which could have resulted in a serious accident. Emerging Trends: Youths on Caerphilly Rd and Rivermead Way appear to think it is good practice to push their friends out into the road in front of oncoming traffic. Other Information: the local team are putting an operation in place to deal with the possible youth disorder in Afon Village on Wednesday nights after the youth club has closed. Ward surgeries to be held in the Rhiwderin Village area on 03.01.17 and Afon Village area on 14.01.17. Cllr Haigh reported that it seemed that commuters were parking on Laurel Road close to St Basil's shops and leaving cars there all day which was taking up space for those needing to visit the shops, Cllr Whitfield said she believed there was also an issue with commuters parking on Caerphilly Rd by St Basil's Church. PCSO Evans said he believes they are Bassaleg School 6th form pupils and would speak with the school about the issue. The recent spate of burglaries in the villages was discussed and Council felt they were not all reflected in the figures of the report. PCSO Evans to investigate. Cllr Gregory mentioned at a recent Liaison Meeting with NCC the fact that the Police are unable to attend as many Council meetings as Community Councils would wish, and that many felt the Police should attend more. NCC had been asked to raise this with the Chief Constable. Cllr Gregory pointed out that despite past promises to have the Inspector attend meetings at least twice per year, none had attended in a very long time. Cllr Appleton was concerned that not enough information had been given about crimes, and that if Council knew a little more it could help with informing residents how to better protect themselves against crimes. Cllr Smart was concerned that the ward priorities should be changed and was told that to do so she would need to contact the Gwent Now team. Cllr Gregory asked that the report be changed to include the previous 2 months statistics so Council could compare the figures. PCSO's Evans and Dean left the meeting to continue with their duties. The responses from the new PCC to questions tabled at recent meetings and consultations with Community Councils was briefly discussed. **Action: Clerk to advise PCSO Evans when meetings are being held so arrangements can be made for the Inspector or Sergeant to attend. PCSO Evans to arrange for this attendance, include previous figures on future reports, investigate Cllrs queries regarding parking on Laurel Road, speak with the school regarding 6th former's**

parking and look into whether all the recent burglaries were reflected in the figures on the report. Clerk to send the PCC's recent responses to questions to Cllrs for perusal.

4. Clerk's Report:

The Clerk's Report previously circulated was briefly discussed. It was noted that the Clerk needed more information on the locations of graffiti in the ward in order to properly log the request for its removal. **Action: Cllrs to advise the Clerk of any graffiti noticed in the ward for a list to be compiled. Once complete, Clerk to contact NCC requesting it's removal.**

5. Projects:

- a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade – Cllr Gregory informed the group that although much work had been completed, replacement rainwater goods, internal and external decoration and lime mortar repairs were still outstanding and extra funding would be required. **Action: Cllr Whitfield to arrange a meeting for organise funding streams.**
- b. Flower planters – The planters at Rhiwderin CC had still not been lifted onto platforms ready to decorate. There were also a few outstanding works to be completed by the same contractor such as odd jobs around the Centre and siting of the picnic benches. **Action: Cllr Gregory to contact the contractor to progress.**
- c. Graig Community Council calendar – It was noted that despite efforts to promote the sale of the calendars, very few had been sold. It was agreed to give the remainder to Pentrepoeth School for the pupils to take home free of charge. **Action: Cllr Gregory to pass calendars on to the school for distribution.**
- f. Picnic benches for open spaces and play areas – Discussed in 5b above.

6. Reports:

- a. Police: Discussed above.
- b. City Councillors – No City Councillors were present. **Action: None.**
- c. Graig Community Hall – Cllr Gregory reported that the gentleman interested in turning the Pumphouse into a coffee shop had been in touch regarding progress. This was discussed and a vote taken on whether to proceed with the proposal or not. By majority vote Council decided not to proceed. It was noted that the Hall had taken a regular booking for Mondays and had also already been booked for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 2017. Cllr Evans requested volunteers to remove the Christmas decorations at the Hall on Monday 16th January at 10am. Cllr Fry put forward quotes for placing finger guards on internal doors in the Hall at a cost of £250-270. Cllr Evans agreed this could be paid for by Hall funds. Cllr Fry suggested gaining quotes to replace the flooring in the foyer of the building and was told to take this up with the Hall Management Committee. **Action: Cllr Fry to oversee the installation of the finger guards and forward the invoice to Cllr Evans. All Cllrs available to help to attend the Hall to take down the decorations. Cllr Fry to liaise with the Management Committee regarding replacement flooring for the foyer.**
- d. Rhiwderin Community Centre – Cllr Whitfield was thanked for overseeing the installation of the new window blinds. There had been issues with the water meter resulting in very large bills for the Centre, the meter had at last been changed but indicated there may be an underground leak somewhere. **Action: Cllr Gregory to progress.**
- e. Best Kept Villages Group – NTR. **Action: None required.**
- f. Allotments – The Clerk showed the group an advertisement compiled by the Chairman of the allotment Committee to stir some interest in the vacant plots on the site. The advert had been placed in the notice boards, on the website and on Council's social media platforms. **Action: None.**
- g. Play Areas – Cllr Gregory advised the group that he and a small group had met with the NCC Officer who oversaw the play areas refurbishments to discuss the proposed SLA as agreed. Cllr Fry put forward a proposal to have more control over the maintenance and bin emptying schedules. Both issues were discussed and by a majority vote it was agreed to accept the SLA offered by NCC Proposed Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Harries. Cllr Fry was thanked for all his hard work in putting an alternative proposal together to be considered. **Action: Clerk to amend the odd grammatical error in the SLA and send to NCC for approval, asking for the addition of maps to show the locations of the play areas to be added as appendices.**
- g. Burial Board – Cllr Gregory advised Council of the latest progress. It was proposed by Cllr Harris that Council conclude matters by signing the Burial Board Clerk's contract, this was seconded by Cllr Harries and agreed by majority vote. Cllr Gregory asked Graig's Burial Board Committee members to suggest that now the contract of employment is concluded, for the Board to look at the Clerk's salary. **Action: Cllr Gregory to progress. Board Members to request the Clerk's salary to be reviewed.**

7. Items for Next Agenda:

Section 106 money for the former Tredegar Golf Club development - 25th January meeting
Village greens - 25th January meeting

8. Items for Discussion/Action:

a. Councillor vacancy update - The Clerk had compiled a new poster to advertise the current vacancies and approval was given for its publication. **Action: Clerk to circulate to social media administrators and display in the notice boards.**

b. Bollards at St Basil's shops - It was noted that the wooden bollards on the roundabout had again been damaged by a large vehicle. Suggestions for solving the continuing issue were discussed but it was decided that no action would be taken for the time being. **Action : None at this time.**

c. WG notification of Section 137(4)(A) expenditure limit - The Clerk presented the information received on current limits. **Action: None necessary.**

d. Pentrepoeth Road issues - Deferred to 25th January meeting. **Action: Clerk to agenda for 25th January meeting.**

e. December Liaison Meeting update - Cllr Gregory reported that the meeting was very poorly attended by other Community Councils which was very disappointing. The Concurrent expenditure was discussed, future allocations will be set using Community Council's expenditure figures. Graig Council representatives raised the issue that Council felt Police attendance at meetings and presence in the ward was not acceptable and asked that this was conveyed to senior officers when they met with the City Council. Fly tipping and street lighting was discussed as was cycle-ways. Cllr Gregory expressed concerns over children and pedestrian safety in Bassaleg to a NCC officer giving a presentation at the meeting. Code of Conduct training will be offered to Community Councils following the May elections. **Action: Cllr Gregory to contact the NCC Officer regarding the Safe Routes to Schools.**

9. Correspondence for Information: Not discussed.

10. Accounts for Payment: Accepted. Proposed Cllr Evans seconded Cllr Caston

TalkTalk - broadband charges to Graig Hall (taken by DD)	£26.34	
Ben Daniel - pruning of St Cecilia apple tree on Graig Green	£60.00	
Paragon - Council webmail monthly charge (taken by DD)	£5.00	
SSE - RCC electricity charges from Sept-Dec 16 (taken by DD)	£174.36	
SSE - RCC gas charges from Sept-Dec 16 (taken by DD)	£356.31	
SSE - GCC electricity charges from Sept-Dec 16 (account in credit - total £195.99)	£78.22	(to pay)
SSE - GCC gas charges from Sept-Dec 16 (account in credit - no payment due)	£276.33	(not inc in total)
Newport City Homes - Grass cutting at Fort View Oct 16	£212.04	
HMRC - PAYE & NI Oct-Dec 16	£1945.71	
Total to date:	£2974.76	

Receipts

Newport City Council - Final precept payment for 2016-17 £17620.97

11. Urgent Business not discussed above:

a. Cllr Gregory reported that the Christmas event went well, but felt more help to steward the event would be needed in the future. It was agreed the new tree lights were much better this year and feedback was good. **Action: None at this time, but Events Committee to look at in the future.**

12. Planning:

- a. App No: 16/1141 Type: Full Site: The Cottage, Church Road, Lower Machen, Newport NP10 8GU. Proposal: CONSTRUCTION OF LOG STORE IN GARDEN **Comment: No objections.**
- b. App No: 16/1158 Type: Full Site: 23 Oaklands Park Drive, Rhiwderin, Newport NP10 8RB Proposal: RETENTION OF RAISED DECKING AND TREEHOUSE WITHIN REAR GARDEN **Comment: Council were concerned about the safety of the tree house and felt this should be addressed by a structural engineer to ensure its safety.**
Cllr Sayer left the meeting at 9.40pm
- c. App No: 16/1237 Type: Full Site: Land to the rear of 25 Fort View, Bassaleg, Newport Proposal: CONSTRUCTION OF ONE RESIDENTIAL DWELLING (Commented on as agreed prior to meeting)
Comment: **Council strongly objects to this proposed development and regards this very much as overdevelopment of the existing site. Access would be restricted, and due to the topography**

of the land the house would overlook residences 72-78 Caerphilly Road. Council asks that these residents in particular be consulted if they have not already been invited to do so.

- d. App No. 16/1267 Site: 2 Graig Close, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8PE Proposal: PROPOSED FRONT PORCH EXTENSION AND ERECTION OF NEW FRONT STEPS **Comment: No objections.**
- e. App No: 16/1294 Type: Reserved Matters (Major) Site: Jubilee Park Development Site, Tregwilym Road, Rogerstone, Newport Proposal: RESERVED MATTER APPLICATION RELATING TO ACCESS, APPEARANCE, LANDSCAPE, LAYOUT AND SCALE OF PART OF PARCEL H4 FOR THE ERECTION OF 108NO. DWELLINGS TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED WORKS RELATING TO PLANNING PERMISSION 12/0886 **Comment: No objections.**
- f. App No: 161300 Type: Full Site: 4 Viaduct View, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8FR Proposal: CONSTRUCTION OF EXTENSION LINK GARAGE TO DWELLING **Comment: No objections.**

Cllr Gregory read a letter to Council received from Ex-Councillor Peter Stokes who had recently retired thanking Council and offering good wishes for the future..

Cllr Whitfield gave apologies for both 8th and 22nd February. **Action: Clerk to log apologies.**

13. Dates of next meetings:

Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 25th January 2017 at 7pm

Mid Month Meeting - Wednesday 8th February 2017 at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed 9.45pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 8th February 2017

Posted to notice boards 18.02.17

Clerk to the Council: Sian Davies

6 Vale View, Gelli Park, Risca, Newport. NP11 6HS

Tel: 01633 614119, Mobile: 07971 094382

Email: clerk@grraigcc.co.uk

Website: www.grraigcc.co.uk



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