



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 25th January 2017.

1. Apologies for absence: None.

Present: Cllrs R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, M Smart, K Sayer, K Harries, P John, P Gregory, 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 7th December 2016 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr John seconded Cllr Harries. Arising from Section 4a (Police Reports), the City Cllrs noted that the Police were not always attending City Council meetings as well as Community Council meetings. In Section 7B (regarding the underpass near the Rhiwderin Inn) work was taking place there and the area had been fenced off by NetworkRail. **Action: Cllrs Williams and Cornelious to investigate.**

4. Clerk's Report:

The Clerk's Report previously circulated was briefly discussed and accepted as a true reflection of matter to date. Proposed Cllr Sayer, seconded Cllr Caston. The NCC responses to the issues was commented upon, and Council felt that it was not acceptable to blame lack of funds on all the issues being reported, many of which were H&S issues. The Clerk was asked to forward the responses from NCC to Cllrs Cornelious and Williams to investigate.

Cllr Cox-Wall joined the meeting at 7.10pm.

Cllr Cornelious reported that following the inspection of the former Garthfield Cottage site, NCC officers were content that the banking that had been cut away to allow for a new development was stable despite Council's concern, but would be checking the boundaries to ensure the fencing was properly aligned. The City Cllrs were also asked to look at the issues surrounding overgrowth on the walls supporting the banking on both sides of the railway bridge on Pye Corner which was so overgrown that it was pushing traffic out into the middle of the road to avoid it. **Action: Clerk to forward NCC responses to reported issues to the City Cllrs for further investigation. City Cllrs to also investigate the overgrowth at Pye Corner.**

5. Projects:

- a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade – Cllr Gregory informed the group that work needed to commence at pace as the upgrade had stalled in recent months. Cllrs on the sub-committee to investigate funding streams needed to meet and progress. Cllr Gregory had chased the contractor regarding the lifting of the planters at the rear of the Centre which should be taking place in the following few days as should the erection of one of the picnic bench sets in order to cost installation. Access to the benches was discussed and Cllr Fry offered to speak with the contractor to arrange this. Cllr Gregory asked the sub-committee in charge of looking at grounds maintenance to meet and discuss. Cllr Gregory suggested that all Sub-Committee's should appoint a project manager who would take responsibility for moving projects forward and arranging meetings. **Action: Cllr Whitfield to arrange a meeting to organise funding streams as soon as practicable. All Sub-Committees to appoint a project leader. Cllr Fry to arrange access for the picnic benches to be collected and the sub-committee in charge of grounds maintenance to look at planter decoration and planting schemes.**
- b. Flower planters – Discussed and actioned in 5a above. **Action: As above.**
- c. Graig Community Council calendar – Cllr Gregory had passed on the calendars to the school for distribution as previously agreed. This project is now complete. **Action: Clerk to remove this item from future reports.**
- f. Picnic benches for open spaces and play areas – Discussed and actioned in 5a above. **Action: As above**

6. Reports:

- a. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious reported that she had again contacted NCC regarding the Coach House issues but had not received a reply. Cllr Williams offered to speak to the owner. She also reported that there were issues with the electronic timetables at the bus stops in the ward which needed to be attended to. Cllr Caston and the Clerk told her of more issues with the timetables and

Cllr Cornelious agreed to look to having them resolved. Cllr Williams reported that he and Cllr Cornelious had attended a CityDeal seminar which looked quite promising, and that he would forward information to the Clerk for circulation. He also reported that there would be a seminar on the Junction 28 improvement scheme soon and that he would forward information on the forthcoming Holocaust Memorial event. **Action: Cllr Williams to speak with the owner of the Coach House and forward information to the Clerk on the CityDeal and J28 seminars and the Holocaust Memorial event. Cllr Cornelious to progress the issues with bus stop timetables.**

Cllr Sayer asked if he could give a statement regarding the role of the City Cllrs. In it he expressed disappointment that many issues that have they have been asked to progress are no closer to being resolved. He spoke in particular about the street signage for Church Crescent which has been missing for a number of years, and that he had reported to both NCC and the City Cllrs for at least the past 5 years. He felt that they needed to be more forceful and be "banging on doors" trying to get results. Cllr Cornelious told the group that despite issues not being resolved it wasn't for the lack of trying on the City Cllrs parts. Cllr Williams accepted that they were tasked with these things and they chase for them regularly, but unfortunately they do not seem to have the impact they had in earlier years. It was not just Graig ward Cllrs having this problem but Cllrs from all the other wards too. Council felt that it was not acceptable that NCC was running its services in this way, and that although neighbouring Councils were under the same financial pressures, their services did not look to be suffering as much as those run by NCC.

- b. Graig Community Hall – Cllr Evans gave the Clerk a cheque for £1000 to refund the donation Council made to the Graig Hall finances when the Hall needed assistance in May 2014. The floor of the Hall foyer was being looked at with a view to replacing it, and would be discussed at the next Hall Committee meeting. Cllr Evans asked for a Member to step in to replace Cllr Mountain as the Committee was short of 1 representative and Cllr Sayer offered to join the group. The Council was asked to look at repairing the wall in the car park, and Cllr Gregory noted that the car park lights were not working properly again. Cllr Fry advised that an electrician had looked at the issue and the problem was with the lighting controls in the columns, a solution was being looked at. It was also noted that there had been an issue with a user gaining access for a booking that was made to use the Hall. this was an error on management's part and an apology was given.

Cllr Williams left the meeting at 8.05pm.

Action: Cllr Fry to oversee the issue of the defective lights in the car park. Council to look at the car park wall repair, Clerk to update records to show Cllr Sayer had joined the Hall Committee.

- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre – Cllr Caston reported he had been made aware that there had been an attempted break-in from inside the Centre to the rooms used by the Railway group in the Headmaster's section of the building. Cllr Gregory reported that a water leak had been discovered in the gents toilets and a radiator in the main hall had malfunctioned. Both issues were being attended to. **Action: Cllr Gregory to oversee the repairs of the leak and radiator.**
- d. Best Kept Villages Group – NTR. **Action: None required.**
- e. Allotments – Cllr Caston reported that some plot holders had relinquished their plots, but also there had been others joining the site. **Action: None.**
- f. Play Areas – Cllr Gregory advised the group that the SLA with NCC was being progressed and will be signed off shortly. Council suggested that no paperwork be signed until a thorough physical check of the play areas had been carried out and all outstanding works had been completed. **Action: Cllr Gregory to progress.**
- g. Burial Board – Cllr Gregory advised Council that the employment contract for the Clerk had been signed by both parties and suggested that her salary should now be reviewed. **Action: Board Members to progress, Clerk to send copies of NALC pay scales to Board Members for assistance with a review.**

7. Items for Next Agenda:

Police Sergeant Lawton - 8th February meeting

8. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Council Finances - A review of Council's current financial position was conducted. Cllr Gregory asked Cllrs to look over the submitted figures with a view to carrying out some of the projects approved previously during the next financial year. The item to be revisited at the 22nd February meeting. **Action: Clerk to update the accounts to reflect any changes necessary and provide an up-to-date spreadsheet for the next meeting to allow for suggestions and decisions on spending moving forward. Cllrs to bring suggestions for the next project/s to be undertaken.**

- b. Pentrepoeth Road - Cllr Cornelious reported that she had written again to NCC regarding the issues on this road. Council asked if it could be given approval for placing "20 is Plenty" signage on this road, and even Caerphilly Road in places. Cllr Appleton reminded the group that she and Cllr Gregory had been told at a recent NCC Liaison meeting that funding was available to improve the Safe Routes to School and that the road would fall into that category. Cllr Cox-Wall suggested that being involved in the Community Speedwatch Programme would allow Council to monitor and gather evidence to support concerns. **Action: Cllrs Cornelious and Williams to investigate if Council could erect signage, Cllr Gregory to contact the NCC Officer who informed them of the Safe Routes to School funding.**
- c. Village greens - Cllr Caston showed the group an article on registering village greens and open spaces which safeguards them for public enjoyment for the future. Council agreed this is something that should be considered. Cllr Cox-wall reported that the Save Our Woodland Bassaleg organisation were asking for locals to email the group if they used the woodland area for recreation during past years as they are collecting evidence of its use by the public. She suggested Council could do the same should it be needed to support registration. **Action: Clerk to agenda again for 8th March meeting to progress.**
- d. Section 106 funding - Cllr Smart asked why it had been stated that all the Section 106 money being supplied by the developers of the Former Tredegar Park Golf Club site had already been earmarked for funding flood defences, and that none of the funding was being spent on other areas in the ward. The Clerk was asked to write to NCC to ask why the whole sum of funding was being used and why Council was not informed of this at the time. The Clerk advised that it was necessary to make requests for any particular use of Section 106 money at the time when the initial application for development was being decided, as it was at that point that decisions on where the funding is spent are made. **Action: Clerk to write as requested.**
- e. Request for financial assistance from Gwent YFC - The request was discussed by Council, but it was agreed that Council would be unable to help at this time. **Action: Clerk to advise Gwent YFC.**
- f. St Basil's shops roundabout maintenance - An offer to renew the maintenance schedule for another year had been received. Following discussion it was decided Council would not renew the contract at this time. **Action: the Grounds Maintenance Sub Committee to review the maintenance needs and look at the flower beds. Cllr Sayer to approach Machen Quarry to enquire if it would be possible to have some large stone to replace the bollards on the roundabout as they are being regularly damaged. Clerk to advise the company that Council would not be renewing the current maintenance contract.**
- g. Temporary Governor for Jubilee Park 's New Primary School - An advertisement had been forwarded to Council for the post of Temporary Governor for the new school. This was noted but no action was required. **Action: None.**
- h. Technologies meeting update - Cllr Harris reported that the Technologies Sun-Committee had met and suggested Council upgrades the current website to something more user friendly and modern. Professional quotes were being sought and the group would come back to Council with recommendations at a later date. **Action: Sub-Committee to progress.**

9. Correspondence for Information: Not discussed.

10. Accounts for Payment: Accepted. Proposed Cllr Sayer seconded Cllr Haigh

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Clerk salary and office allowance for January 2017 | £1767.74 |
| January misc. expenses | £86.79 |
| Monmouthshire Council - Annual grounds maintenance for St Basil's shops r/about | £752.60 |
| Total to date: | £2607.13 |

Receipts

None to date

11. Urgent Business not discussed above:

- a. Cllr Whitfield reported that Park View road was very dirty as a result of the state of the wheels of lorries travelling out of the former Tredegar Golf Club development. Residents and road users have been complaining about it and despite a road sweeper being used regularly, the road remained in a bad state. It was suggested that a wheel wash should be used on vehicles leaving the site. **Action: Cllr Cornelious offered to take up this issue.**
- b. Cllr Cox-Wall reported that many people had been complaining about the disrepair of the Bassaleg School buildings on the Graig News Facebook page run by City Cllr Williams, who was also in an Argus article discussing this issue. Someone wished to know the Community Council's feelings on this and she offered to respond on behalf of Council. Council felt they had no influence over the decisions

made for the school, as the school refused to allow a Community Council Member to sit on the Board of Governors. Council expressed real concerns about the reported state of the buildings and Cllr Cornelious reported that she had tried to get funding from NCC for the school, but the response was that the recent new fence had been costly and no funding was available. This led to a discussion about all the issues in the ward which need attention but NCC's response always being lack of available funding. These issues would be discussed with NCC's Chief Executive at a forthcoming meeting which was being arranged. **Action: Cllr Cox-Wall to relay Council's response, Cllr Gregory to convey Council's concerns to the Chief Executive.**

Cllr Sayer left the meeting at 9.20pm.

- c. Cllr Gregory informed Council he had relayed the Council's decision to refuse the proposal for the Pump House to be utilised as a coffee shop to the gentleman who made the proposal. He was obviously disappointed with the outcome. **Action: No action necessary.**
- d. Regarding the 2 vacancies for Councillors that were currently unfilled, Council discussed inviting a former applicant who had been interviewed some 15 months earlier to sit in on a meeting, and if still interested, she could be offered to fill the post without the need for a further interview. The applicant had already interviewed well, but at that time only one post was available with 2 strong applicants and unfortunately she had to be let down. All Council agreed that this would be acceptable. **Action: Cllr Gregory to speak with the lady and put the proposal to her.**

12. Planning:

- a. App No: 16/1283 Type: Full Site: 3 Highfield Gardens, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8LR. Proposal: RETENTION OF SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION **Comment: Council were concerned at the lack of detail on the plans and that the development was not in keeping with the surrounding street scene as different materials and colours had been used on the extension compared to the rest of the house and all the surrounding homes.**
- b. App No: 16/1288 Type: Full Site: 5 Laurel Drive, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8NL Proposal: DEMOLITION OF SINGLE STOREY DETACHED GARAGE AND SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSIONS AND ERECTION OF NEW SINGLE STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSIONS (AMENDMENT TO 16/0859) **Comment: No objections to the development, but Council did express concerns regarding access as this was on the main route to the housing estate and just up from the junction with Caerphilly Road.**

13. Dates of next meetings:

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

Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 22nd February 2017 at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed 9.50pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 22nd February 2017

Posted to notice boards 03.02.17

Clerk to the Council: Sian Davies
6 Vale View, Gelli Park, Risca, Newport. NP11 6HS
Tel: 01633 614119, Mobile: 07971 094382
Email: clerk@graigcc.co.uk

Website: www.graigcc.co.uk



www.facebook.com/GraigCommunityCouncil



@GraigCommCoun