



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 22nd February 2017.

1. **Apologies for absence:** A Whitfield, L Fry, V Cox-Wall, D Williams.

Present: Cllrs R Caston, D Evans, M Smart, K Sayer, K Harries, P John, P Gregory, J Harris, W Haigh, P Appleton, J Bailey, M Cornelious. Also present Police Sergeant Lawton and PCSO's Evans and Dean

2. **Public Representation:** None

Prior to introducing Sergeant Lawton, Cllr Gregory welcomed the Community Council's newest Member Mrs Joan Bailey, attending her first meeting representing the Rhiwderin Ward.

3. **To welcome Police Sergeant Lawton:** Sergeant Lawton was introduced to the group, she had recently been appointed as the new Sergeant for Newport West and came from a CID background. Council put forward their concerns in the ward which she took details of and promised to look into. She explained how stretched her resources were, but assured Council that despite not seeing Officers in the ward as often, the Police were committed to the area and deal with matters as well as resources allowed. Graig was a low crime area in comparison with other areas in Newport which meant that at times Officers dedicated to the ward had to be re-directed elsewhere temporarily, but overall coverage would be maintained. There were new Officers being recruited and this would help ease the pressure. Cllr Cornelious was asked to detail issues of concern to Sergeant Lawton and she would ensure the matters were investigated and dealt with. PCSO Evans was asked to forward details of the new contact for the Speedwatch Programme to the Clerk so Council could engage, and get a programme set up in the ward. Some suggestions for improving the reports the PCSO's provide to Council were made and taken on board. One change Council suggested was that it not only contain the crimes being logged, but also results too which could be fed back via Council's minutes to advise residents of successes and also report issues to be aware of. Sergeant Lawton and PCSO's Evan and Dean were thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7.40pm. **Action: Cllr Cornelious to email Sergeant Lawton with details of the issues raised during the meeting, PCSO Evans to pass on details of the contact for the Speedwatch Programme.**

4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 25th January 2017 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr John seconded Cllr Harries. Arising from section 6b, Cllr Evans stated that the lights in Graig Hall car park were now fully operational.

5. **Clerk's Report:**

The Clerk's Report previously circulated was briefly discussed and accepted as a true reflection of matter to date. Proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Sayer. **Action: None required.**

9.a Cllr Joan Bailey was properly welcomed and inducted as the new Member of Council representing the Rhiwderin ward, signing the Declaration of Office and associated paperwork.

6. **Projects:**

- a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade – Cllr Gregory reported that there were issues with the Community Centre roof leaking and that Cllr Fry had asked a local contractor to report on what would be needed to make a lasting repair. He also mentioned that funding for the further upgrade of the building needed to be pursued. **Action: Cllr Whitfield to arrange a meeting to organise funding streams as soon as practicable. Cllr Gregory to report back on recommendations for the roof repair.**
- b. Flower planters – Cllr Smart had spoken again with a local contractor willing to take on the work of maintaining both St Basil's Shops roundabout and the planters Council have placed in locations around the village. Cllr Gregory asked that the newly formed Grounds Maintenance working group meet to discuss and bring suggestions back to Council for review. **Action: Working group to meet, choose a team leader and discuss options.**
- c. Picnic benches for open spaces and play areas – No response had been received from the contractor who was to quote for the work of installing the benches. **Action: Cllr Gregory to explore.**

7. Reports:

- a. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious reported that she had written to NCC again regarding all the issues that have not been addressed but had received no answers. Council discussed some again with her in more detail. Cllr Gregory told the group that he, the Clerk and both City Cllrs had met with the Chief Executive of NCC to put forward all Council's concerns. He was very attentive and promised to look into the specific issues highlighted, and he was surprised to find that improvements the Community Council offered to fund had been denied. **Action: Cllr Cornelious to lobby for local issues to be addressed, Cllr Gregory to advise Council once a response from the Chief Executive had been received.**
- b. Graig Community Hall – Cllr Evans told the group that the new finger guards to prevent fingers being caught in door openings at the hall had been fitted and funded by the Hall Committee. **Action: None required.**
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre – Cllr Gregory reported that the water leak in the toilets and on the radiator at the Centre had been repaired. He and Cllr Fry were to look at combining the needs of both centres to set up a regular maintenance service to carry out PAT and other electrical testing and to put service contracts put in place for future testing. A quiz had been held at the centre which raised over £300 towards maintenance costs. **Action: Cllrs Gregory & Fry to progress the contract details.**
- d. Best Kept Villages Group – NTR. **Action: None required.**
- e. Allotments – NTR. **Action: None required.**
- f. Play Areas – Cllr Gregory advised the group that the sites had been walked with the NCC Officer in charge of the refurbishment and a snagging list compiled. The SLA had been signed and the Officer was looking into how the maintenance fund would be handled. Cllr Gregory advised Council that a lamp and post could be removed from the Rhiwderin Play Area, and the cost for removal be shared between Council and the former land owner who wanted to remove one on the land just outside the site. Council decided that as it was not causing a H&S risk, the removal and cost was unnecessary. **Action: Cllr Gregory to advise the Officer that Council did not wish to remove the post and lamp.**
- g. Burial Board – Cllr Caston told the group he was working on calculations for the BB Clerk's salary and it would be discussed at the next BB meeting. **Action: Board Members to progress.**

8. Items for Next Agenda:

- a. Village Greens registration - 8th March meeting

9. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Induction of Cllr J Bailey - Completed earlier in the meeting. **Action: Clerk to file the documents.**
- b. Council Finances - Deferred to later in the meeting.
- c. Improvement works to roundabouts - Cllr Gregory told the group he had contacted the contractors to say disappointed that Community Council had not been given prior information to assist residents and apologies were given. Residents of Court Crescent were very upset that so many trees that buffered them from the traffic noise of Forge Rd, were removed but it was confirmed that once works were completed, more trees will be replanted. Plans for the Bassaleg, J28 and the Pont Ebbw roundabouts were reviewed and discussed. Graig Hall was to host a consultation event run by the contractors to inform local residents of the current plans in early March. **Action: Cllr Harris to liaise with the contractor re the consultation event.**
- d. Establishment of a Special School in Newport for ASD pupils - Noted. **Action: None required.**
- e. Street naming for the former Tredegar Park Golf Club development - Noted, Cllr Smart asked that the email notification be forwarded to her. **Action: Clerk to forward email to Cllr Smart.**
- f. Opportunity to become involved with centenary of the First World War - Noted. **Action: None required.**
- g. Farrier's Gate - Council were advised that the new owners of the house in Farrier's Gate who's previous owner created a parking bay on wasteland at the rear of the property intended to have the land registered to them. **Action: None required at this time.**
- h. Councillor Vacancy - The Clerk informed Council there were 2 candidates interested in being co-opted to the Council. Clerk to invite them both to interview prior to the March Mid-Month meeting. **Action: Clerk to arrange informal interviews with both candidates.**
- i. One Voice Wales research update - Cllr Appleton had investigated the pro's and cons of joining the organisation with 2 neighbouring Community Councils and proposed Council take up the membership. This was seconded by Cllr Harris and agreed by majority. **Action: Clerk to relinquish membership with SLCC and arrange for Council to take up membership with OVW instead.**

10. Correspondence for Information: Not discussed.

11. Accounts for Payment: Accepted. Proposed Cllr John seconded Cllr Caston	
Clerk salary and office allowance for February 2017	£1767.74
February misc. expenses	£31.50
Staples - office supplies	£172.88
TalkTalk Business - monthly Hall broadband charge (for info taken by DD)	£19.88
Total to date:	£1992.00

Receipts

None to date

12. Urgent Business not discussed above:

a. None.

13. Planning:

- a. App No:17/0105 Type: Full Site: 3 Bluebell Way, Rogerstone, Newport NP10 9JB. Proposal: GARAGE CONVERSION TO HABITABLE ROOM AND MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING PORCH **Comment: Council objects on the grounds that there would be insufficient parking remaining.**
- b. App No: 17/0117 Type: Full Site: 58 Pentrepoeth Road, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8LL Proposal: ERECTION OF SINGLE STORY FRONT EXTENSION AND ASSOCIATED WORKS **Comment: No objections.**
- c. App No: 17/0123 Type: Full Site: 42 Parkwood Drive, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8JT Proposal: RAISING THE ROOF AND CONSTRUCTION OF REAR DORMER **Comment: Council expressed concerns regarding the aesthetics of the completed development.**

9.b Council Finances - Deferred from earlier in the meeting. Council discussed the current finances and were asked to look at the approved projects and wish list to decide how best to utilise spare funds moving forward. Items from both categories were moved around and decisions made on which projects should be concentrated on with the funds available for 2017/18.

14. Dates of next meetings:

Mid Month Meeting - Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 6.30pm

Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 29th March 2017 at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed 9.40pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 29th March 2017

Posted to notice boards 07.04.17

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