



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Full Council held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 29th March 2017.

1. **Apologies for absence:** J Bailey, D Williams.

**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, K Thomas, M Cornelious.

2. **Public Representation:** None

8.a Induction of Cllr K Thomas - discussed out of agenda order. Cllr Gregory welcomed Cllr Thomas to his first meeting as the newest representative for the Bassaleg Ward and thanked him for agreeing to serve on the Council. Cllr Thomas thanked the Council for inviting him as a co-opted member and told the group he looked forward to his term of office. Cllr Thomas read aloud and signed the Declaration of Office document and associated relevant paperwork.

3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 22nd February 2017 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr John. Arising from Item 3, Cllr Cornelious confirmed she had written to Sgt Lawton but to date had no response, the Clerk confirmed she had not been contacted by Sgt Lawton either. Regarding Item 6a, Cllr Whitfield agreed she would organise a fundraising meeting, and Cllr Gregory had yet to progress the issues with Rhiwderin CC roof. Cllr Gregory advised the group that Cllr Appleton had replanted some planters around the villages which looked very nice. He was asked to chase up the contractor who was asked to erect the picnic benches. Regarding Item 7a, Cllr Cornelious confirmed she was still lobbying for local issues to be addressed and Cllr Gregory confirmed that his email to the Chief Executive of NCC had been read, but there had been no response to date. Regarding Item 7c, Cllrs Gregory and Fry had not yet arranged the contract for the electrical needs of both CCs. **Action: Cllr Whitfield to arrange the fundraising meeting, Cllr Gregory to chase up the picnic benches, a response from the Chief Executive of NCC, Rhiwderin CC's roof and work with Cllr Fry to draw up the electrical needs of both CCs. Cllr Cornelious to continue lobbying NCC to attend to outstanding issues and push for a response from Sgt Lawton.**

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 Caston, seconded Cllr Harries. Cllr Gregory told the group that Council matters were keeping the Clerk extremely busy. Cllr Fry asked that thanks to both the Chairman and the Clerk be minuted in recognition of their hard work. Cllr Cox-Wall asked also that thanks to Cllr Fry to be minuted for his hard work and dedication. The proposed dedicated right turn into Laurel Drive and footpaths were discussed briefly. Cllr Cornelious was asked if there was any progress on the bus stop timetables. These had been reported again but it was noted that the problem is city-wide. Cllr Caston had done some research and discovered there was only one NCC part time employee working on this who had not been able to resolve the issue. It was agreed that a temporary solution would be to post paper timetables at the bus stops and asked Cllr Cornelious to progress the matter. Cllr Sayer mentioned that the green at the top of Laurel Road was still being damaged extensively by vehicles being parked on it and tree roots were visible. Cllr Cornelious offered to meet with Cllr Sayer on site to look at the issue and follow it up with NCC. **Action: Cllr Cornelious to continue to lobby for the bus timetables issue to be resolved and meet with Cllr Sayer to discuss the issues at Laurel Road then lobby for resolution.**

5. **Projects:**

a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade – NTR **Action: None required.**

6. **Reports:**

**Sub Committees**

a. Newport City Councillors - Cllr Cornelious told the group that Cllr Gregory was doing a very impressive job as DPS for Rhiwderin CC. She had written to NCC regarding the removal of the mature trees in the Court Crescent vicinity recently which was to make way for improvements to Bassaleg Roundabout. She had asked for mitigation but this had been refused. Cllrs Gregory and Caston had heard that trees

would be replanted when works are complete and that some kind of soundproofing would be supplied at a later date.

Cllr Harris joined the meeting at 7.43pm.

Cllr Cornelious also mentioned that she was surprised to read how many families in the ward were living in poor housing. Cllr Cox-Wall confirmed that surveys show there is more depravation in Bassaleg than in The Gaer and Duffryn. The issue with the proposed Waste Transfer Station had not been resolved. Cllr Cox-Wall asked if Cllr Cornelious was aware that the owners of the land at Station Approach which is proposed for development had taken on new consultants, as she had not heard from City Cllrs. Cllr Cornelious said she had not been made aware of this by NCC. The Clerk confirmed Council had been informed. Cllr Harries asked if Cllr Cornelious was aware of any planning applications for fracking in the ward, the response was no, she was not. **Action: Cllr Cornelious to monitor developments with both the waste transfer station and housing development planning applications and lobby NCC for the refusal of both.**

- b. Graig Community Centre - NTR. Cllr Gregory mentioned the amount of signage for the rural markets around the village, and everyone agreed that as it was not uniform in format and was advertising markets elsewhere than in the ward it encouraged others to fly poster. The Clerk was asked to write to the market organiser and ask for it to be more uniform, not to be advertised so far in advance of the event and that posters for other areas be erected in their own vicinities and not the Graig Ward.

**Action: Clerk to write to market organiser.**

- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre - NTR Action: **None required.**

- d. Allotments - NTR **None required.**

- e. Burial Board - A meeting had been held recently and a solicitor is looking at the land title for the cemetery site. The solicitor had asked for signatures in a letter of permission from both CC Chairs to proceed with instructions. Cllr Caston proposed this be signed, this was seconded by Cllr Harries and agreed unanimously. Cllr Gregory signed the letter on behalf of Council. Cllr Caston is investigating the BB Clerk salary and will make recommendations to the Board. RCC Board Members keep insisting on seeing the employment contract for the BB Clerk despite copies having been sent to their Chairman, Vice-Chairman, the Chair of the BB and RCC's Council Clerk. The BB Clerk's salary increase was briefly discussed. **Action: BB Members to keep Council updated on progress of both the salary issue and the cemetery registration.**

#### **Working Groups**

- f. Play Areas - Council approved additional weekly cleansing of the play areas and green spaces now the light evenings will increase their use. Clerk to engage Council's usual contractor and check on costings as requirements had changed from 2016. **Action: Clerk to re-engage Council's regular contractor and return to Council with his new costings following amendments to his schedule.**

- g. Best Kept Villages - NTR.

- h. Grounds Maintenance - Cllr Appleton was thanked for her hard work on re-planting the planters, and it was agreed that the 2 planters moved to the entrance of the recreational area off Church Crescent should stay in place for the time being. Locations for other planters to be introduced was discussed. Cllr Smart offered to contact the contractor who had been engaged to raise the planters and make them ready for external decoration as this had not yet been completed. Cllr Gregory asked that the group formed to oversee such matters to meet to discuss. The group were asked to decide on a name and choose a team leader. **Action: Group to meet, choose a leader, decide on a name for the group and advise the Clerk. Cllr Smart to speak with the contractor to progress refurbishing the planters. Group to decide on locations of further planters in the villages and how they would be cared for.**

- i. Technology - The group to meet once another quote for creating a new website had been obtained. **Action: Group to choose a team leader, obtain another quote then meet to discuss recommendations to Council.**

- j. Rhiwderin CC Fundraising - NTR. **Action: Cllr Whitfield to arrange a meeting to progress.**

#### **7. Items for Next Agenda:**

- a. Approval of accounts prior to submission to Internal Auditor - 12th April 2017 Meeting

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

- a. Induction of Cllr K Thomas - Completed earlier in the meeting. **Action: Clerk to file the documents.**
- b. Update of public meeting held on 22nd March 2017 - The details of the meeting were discussed, it was agreed it was worthwhile holding the meeting, and the turnout was good considering the short notice given and the amount of publicity that could be carried out in the timeframe. Residents concerns were taken on board and further representation to the Planning Department had already been given. Residents were encouraged to also write to the department themselves detailing their objections and

concerns. "20 is plenty" signage for Pentrepoeth Road was again discussed. Cllr Gregory was to arrange a meeting with the head of the Highways Department to highlight the issues in Pentrepoeth Road, The Griffin and Caerphilly Road.

- c. Update on litter bins in Afon Village - The litter bins the Community Council agreed to fund for the area should be in place by the end of April. A request was made by a resident for Council to consider funding litter signage. Council did not come to a decision on this but as the resident also discussed dog fouling in his correspondence to the Clerk, she was asked to advise him of the work of the dog wardens and how they could assist with clamping down on offenders. **Action: Clerk to advise the resident about the dog wardens.**
- d. Request for financial assistance from Lower Machen Church - The request was received and discussed. Council agreed the sum of £500 should be donated towards this worthy cause. Proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Haigh and agreed unanimously. **Action: Clerk to present a cheque for payment at the next FCM.**
- e. Graig Hall car park rear wall - Cllr Fry put forward a recommendation to refurbish the small retaining wall at the rear of Graig Hall car park. **Action: Cllr Fry to obtain a quote to discuss at the next meeting.**
- f. Liaison meeting update - Cllr Gregory told the group that again the meeting was very poorly attended. He had asked for his concerns to be minuted and if there was any way of encouraging other Council to participate. The response was that as this was a voluntary meeting, Council's were are liberty to attend or not. Cllr Whitfield felt the Community Council's voices are not heard and that the meetings have little merit. **Action: None required.**
- g. Invitation to One Voice Wales Newport Area Committee meeting - Noted but not taken up. **Action: None required.**

**9. Correspondence for Information:** Not discussed.

**10. Accounts for Payment:** Accepted. Proposed Cllr John seconded Cllr Harries

Clerk salary and office allowance for March 2017	£1767.74
March misc. expenses	£56.52
TalkTalk Business - Graig Hall broadband (taken by DD)	£20.34
TSO Host - Council monthly webmail charge for Feb & Mar (taken by DD)	£10.00
One Voice Wales Annual Membership	£384.00
CPRW - annual subscription	£20.00
T Appleton - reimbursement of costs paid personally	£60.00
<b>Total to date:</b>	<b>£2318.60</b>

**Receipts**

Graig Community Hall - donation	£1000.00
Allotment rent	£558.32
HMRC - Repayment of VAT 2015/16	£4467.20
Christmas event	£284.90
<b>Total to date:</b>	<b>£6310.42</b>

**11. Urgent Business not discussed above:**

- a. None.

**12. Planning:**

- a. App No:17/0225 Type: Tree Preservation Order Site: 105 Laurel Road, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8XS. Proposal: FELLING OF ASH TREE PROTECTED BY TPO 18/MON Comment: **Council is concerned that proper TPO procedures have been followed, and questions whether the Tree Preservation Officer has visited the site, as her response on consultation does not indicate if the tree in question has been inspected by her. If the recommendation of the trees surgeon is being relied upon alone, this may not be an unbiased point of view as he would have a commercial interest in suggesting it's removal.**
- b. App No: 17/0317 Type: Full (Major) Site: Land to the rear and North of 1-16 Ruperra Close, Bassaleg, Newport. Proposal: ERECTION OF 11NO. DWELLINGS, NEW ROAD, DRAINAGE, MAIN SERVICES AND ASSOCIATED WORKS (RESUBMISSION FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL OF 15/0204) **Comment: Having reviewed the new plans, Council sees little change in this latest submission besides the reduction in the number of houses proposed, and therefore still most strongly objects to this proposal. They re-iterate all their former comments and point out that in relation to the latest documents submitted by the applicant, of most concern is the following:**

- **The access to the site is still very narrow via Station Approach**

- The need for this type of housing has not been established in Bassaleg, especially considering the opening of a new development at the very nearby former Alcan site (on a brownfield site), and the soon to be built housing estate at the Former Tredegar Golf Club, which is also very nearby.
- The flood risk in the original submission has not been mitigated.
- The blanket TPO in place is meant to protect the woodland in its entirety, and not just the ancient woodland alongside. This is not referenced in the new documentation, and Council are concerned that maybe the TPO for the site has been removed or ceased without proper consultation with the residents. Could you please confirm if this is the case?
- The land itself has its own SINC values and is an important wildlife corridor as confirmed by the Gwent Wildlife Trust.
- The 2012 tree survey used in the currently submitted plans shows many “retained” trees which were actually felled in a very controversial act on 25th October 2016 when 20 plus trees protected by the TPO were felled under the guise of “path clearance and maintenance”.

### 13. Dates of next meetings:

Mid Month Meeting - Wednesday 12th April 2017 at 7pm  
 Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 7pm

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

Signed..... (Chair) – 26th April 2017

Posted to notice boards 05.05.17

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