



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 26th April 2017.

1. Apologies for absence: P John, D Williams.

Present: Cllrs R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, M Smart, K Sayer, K Harries, P Gregory, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, V Cox-Wall, P Appleton, J Bailey, K Thomas. Also present to observe the meeting N Tarr.

2. Public Representation: None

3. Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held 29th March 2017 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Evans. Arising from Item 3, Cllr Gregory had been promised by the contractor that the picnic benches would be all assembled and ready for installation by the following week, the planters awaiting decoration would be emptied and made ready to decorate and the weeds in the grounds of Rhiwderin Community Centre would be attended to. Regarding Item 4, Cllr Sayer confirmed he had not been contacted by Cllr Cornelious who offered to accompany him on a visit for him to show her the issue of the large fir trees and the exposed roots of trees in the vicinity of the green at the top of Laurel Road. Regarding Item 6b, The Clerk had emailed the organiser of the rural market about the signage in the village and had received an email in which the organiser replied that she felt unsupported by Council.

Cllr Harris joined the meeting at 7.15pm.

Action: Clerk to respond to the Rural Market organiser assuring her of Council's support and requesting a meeting with Cllr Gregory to discuss. Cllr Bailey agreed to join the Horticultural working group.

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 Haigh, seconded Cllr Sayer. Cllr Sayer told the group that progress was being made with sourcing appropriate rocks for the roundabout at St Basil's shops to replace the wooden bollards, and that he should be able to return to Council soon with costs. Cllr Gregory reported that at a recent meeting of the Rhiwderin CC Management Committee, it was decided that the rocks on the green at the rear of Rhiwderin CC should be removed for H&S reasons as children using the play area were climbing on them and injury was of concern. **Action: Cllr Sayer to progress sourcing the rocks for the roundabout, Council to consider if the rocks at the rear of Rhiwderin CC could be used elsewhere, such as to prevent parking on verges at Laurel Road.**

Cllr Cox-Wall joined the meeting at 7.35pm.

5. Projects:

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

6. Reports:

Sub Committees

- a. Police - The report for the Police for March was received later than usual, no officers were able to attend. The report contained the following information: During March there had been 94 calls to the Police, 23 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Violence Without Injury - 8, All Other Theft - 1, Burglary Dwelling - 1, Public Order - 4, Criminal Damage - 2, Violence With Injury - 2, Vehicle Crime - 2, Shoplifting - 1, Burglary Non-Dwelling - 2. The next Your Voice survey will take place in November 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 March included: Reports had been received that there were vehicles parking on The Griffin pavement causing an obstruction. Police carried out patrols but no vehicles were observed during the visits. A suspicious vehicle had been reported in the Bassaleg High School area, mobile and static patrols were carried out but with a negative result. Emerging Trends: Reports had been received about children/youths playing chicken in the area of Rivermead Way with oncoming traffic, this is being explored by the team. Ride Along Scheme - Members of the public are invited to join Gwent Police in their day to day duties across the force to gain an insight into Police work and a range of Police activities. This is open to anyone who would like to take part. Details can be accessed from the front page of the Gwent Police website. Cllr

Smart commented that the report contained very little, and Cllr Appleton commented that the report was still not useful information. **Action: None requested.**

- b. Newport City Councillors - Cllrs Cornelious and Williams were not present. Cllr Sayer commented that it was disappointing that the City Cllrs seemed unable to take issues forward and that they could do more to help the Clerk find resolution for the longstanding items on the Clerk's Report that take up a lot of her time chasing up. **Action: None required.**
- c. Graig Community Centre - Cllr Evans told the group a committee meeting had been held recently and that there were no issues to report. Cllr Thomas had joined the Committee. **Action: None required.**
- d. Rhiwderin Community Centre - Cllr Gregory reported that in addition to the boulders in the green being discussed, a contractor had carried out some electrical work. The longstanding issue with the faulty water meter looked to be resolved and the Committee was to receive £2,200 back in overcharges for the period the meter had been faulty. **Action: Cllr Gregory to ensure Welsh Water repays the funds as agreed.**
- e. Allotments - The Bassaleg Allotment Association had their AGM the previous evening, a new Secretary had been found and it was expected she would take up the post at that meeting. **Action: None required immediately, but an inspection to be arranged in the near future.**
- f. Burial Board - The Clerk had forwarded information to Cllr Caston who was looking into the BB Clerk's salary which could be useful. **Action: BB Members to keep Council updated on progress of both the salary issue and the cemetery registration.**

Working Groups

- g. Play Areas - Cllr Gregory reported that the play areas were all running reasonably smoothly. He had been aware that other sites in the NCC area had been provided with enclosed bins and benches with backrests, but these were not made available to the Graig play areas. He had contacted the Officer in charge of the upgrades and told him of Council's disappointment. It was noted the bins in other areas are not only enclosed but larger, and larger bins should negate the need to have extra emptying schedules introduced during the summer months when they are more well used. This is to be explored. **Action: Cllr Gregory to enquire if larger bins were installed, would NCC empty on normal schedules already agreed.**
- h. Best Kept Villages - NTR, but the group and it's purpose was explained to new Members.
- i. Grounds Maintenance - NTR as the group had not yet met, Cllr Appleton was looking at grass verges, and reported that lots of areas are not being looked after by NCC. Cllr Whitfield commented that there were lots of services that residents pay for but do not get, and that something more positive should be done. **Action: Group to meet, choose a leader, decide on a name for the group and advise the Clerk.**
- j. Technology - Cllr Gregory asked the group to meet asap. **Action: Group to choose a team leader, obtain another quote then meet to discuss recommendations to Council.**
- k. Rhiwderin CC Fundraising - The group was due to meet the following Thursday at 6.30pm. Cllr Whitfield reported that there was lots of small funding pots available and asked that if anyone saw any opportunities that could be applied for, to forward details to her as soon as possible. **Action: All Cllrs to actively seek out funding opportunities and forward details to Cllr Whitfield.**

7. Items for Next Agenda:

- a. Footbridge over the A467 - 10th May 2017 Meeting

8. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Approval of accounts prior to submission to Internal Auditor - The full financial accounts made up to year end March 2017 were presented to Council for approval to send to the internal auditor. The accounts were discussed and accepted as a true reflection of Council's receipts and payments for the year - it was proposed by Cllr Harries and seconded by Cllr Fry that the Clerk may forward the details to the internal auditor for scrutiny, this was accepted by all. The Clerk was asked to record the Council's thanks to her. **Action: Clerk to forward all details to the internal auditor and on completion of the internal audit, return the completed accounts and completed annual return to Council for certification and submission to the external auditor within the deadlines given.**
- b. Graig Hall car park rear wall - Cllr Fry gave details of a more cost effective solution for the wall cutting the original scheme's cost from approximately £3,600 to £2,500. This was discussed, but Cllr Fry also suggested Cllrs to come up with an appropriate alternative scheme of their own and return to the next meeting with ideas for discussion. **Action: Cllrs to investigate other solutions and bring suggestions to the 10th May meeting.**
- c. Clerk's holiday request - The Clerk submitted a holiday request form to take 5 days holiday from Monday 22nd May to Friday 26th May. This was accepted and a holiday request form signed by the

Chairman. The Clerk informed Council that as the internal audit would be taking place during this time, she was happy to deal with any urgent queries from the auditor herself. **Action: Chairman to deal with any other issues that needed urgent attention whilst the Clerk was on leave.**

- d. Section 106 funding - Cllr Smart asked that this issue be discussed as she had concerns that money being raised from developments in the ward looked to be being used for areas outside the ward. Section 106 money from the Former Tredegar Golf Club development earmarked for leisure appeared to be earmarked for Tredegar Park improvements and money earmarked for Education was not clearly defined. As Bassaleg School was in dire need of upgrading, Council should push for this money to be spent on repairs and upgrades to the school. **Action: Cllr Gregory to contact the officer in charge of play areas to determine how the leisure money is spent and ask City Cllr Williams if he was aware of this money for education, and was he lobbying for it to be spent at Bassaleg school?**
- e. St Cecilia apple tree - Cllr Fry suggested a solution for attempting to straighten the trunk of the tree which had been damaged some years ago and was growing in a peculiar manner. This would be to construct a splint which could be adjusted as and when necessary to gently force the trunk to a more upright position over time. Cllr Whitfield reminded Council that previously, advice from a tree surgeon was that the tree was in good health and pruning to encourage growth in a more upright position was the best solution. Cllr Haigh agreed and suggested leaving the tree, as it was healthy without intervention. Cllr Smart suggested a straightforward prop would be a cheaper and simpler solution as the adjustable splint would be quite costly. This was put to a vote, and by majority, Cllr Fry's suggestion of the adjustable splint was accepted. **Action: Cllr Fry to progress his adjustable splint solution.**
- f. Dog fouling - Following a previous discussion on appropriate signage, Cllr Gregory had spoken with a sign making company who suggested that the sign previously chosen by Council was not effective as the message was confusing. Other signage was looked at. **Action: Cllr Gregory to progress.**
- g. AM involvement on issues at Caerphilly Rd and Pentrepoeth Rd - Cllr Cox-Wall informed Council that she had invited AM Mr Ken Skates, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure to meet with her at Bassaleg and he was shown the issues on Caerphilly Road and Pentrepoeth Road. He was shocked at the volume of traffic travelling through the village, also the number of HGV's and the speed of the traffic. He had promised to help as much as he is able. Cllr Cox-Wall was thanked for bringing this to the AM's attention. **Action: None at this time.**
- h. Anti-social behaviour in Bassaleg Play Area - Cllr Fry received an email reporting an incident at Graig play area where a local resident accompanying young children had been verbally abused and intimidated by a group of schoolchildren wearing Bassaleg High School uniform. This was passed on to the Clerk who had informed the Police. Council were distressed by this news and it was agreed that as the youths were in school uniform, that the school should also be informed. Cllr Harris reported that similar behaviour was being experienced at Fort View play area. **Action: Clerk to inform the school, Cllrs to monitor the situation and advise of any more incidents.**
- i. Becoming a Local Council Charter Branch - The Clerk informed Council they had been invited to join the Local Council Charter Branch. Cllr Cox-Wall advised that the SOWB Group had joined and that it was not of much benefit to date, but that it would be worth joining. As membership was free, Council agreed to join. **Action: Clerk to arrange.**
- j. Registration of Village Greens - Cllr Cox-Wall offered to assist Council in registering greens in the ward despite the fact that she would be stepping down as a Community Cllr in the forthcoming elections. Cllr Cox-Wall was thanked for agreeing to do so as her experience would be much appreciated. **Action: Clerk to advise Cllr Cox-Wall of all the areas that could be registered and find to find out as much information about each as possible to aid the registration process.**

9. Correspondence for Information: Not discussed.

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

Clerk salary and office allowance for April 2017	£1777.10
April misc. expenses	£95.10
TalkTalk Business - Graig Hall broadband (taken by DD)	£20.34
TSO Host - Council monthly webmail charge (taken by DD)	£5.00
Newport City Homes - Fort View grass cutting March 2017	£212.04
Aegon - underpayment of Clerk's pension contributions Apr 16 - Mar 17	£14.88
St Michael's Church - donation to assist with church wall repair	£500.00
Total to date:	£2624.46

Receipts

NCC - 1st Precept payment	£18544.33
NCC - annual Concurrent payment	£14037.00

SSE - FIT payment for Graig Hall solar panels (Dec-Mar)

£349.02

Total to date:

£32940.35

11. Urgent Business not discussed above:

- a. Cllr Smart had been asked to mention the parking issues in Vicarage Close. - Council agreed that parking issues are evident all over the ward, and that the Police have no resources to tackle the issue. A solution was not evident, but the situation would be monitored. **Action: Council to monitor and explore solutions.**
- b. Arrangements for the forthcoming Mr Ron Jones birthday celebration were discussed. **Action: Those organising the event to work together to progress.**
Cllrs J Harris, K Sayer D Evans & M Smart left the meeting at 9.50pm.

Cllr Gregory told the group that this would be the last meeting attended by Cllr Cox-Wall as she would be standing down as a Community Cllr in the forthcoming elections. Cllr Cox-Wall was thanked for her services to Council over the past 5 years, and all agreed she would be sadly missed. Best wishes were extended to both Cllr Cox-Wall and Cllr J Harris who were both standing in the forthcoming City Council elections.

12. Planning:

- a. 17/0294 - INSTALLATION OF 3NO. INTERNALLY ILLUMINATED FACIA SIGNS, 4NO. INTERNALLY ILLUMINATED MOTIF BOXES, 1NO. INTERNALLY ILLUMINATED TOTEM SIGN, 3NO. INTERNALLY ILLUMINATED CAR WASH SIGNS, 3NO. INTERNALLY ILLUMINATED and 5NO. NON ILLUMINATED PETROL FILLING STATION CANOPY SIGNS. Site: Morrison's, Azalea Road, Rogerstone, Newport NP10 9SA Application Type: Advert Consent. **Comment: No objections provided there will be no light pollution to the surrounding residents in the area or approaching traffic.**
- b. 17/0322 - SUBSTITUTION OF HOUSE TYPE TO INCLUDE REAR CONSERVATORY. Site: Plot 117, Phase H2, Jubilee Park Development Site, Tregwilym Road, Rogerstone, Newport. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections.**

13. Dates of next meetings:

AGM & Mid Month Meeting - Wednesday 10th May 2017 at 7pm
Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 31st May 2017 at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 10pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 31st May 2017

Posted to notice boards 02.06.17

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



www.facebook.com/GraigCommunityCouncil



@GraigCommCoun