



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 31st May 2017.

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

Present: Cllrs R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, K Sayer, K Harries, P Gregory, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, P Appleton, J Bailey, K Thomas, N Tarr, M Cornelious. Also present, a resident of Caerphilly Road.

2. Public Representation: The Caerphilly Road resident was in attendance to ask Council if anything more could be done to alleviate the traffic on Caerphilly Road. The resident had attended a previous meeting on this subject, but explained the situation had been exacerbated by the work currently being carried out to Bassaleg Roundabout. Council explained to her the steps that had been taken since she last attended a meeting and had raised her concerns when the Chairman met with the head of the Streetscene Department. Council agreed with her comments but explained they have no power to force the City Council to effect any improvements, Council is only able to lobby for changes to be made which they do on a regular basis. The resident was assured of Council's continued support. Council discussed options for taking matters further if no satisfaction could be gained from the City Council. **Action: To wait a while longer for a response to questions put to NCC's Chief Executive but if no reply is forthcoming, to seriously consider Council's options for taking the matter to a higher authority.**

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held 26th April 2017 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Harries. Arising from Item 3, Cllrs Gregory & Appleton had met with the Rural Market organiser and agreed new signage rules with her, reassuring her of Council's support and assistance to promote her work. Regarding Item 4, Cllr Sayer informed Council that the rocks for the roundabout would cost around £10-15 each and could be delivered to the site for around £20, but this would be by tipper truck which would empty the load in one spot only. Arrangements would need to be made for a hi-ab to move the rocks into the desired locations. It was agreed that some of the smaller rocks from the rear of Rhiwderin Community Centre could also be used which would reduce costs but separate arrangements for them to be transported to Bassaleg would have to be made. Cllr Sayer agreed to work with a local contractor to arrange this. Regarding Item 6e, Cllr Gregory had written to the officer in charge of the play area installations over a month previously but had yet to receive a reply, he had written again just prior to this meeting.

Action: Cllr Sayer to progress St Basil's Shops Roundabout bollards issue, Cllr Gregory to press for a response regarding the play areas.

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 Harries, seconded Cllr Haigh. Regarding the former Garthfield Cottage site, Cllr Cornelious reported that this was still being looked at by Planning Enforcement. Cllr Gregory stated that he had spoken with the owner of the site who mentioned there are some issues with access over a ransom strip of land. Cllr Cornelious was asked if there was any news on the bus stop timetables issue, and she confirmed she had been working on this but it seems the issue is widespread. It was agreed that regardless of whether electronic displays were correct or not on those stops that had them, up to date paper timetables should be displayed at every stop and this was not the case. Cllr Tarr offered to complete a survey of the stops and supply a detailed list of issues for Cllr Cornelious to work with. It was agreed that the Clerk could remove 2 issues from the report which seemed resolved for the time being. **Action: Cllr Cornelious to monitor the issues at the former Garthfield Cottage site and bring any updates to Council's attention. Also to continue working to resolve the bus timetables issues. Cllr Tarr to survey the bus stops and provide the information to Cllr Cornelious to assist in resolving the issue.**

5. Projects:

- a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade – Cllrs Gregory and Whitfield had met with Monmouthshire Building Services who has provided links to funding opportunities, they were very helpful and positive. A surveyor has been approached and is willing to work with the Council when it is ready to proceed. **Action: The Fundraising Working Group and Centre Management Committee to progress.**

6. Reports:

Sub Committees

- a. Police - The report for the Police for April was received later than usual, no officers were able to attend. The report contained the following information: During April there had been 81 calls to the Police, 14 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Violence Without Injury - 1, All Other Theft - 1, Burglary Dwelling - 2, Public Order - 2, Criminal Damage - 2, Violence With Injury - 3, Vehicle Crime - 1, Shoplifting - 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 April included: Reports received about anti-social behaviour in the area of McDonald's, local teams had carried out patrols to try to establish the identities of the youths involved. Information was received about a bonfire under the bridge in the area of Jasmine Close, Patrols were carried out by the local team. Reports of youths causing problems riding their bicycles in the area of Petunia Walk, and children have been reported for throwing stones against a fence in Afon Mead. this was passed on to local wardens for their attention.. 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. Other Information: Police schools liaison officers have attended Bassaleg High School and spoken to the lower school assembly about their recent behaviour in Afon Village, and this has been reinforced by youth leaders of the Rivermead Centre. Cold calling, unfortunately these days not everyone who calls to your door is who they seem to be - residents should always be on their guard when answering the door, Police advice is **IF IN DOUBT KEEP THEM OUT, ALWAYS BE PREPARED, BE IN CONTROL, and CALL A NEIGHBOUR OR THE POLICE IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THE PERSON AT YOUR DOOR.** Council commented that they were surprised at the amount of issues in Afon Village of late. **Action: None requested.**
- b. Newport City Councillors - Cllr Cornelious reported that work on the roundabout was progressing, Council discussed the traffic issues being experienced. It was felt that although some delays were to be expected, these were excessive. Cllr Fry asked if any progress was being made on the Waste Transfer Station Proposed development, Cllr Cornelious had not heard any updates but the application was yet to go to Planning Committee at which she has asked to make representation. She agreed to make further enquiries. Cllr Sayer thanked Cllr Cornelious as the street sign for Church Crescent had finally been installed. **Action: Cllr Cornelious to provide the Clerk with contact details for Costains to enable her to report the issue of major traffic delays with the work on Bassaleg Roundabout. Once received, Clerk to write on behalf of Council. Cllr Cornelious to ask for an update on the Waste Transfer Station application.**
- c. Graig Community Centre - Cllr Evans told the group there was nothing to report, but the committee would be meeting soon. **Action: None required.**
- d. Rhiwderin Community Centre - Cllr Gregory reported that the play-scheme always held in school holidays was to be held in the forthcoming week, a quiz was held the previous week with proceeds going to the Community Centre. **Action: None requested.**
- e. Allotments - The allotment inspection date was set for Sunday 25th June at 10.30am. Cllr Harris advised the group he had been to a meeting which hoped to promote being Bee Friendly which is a Welsh Government initiative and suggested Graig could become a bee friendly area. He was asked to work with the Horticultural Working Group to look at the possibility of including bee friendly plants in the villages. **Action: Cllr Harris and HWG to discuss. Clerk to advise Members of the Allotment Committee of the allotment inspection arrangements.**
- f. Burial Board - Cllr Evans has taken the Chairmanship of the Burial Board for the next year, Cllr Gregory asked that the Burial Board Clerk's pay and cemetery registration be addressed as soon as possible. **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 there were issues with some signage at the play areas which he would attend to. Also that he was still trying to find out when the outstanding funding from NCC would be sent to Council. **Action: Cllr Gregory to repair the signs and enquire about the funding and the larger litter bins.**
- h. Best Kept Villages - The group asked if Council would again be willing to pay for the skip for the annual churchyard clear-up. Council approved the cost of the skip which was comparable to last year. **Action: Clerk to arrange with the Group and order.**
- i. Horticultural Group - The group had not yet met, but Cllr Appleton suggested the soil in the planters needed improving prior to planting up. Cllr Gregory reported that 1 picnic bench had been erected and

quotes were given to erect, create bases and site the benches. This was thought to be expensive, so Cllr Fry offered to ask another contractor to provide a quote. Cllr Whitfield asked that the footpath through the Bassaleg green also be looked at as it appeared to be breaking up in places and weeds and grass were growing through the edges quickly. Cllr Thomas offered to look at this issue. **Action: HWG to look at the soil in the planters, Cllr Fry to obtain another quote for erecting the picnic benches and Cllr Thomas to look at any repairs needed for the footpath.**

- j. Technology - Cllr Gregory asked the group to meet. Cllr John, the Chair of the group was unable to attend so this would be looked at asap. **Action: Group to obtain another quote then meet to discuss recommendations to Council.**
- k. Rhiwderin CC Fundraising - Discussed in 5a above. **Action: See 5a above.**

7. Items for Next Agenda:

It was noted that the next meeting had to be brought forward to approve the accounts and sign Council's annual return. Cllr Gregory would be away for this meeting, Cllr Fry agreed to chair.

- a. Approval of accounts - 7th June 2017 meeting.

8. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Graig Hall car park rear wall (update) - Cllr Fry had looked at alternative solutions, the cheapest method would be to use paving slabs backfilled with concrete. This would cost approximately £1350 in comparison with other systems which were estimated at £6200. £3340 and £2300. This solution was accepted by Council. Proposed Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Caston and agreed by majority. **Action: Cllr Fry to proceed with the arrangements.**
- b. St Cecilia apple tree (update) - Cllr Fry informed Council the temporary brace had been successfully installed. Cllr Whitfield added that there had been negative comments by residents and she agreed that the brace did appear to be an eyesore. Cllr Fry assured Council this was only a temporary measure, and once the tree's growing position was corrected, the brace would be removed. It was thought this could take maybe a year. **Action: Cllr Fry to monitor and adjust the brace whenever necessary.**
- c. Dog fouling (update) - Cllr Gregory told the group he was in the process of getting the agreed signage produced. **Action - Cllr Gregory to progress.**
- d. NCC Standards Committee Member request - The Clerk informed Council that NCC's Standards Committee was looking for a Community Council representative to sit on the board. Cllr Harris volunteered to stand. **Action: Clerk to advise NCC and forward Cllr Harris's details.**
- e. St Basil's Shops roundabout - It was agreed that the roundabout was looking untidy and needed attention. Cllr Sayer offered to trim around the raised planters and carry out some weeding. The item was passed to the HWG to look at. **Action HWG to look at the maintenance needs and report back to Council if involvement was needed.**

9. Correspondence for Information: Not discussed.

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

Clerk salary and office allowance for May 2017	£1777.10
May misc. expenses	£54.05
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 April 2017	£212.04
PWLB - Loan repayment	£5653.20
Griffiths Signs - 20 is Plenty signs	£79.20
Zurich Municipal Insurance - Annual insurance premium	£3379.02
Mr S Barber - Repayment of personally paid allotment insurance premium	£110.00
Total to date:	£11289.95

Receipts: None

11. Urgent Business not discussed above:

- a. A suitable memorial to Cllr Mountain was discussed briefly. Cllrs were asked to think about what would be appropriate and bring solutions back to the 28th June meeting. **Action: Cllrs to bring suggestions to the 28th June meeting**

12. Planning:

- a. 17/0451 - PROPOSED ALTERATION OF APPROVED DWELLING TO INCLUDE REAR CONSERVATORY EXTENSION. Site: Plot 231 Jubilee Park, Rogerstone, Newport. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections**

- b. 17/0467 - FELLING OF EUCALYPTUS AND SPRUCE AND REMOVAL OF LIMB OF HORSE CHESTNUT PROTECTED BY LOWER MACHEN CONSERVATION AREA. Site: Parkfield House, Church Road, Lower Machen, Newport. NP10 8GU. Application Type: Trees in Conservation Areas.
Comment: No objections.
- c. CONEX/17/0494 - RESERVED MATTERS OF LANDSCAPING BEING SOUGHT FOR THE LINEAR PARK OF OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION 12/0886 FOR COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT OF FORMER ALUMINIUM FACTORY COMPLEX TO CREATE A NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD (AMENDMENT FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF APPLICATION 14/0600) Site: Jubilee Park Development Site, Tregwilym Road, Rogerstone, Newport. Application Type: Reserved Matters
Comment: None.
- e. Clarke Telecom - PROPOSED BASE STATION INSTALLATION & STREETWORKS OUTSIDE RHIWDERIN INN CAERPHILLY RD RHIWDERIN NP10 8RX **Comment: Council objected to this proposal. It appeared that the mast would be set on the main road through the village and would be extremely visible. According to the grid references, the mast and associated cabinets would be located on the pavement of a busy pedestrian route, diminishing the space for pedestrians to safely walk along the very busy trunk road. The mast is proposed to be at least double the height of the surrounding buildings and structures, and that would have a detrimental effect on the semi-rural setting of the villages. It would be very visible to the surrounding residential homes, thereby, also having a detrimental effect on properties and residents.**

13. Dates of next meetings:

Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 7th June 2017 at 7pm
Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 28th June 2017 at 7pm

Cllr Gregory thanked the resident of Caerphilly Road for her attendance and contribution to the meeting.

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

Signed..... (Chair) – 28th June 2017

Posted to notice boards 07.07.17

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



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