



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 28th June 2017.

1. **Apologies for absence:** A Whitfield, P John, J Harris, D Williams.
Present: Cllrs R Caston, D Evans, M Smart, K Sayer, K Harries, P Gregory, W Haigh, L Fry, P Appleton, J Bailey, K Thomas, N Tarr, M Cornelious. Chaired by P Gregory.
2. **To receive representation from Costain's Hannah Lewis and Brian Greaves:** Cllr Gregory introduced the representatives who gave an update on the progress of the Bassaleg roundabout improvements. They discussed with Council the recent problems with long delays affecting motorists travelling through the works and explained that these were unfortunately unavoidable due to the lane amendments needed to allow safe working practices. Council were assured that the junction on the roundabout causing most of the issues was to be re-aligned by the coming weekend which should see a vast reduction in waiting times, and traffic should run closer to normal. Council asked how information was being distributed to residents as regular updates would allow people to plan journeys. Council confirmed that some Cllrs and the Clerk had not been receiving updates. Costain agreed to add the names to the distribution list and Council agreed to advertise the updates via its social media to assist. Cllr Appleton commented that the traffic queues had caused a lot of upheaval for residents and asked if the company could extend working hours and work on weekends to enable the work to be completed sooner. Council were told that this was not possible due to budget constraints and also that it would be unfair to residents not to have some respite from the noise and disruption of the works during the evenings and weekends. Cllr Caston commented that some lanes appear to be coned off where no work was taking place and asked if the cones could be reduced. It was explained that the traffic management was conducted this way to ensure motorist and worker safety zones and that nothing would be coned off unnecessarily even if it appeared that way. The representatives assured Council that work was progressing as expected and the timescales for each step of the development were being met. Works to Bassaleg Roundabout should be complete by October, then work will be concentrated in the Pont Ebbw roundabout area, all the while J28 Roundabout was being worked on and is progressing well. Council discussed some form of Community Payback for the area to help compensate residents for the upheaval and the representatives agreed to look at any suggestions Council put forward. The dedicated right turn into Laurel Drive was discussed and they confirmed they would be happy to look at the situation with NCC but that an offer to help create the turn would be subject to the amount of work involved with things such as re-routing services which may be below ground in that area. Providing village signage was also discussed. Cllr Gregory thanked the representatives on behalf of Council for their time and efforts and they left the meeting at 7.45pm.
3. **Public Representation:** None
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 31st May 2017 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Tarr seconded Cllr Harries. Arising from Item 2, Cllr Gregory told the group he had written again to the Chief Executive of NCC who responded by passing on the queries to the new Head of Streetscene. He in turn had replied to Cllr Gregory but Council felt the timescale for responses was not acceptable as it had been months since the meeting. Cllr Gregory agreed to contact the new Head of Streetscene to progress. Regarding Item 6e, Cllr Appleton suggested that to have bee friendly planters would put the public at more risk than normal of being stung, this was agreed by Council.
Action: Cllr Gregory to contact the new head of Streetscene.
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 Evans, seconded Cllr Harries. Cllr Sayer told the group he felt Council were being let down by the City Cllrs, who he felt could do more to progress issues with the City Council on the Community Council's behalf. Cllr Tarr had completed the bus stop survey he agreed to undertake and forwarded his report to Cllr Cornelious who agreed to use the report to lobby NCC to bring the wards bus shelters and information up to date. Cllr Tarr was thanked for his efforts.
Action: Cllr Cornelious to progress the bus stop information and maintenance issues with NCC and report back to Council.
6. **Projects:**
 - a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade: NTR

7. Reports:

- a. Police: NTR
- b. Newport City Councillors: Cllr Cornelious agreed to take the bus stop issues forward. She discussed the issue of the steep banking on the former Garthfield House development and expressed concern that the banking appeared to be slipping in wet weather. Council still felt that the banking was an issue despite Cllr Cornelious being told that the area was safe. She agreed to take the issue again to NCC and ask for NCC's own structural engineer to look at it in the interests of public safety due to a public footpath being above the banking. She mentioned there had been issues with the Friendly Fox beer garden which was not as properly enclosed by fencing as it should be. Cllr Sayer asked that both City Cllrs look more closely at the villages and report issues they see themselves rather than relying on issues being reported to them, this was reinforced by Cllr Appleton who felt that there were many issues that were obvious. Council agreed that they would like to see the City Cllrs being more proactive, Cllr Cornelious replied that they do try but often only get the same responses as Council. Cllr Cornelious reported that she was currently involved with lobbying against the results of the re-measuring of bus routes to school as this left many children having to walk to school along totally unacceptable routes because they no longer qualified to ride the school buses. She confirmed there was no update available on progress of the waste transfer station application at Croescarneinon Farm.
Action: Cllr Cornelious to take the bus stop issues forward as previously agreed and to lobby NCC to have the steep banking at the former Garthfield Cottage site properly assessed.

Sub Committees

- c. Graig Community Centre: Cllr Evans reported that some tables had been removed from the Pumphouse and it was ready to be cleaned up. **Action: None necessary.**
- d. Rhiwderin Community Centre: Cllr Gregory asked that a bill for PAT testing and emergency lighting for £378 be paid by Council. This was agreed. **Action: Clerk to write a cheque for authorisation at this meeting and log it Accounts for Payment below.**
- e. Allotments: Cllr Caston reported that the allotment inspection had taken place. A number of issues were raised. Council were asked to approve the erection of a fruit bush cage which was agreed, and also Council agreed to fund the cost of polythene to cover vacant plots to keep them weed free until re-let, the cost was estimated to be approximately £270 exc. VAT. The Allotment Association also offered to maintain the common areas of the site as they had been offered free equipment to do so, but needed a secure storage area to keep mowers etc.. Cllr Evans was asked if he could spare room in the Pumphouse, and he agreed to consider this. **Action: Clerk to inform the Allotment Chairman of the decisions made, Cllr Evans to try to find storage room for equipment.**
- f. Burial Board: It was reported that RCC had not yet signed the permission letter for the BB's appointed solicitors to move forward with the issue of the registry of the cemetery land as they had concerns over costs. The Board had decided to adopt the WG initiative of scrapping burial fees for the burial of children under 16 years of age. The BB Clerk's salary was discussed briefly. Cllr Gregory asked that this be attended to asap. **Action: Cllr Caston to progress the Clerk's salary investigations.**

Working Groups

- g. Play Areas Group: Payment of the surplus money for the play areas from Section 106 funds and the first annual payment of annual maintenance costs were paid to Council amounting to a total of £18K. Some of this money was to be kept to repay to NCC for providing the maintenance, the rest to be spent on issues not addressed when the play areas were built such as renewing the fencing alongside the stream at Rhiwderin play area which Cllr Gregory agreed to look into. It was also confirmed that NCC would be willing to empty larger litter bins in the play areas but there would likely be an additional cost. The picnic benches were also discussed. **Action: Cllr Gregory to follow up the fencing replacement. HWG to advise Cllr Fry where they would recommend the picnic benches be sited.**
- h. Best Kept Villages Group: The group passed on thanks to Council for providing the skip for the churchyard clear-up. Cllr Sayer reported that he has undertaken to spend 2-3 early mornings per week litter picking around the villages as he walks his dog.
- i. Horticultural Group: Cllr Bailey produced a report which set out the groups achievements and goals to date. It was noted that Cllrs Bailey and Appleton had worked hard on the planters and large the planters on St Basil's roundabout for which they were thanked. They reported that the soil in the planters was very poor and needed much improving, and that watering the planters was an issue. With that in mind it would be best not to expand the number of planters being utilised at this time. It was also mentioned that the group will explore NCC's nursery plants for the Autumn. It was suggested that the group have an annual budget rather than having to bring each expense to Council for approval. Cllr Sayer reported that he had issues contacting the local contractor chosen to move the boulders from RCC to St Basil's roundabout, Council were concerned that work needing to be carried out is being

delayed, and that other local contractors should also be supported. Grass maintenance on St Basils' Roundabout was also discussed. **Action: Finance & Administration Group to look at setting an annual budget for the HWG when they meet. Cllr Sayer to progress moving the boulders, Council to expand their service provider's list.**

Cllr Tarr left the meeting briefly at 9.38pm

- j. Technology Group: NTR
 - k. Rhiwderin CC Fundraising Group: NTR
- Cllr Tarr rejoined the meeting at 9.41pm.

8. Items for forthcoming agendas:

- a. Rural Market feedback forms - 12th July meeting
- b. Graig Hall events parking - 12th July meeting

9. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Graig Hall car park rear wall (update): Cllr Fry reported that the work on the wall will be started in 2 weeks time. **Action: Cllr Fry to progress.**
- b. Finance & Admin Group (arrange meeting): A meeting of the sub-committee was set for Wednesday 2nd August at 6pm. **Action: Clerk to remind committee members closer to the date.**
Cllr Sayer left the meeting at 9.47pm
- c. Remembrance Sunday service: Cllr Fry commented that attendance for the service had dwindled in recent years and Cllrs should make every effort to attend. He noted at last years service that the area around the Lytchgate looked unkempt and that this should be attended to prior to the next service. It was commented that Council and Church Ministers should have a closer relationship. Cllr Tarr offered to invite Reverend Stone to a future Council meeting. **Action: Council to ensure the area outside the lytchgate is free from litter and well presented. Cllr Tarr to speak with Reverend Stone regarding meeting with Council.**
- d. Memorial for Cllr Mountain: Deferred to 12th July meeting
- e. Bassaleg Community Woodland Trust: An email from the group asking if Council's previous offer of financial assistance to help fund the cost of a judicial review of the removal of trees from the area behind the J28 restaurant still stood as the review was imminent. Council agreed to honour its initial commitment of contributing up to £900. **Action: Clerk to confirm with the group how much would be needed and present a cheque for authorisation at the appropriate future meeting.**
Cllrs Evans & Harries left the meeting at 9.55pm.
- f. Correspondence regarding Highfield Gardens & the former Tredegar Park Golf Club development: The Clerk told Council she had been dealing with queries from residents regarding the creation of an entrance from a footpath into a residence on Highfield Gardens and a query about the timescales of the former Tredegar Park Golf Club development, forwarding responses to the residents appropriately. **Action: No further action necessary, this was for information only.**
- g. Shared Community Charter: Deferred to 12th July meeting
- h. Maintenance at Fort View play area: Clerk advised Council she had been contacted by a resident of Penylan Close who had issues with overgrowth at the perimeter of Fort View play area growing into and affecting her garden and fencing. Cllr Fry offered to look at the issue and obtain quotes for maintenance from a local contractor. **Action: Cllr Fry to progress.**
- i. The Tree Charter: Deferred to 12th July meeting
- j. Waste Transfer Station: Deferred to 12th July meeting
- k. Active Travel consultation: Deferred to 12th July meeting
- l. Ward maintenance recommendations: Deferred to 12th July meeting
- m. CPRW donation request: discussed very briefly but deferred to 12th July meeting

10. Correspondence for Information:

Not discussed

11. Accounts for Payment:

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| Clerk salary and office allowance for June 2017 | £1777.10 |
| June 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 May 2017 | £212.04 |
| Cllr Appleton - reimbursement of horticultural group costs (B&Q invoice) | £54.58 |
| C Charles Plastics - work to Graig Hall roof, picnic benches & apple tree | £380.00 |
| Taffspeed Cleansing - play area cleansing for May & June | £400.00 |
| Best Kept Villages Group - £30 for paint for planters & £66 for plants | £96.00 |

Gareth Rees Electrical - PAT testing and emergency lighting to RCC £378.00
Total to date: £3377.11

Receipts:

Newport City Council - Section 106 maintenance for play areas £18221.54

12. Urgent Business not discussed above:

- a. Cllr Tarr asked if anyone knew why the tree on St Basil's roundabout had been felled. It was assumed that as it was diseased it was removed by NCC for safety reasons. **Action: None necessary.**

13. Planning:

- a. 17/0498 - PARTIAL DISCHARGE OF CONDITION 17 (SOIL IMPORTATION CONTAMINATION TESTING) OF PLANNING PERMISSION 12/0254 FOR THE VARIATION OF STANDARD CONDITION B (SEEKING EXTENSION OF TIME BY THREE YEARS FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMISSION OF RESERVED MATTERS) AND 16 (FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORKS) RELATING TO PLANNING PERMISSION 09/0096 FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORKS AND ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS AFFECTING PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY 393/120 AND 393/121 (OUTLINE). Site: Land formerly known as Tredegar Park Golf Club, Park View, Bassaleg, Newport. Application Type: Discharge Conditions. **Comment: No objections.**
- b. 17/0560 - INSTALLATION OF 15 METRE HIGH MONOPOLE AND 2NO. CABINETS. Site: Land to the East of Rhiwderin Inn, Caerphilly Road, Bassaleg. Application Type: Telecom Determination. **Comment: The Community Council strongly objects to this proposal. It appears that the mast will be set on the main road through the village and will be extremely visible. The mast and associated cabinets are proposed to be located on the pavement of a busy pedestrian route, diminishing the space for pedestrians to safely walk along this very busy trunk road. The mast is proposed to be at least double the height of the surrounding buildings and structures, and this will have a detrimental effect on the semi-rural setting of the villages. The mast will be very visible to the surrounding residential homes, thereby, also having a detrimental effect on properties and residents. Council requests that the residents of Harlech Drive, Beaumaris Close and Caernarvon Drive Rhiwderin be consulted, as this would have a direct effect on their properties. Also, being on a higher plane than those residences, the topography of the land would make the structure appear even more imposing. Council understands the need for a good communications network, but feels this location is totally inappropriate for this overbearing structure on the main road through the villages, and feel a much more appropriate site could be found.**

14. Dates of next meetings:

Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 12th July 2017 at 7pm

Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 26th July 2017 at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 10.28pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 26th July 2017

Posted to notice boards 04.08.17

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