



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 6.30pm on 26th July 2017.

1. **Apologies for absence:** M Smart, P John, L Fry, D Williams.
Present: Cllrs R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, K Sayer, K Harries, P Gregory, J Harris, W Haigh, P Appleton, J Bailey, K Thomas, N Tarr, M Cornelious. Chaired by P Gregory. Also present Mr P Hill.
2. **To receive representation from Phil Hill regarding Free Public Access Defibrillator Placements:** Mr Hill a Senior Nurse was introduced to the group. He told the group he was heavily involved in 2 charities, CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) and Jack's Appeal. Both charities were to raise awareness and funds for cardiac risk in the young and to try to lobby for a law to be passed that defibrillators are easily accessible in public places such as schools, community centres, sports grounds etc.. The charities had been able to access a number of defibrillators and was looking to place them in areas of easy access to all members of the public. Council was offered defibrillators free of charge provided they would be willing to purchase lockable but accessible cabinets that could house a defibrillator and be placed outside the community centres where they would be accessible to members of the public should the need arise. A demonstration of the defibrillator's ease of use was given and Council were asked to consider making the purchase of one or more cabinets. Each cabinet would cost £630. Mr Hill was thanked for his time and left the meeting at 7.05pm. Council discussed the proposal and agreed to purchase 2 cabinets for a defibrillator to be sited outside each community centre. Proposed Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Tarr and agreed unanimously. **Action: Cllr Gregory to progress.**
3. **Public Representation:** None. Cllr Gregory reiterated that as he said in earlier meetings, the agenda needed to be adhered to and discussions must be kept to the point as meetings were tending to lengthen. Cllrs were reminded of the meeting rules and that if anyone needed to take a short break they should do so, but the meeting would continue in their absence and the Clerk would record when they left and rejoined the meeting.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 28th June 2017 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Sayer. Arising from Item 4, Cllr Gregory told the group he would be meeting the new Head of Streetscene on 28th July. Regarding Item 5, Cllr Cornelious was using Cllr Tarr's report to lobby NCC to maintain the bus stops and timetables to a reasonable standard. Item 7b, Cllr Cornelious reported that the issues at the former Garthfield Cottage site were ongoing. Item 7f, Cllr Caston reported that the Burial Board Clerk was in discussions with other Councils regarding salary costs. Item 7i, The Finance and Admin Group would set a budget for the Horticultural Group at their meeting on 2nd August. Item 9c, Cllr Tarr was yet to speak with Reverend Stone. **Action: Cllrs with outstanding issues to progress them and report back to Council.**
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 Haigh, seconded Cllr Tarr. Cllr Gregory reported that he was awaiting a quote to renew fencing at Rhiwderin play area. **Action: Cllr Gregory to progress with the quote, Clerk to amend the report to include the date when the issues were added to the report.**
6. **Projects:**
 - a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade: Cllr Whitfield reported that she was waiting to access further funding streams which should be coming available from 31st July. It was agreed that as obtaining funding was very difficult because for most opportunities, Council and/or the building did not meet the criteria needed to apply. It was concluded that maybe Council should consider looking at self funding. Cllr Appleton asked if Section 106 funding could be utilised, Cllr Haigh agreed this should be explored. **Action: Cllr Whitfield to continue exploring funding opportunities.**
7. **Reports:**
 - a. Police: Not present, Cllr Gregory told the group that he had been trying to speak with the local PCSO's but was unable to get through by phone. Council expressed concern that it had been a long time since the Police had attended a meeting, and that their presence in the ward is diminishing. **Action: None requested.**

- b. Newport City Councillors: Cllr Cornelious reported that she had visited Springfield Lane and observed rubbish and drugs paraphernalia, so had reported this to the Police and NCC but no action had been taken to date. Cllr Whitfield asked how NCC could ignore requests from City Cllrs, Cllr Cornelious confirmed that City Cllrs should be responded to within a 3 day deadline but this did not always happen. She also reported that she has been trying to help with the resolution of overgrown trees between 2 neighbours in Bassaleg, but as yet no progress had been made. She was aware that NCC engineers were looking at the drainage issues at the end of Berkley Close to resolve the excess rainwater spilling down the public footpath between there and Caerphilly Road, but no solution has been decided on to date. NCC have received complaints of cars parking alongside the large gate on Court Crescent which sits on a patch of NCC owned land alongside Bassaleg School. Cllr Sayer reminded Cllr Cornelious about the overgrown fir trees at the top of Laurel Road on Council owned land. Cllr Cornelious agreed to meet with Cllr Sayer who would discuss the issues with her at the site. Cllr Sayer also mentioned that a road sign at Pye Corner was almost completely covered by overgrowth. It was thought that the trees would be the responsibility of NetworkRail and Cllr Sayer was advised to log the complaint and request maintenance on NetworkRail's online reporting website. **Action: Cllr Cornelious to lobby for Springfield Lane to be cleansed and monitored, continue to seek resolution for the overgrown trees issue between the neighbours, and monitor progress of the Berkley Close rainwater drainage issue. Also to meet with Cllr Sayer regarding the overgrown fir trees at Laurel Drive and seek solution. Cllr Sayer to report the obscured highway signage to NetworkRail.**

Sub Committees

- c. Graig Community Centre: NTR. **Action: None necessary.**
- d. Rhiwderin Community Centre: Cllr Gregory reported that the next committee meeting scheduled was for 11th September, that the NCC play-scheme was about to start for the summer holiday break, and also a children's boot-camp. **Action: None requested.**
- e. Allotments: Cllr Caston reported that the allotment inspection follow-up meeting had not yet taken place, it was decided that although Council agreed to pay for the cost of supplying polythene to cover vacant plots, this should not be progressed until after the meeting. **Action: Clerk to request the Allotment Association Chairman supply dates of when a follow-up meeting could be held.**
- f. Burial Board: NTR, except that concern was expressed that Rogerstone CC had not signed the authorisation letter to allow the Board's solicitor to progress with the cemetery ground registration, Cllr Gregory suggested to members that they ask the solicitors to write directly to RCC. **Action: Board Members to put forward Cllr Gregory's suggestion.**

Working Groups

- g. Play Areas Group: NTR except that it was agreed that grounds maintenance for St Basil's shops roundabout would be discussed later in the agenda and litter bin replacements needed to be decided. **Action: Clerk to investigate who would need to authorise the replacement/relocation/additional litter bins at the roadside to ensure the bins would be emptied under NCC schedules.**
- h. Best Kept Villages Group: NTR **Action: None necessary.**
- i. Horticultural Group: Cllr Gregory gave a big thank you to the group who were working very hard. Cllr Sayer had been litter picking, strimming and performing general grounds maintenance in the villages, Cllrs Appleton and Bailey had been working hard on preserving and maintaining the planters. All were thanked for their efforts of which Council were very appreciative. Cllr Gregory put forward a suggestion for the memorial bench previously agreed in memory of Cllr Mountain at a cost of £299 and to be sited somewhere appropriate in the area of St Basil's shops. It's acceptance was proposed by Cllr Tarr, seconded by Cllr Whitfield and agreed unanimously. **Action: Cllr Gregory to progress the ordering of the bench, the exact siting to be determined at a later date.**
- j. Technology Group: NTR Cllr Gregory expressed his disappointment that the group had not yet met and asked for progress soon, Cllr Tarr also expressed disappointed. **Action: Group to meet as soon as possible.**
- k. Rhiwderin CC Fundraising Group: NTR, covered in Item 6a.

8. Items for forthcoming agendas:

- a. Village Hall car charging points - TBA
- b. Active Travel Plan - 30th August 2017 meeting.

9. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Issues for the Head of Streetscene - Cllrs put forward suggestions for the forthcoming meeting with the new Head of Streetscene scheduled for 28th July 2017. **Action: Cllr Gregory to collate and put forward at the meeting.**

- b. Grounds maintenance for St Basil's shops roundabout - Deferred until responsibility for grass cutting is determined. **Action: Responsibility to be discussed with the new Head of Streetscene at the forthcoming meeting.**
 - c. Response from NCC about footbridge closure in the Former Tredegar Park Golf Club grounds - The Clerk informed Council she had received confirmation that the footbridge would be re-opened once works were completed. **Action: To be monitored.**
 - d. British Gas compensation - The Clerk informed Council that because of the issues she had in 2015 which required British Gas to offer a compensation payment, the ombudsman had reviewed the way in which British Gas had handled their many customer complaints during that time. They were ordered to pay an extra £100 compensation to Council. **Action: Clerk to bank the payment once received.**
 - e. Church Crescent signage update - Cllr Sayer updated Council on the issue stating that NCC were still of the opinion that the new sign for Church Crescent placed on the roundabout was acceptable, and that despite leaving messages and sending emails, the officer he needed to discuss this with would not respond to him. Everyone agreed that the signage was inappropriate and did not properly highlight where Church Crescent began. **Action: This to be discussed with the new Head of Streetscene at the forthcoming meeting. Clerk to email the officer again and ask him to respond to Cllr Sayer.**
 - f. Lower Machen village entrances - Cllr Tarr reported to Council that he had spoken with residents of Lower Machen who asked the Community Council to lobby for traffic calming measures at the entrances and exits to the village as they felt that vehicles were travelling much too quickly. **Action: To be added to the list to discuss with the new Head of Streetscene.**
- Cllr Harries left the room at 9.08pm.

10. Correspondence for Information:

Not discussed

11. **Accounts for Payment:** Proposed Cllr Tarr, seconded Cllr Whitfield and accepted. Concern was expressed that invoices for grounds maintenance were drifting, and that in future contractors should be clearly told that prompt invoicing will be expected.

Clerk salary and office allowance for July 2017	£1777.10
July misc. expenses	£25.20
TalkTalk Business - Graig Hall broadband (taken by DD)	£20.34
TSO Host - Council monthly webmail charge (taken by DD)	£5.00
PWLB - music entertainment costs for GCC	£319.56
Cllr M Smart - reimbursement for planter redecoration costs	£62.50
Chairman's Allowance - annual allowance for Chairman expenses	£200.00
Rob Williams Fencing - various works (3 invoices)	£3408.00
HMRC - PAYE & NI Apr-Jun 2017	£1916.15
Taffspeed Cleansing - play areas additional cleansing Jul 2017	£200.00
R Charles Plastics - installation of dog fouling signs	£160.00
Total to date:	£8093.85

Receipts:

SEE - feed in tariff rebate for solar panels at GCC (Mar-Jun)	£538.98
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Cllr Harries returned to the meeting at 9.14pm.

12. Urgent Business not discussed above:

- a. Cllr Whitfield told the group that a resident of Pentrepoeth Road had expressed concern about the condition of a property and resident dog. **Action: Cllr Whitfield to pass on details to Cllr Cornelious who would try to resolve the issue.**
- b. Cllr Caston put forward a clipping from the Argus newspaper which stated that Welsh Government's local government secretary Mr Mark Drakeford had expressed concern that small Town and Community Councils often do not need to hold elections as seats are uncontested meaning there is little democracy in the way people become Councillors. He had suggested a review and reform of local government is needed. **Action: None necessary, for information.**

13. Planning:

17/0673 - Site: 66 Cwm Cwddy Drive, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8JP. Description: Works to oak tree and hedge protected under TPO 1/79. Application Type: Tree Preservation Orders **Comment: Council felt there was very limited information attached to this application, but were happy to support the TPO Officer in their decision.**

14. Dates of next meetings:

Mid Month Meeting - Wednesday 9th August 2017 at 7pm

Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 30th August 2017 at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.32pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 30th August 2017

Posted to notice boards 08.09.17

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