



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 6.30pm on 30th August 2017.

1. Apologies for absence: K Harries, J Bailey.

Present: Cllrs R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, M Smart, K Sayer, P John, P Gregory, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, P Appleton, K Thomas, N Tarr, M Cornelious, D Williams. Chaired by P Gregory. Also present, a resident of Clearwell Court.

2. Public Representation: A resident of Clearwell Court attended to highlight issues of public accessibility for disabled and elderly residents living in the Rhiwderin Heights area. He told Council that he experienced issues as a disabled resident, and was aware others in the area did too. He asked if Council could do anything to assist. He mentioned that service buses stop visiting the area after 6pm which meant that to catch a bus, residents had to walk to and from the main bus route stops on Caerphilly Road. This prevented residents he knew, and himself from travelling if their journeys would bring them home in the evenings as they were experiencing difficulties walking home from the main stops, and being able to travel via taxi was out of reach financially for many. He also highlighted that the flats in Clearwell Court do not have lifts and many, including himself, struggled with using the stairs. Council sympathised with the resident's plight, but unfortunately there would be little they could do except to offer advice. Both the City Cllrs and the Council had lobbied to keep the bus service travelling to Rhiwderin Heights, as some time ago, the service was in danger of being cut completely. That unfortunately, the service is demand lead and if the bus company felt it was not cost effective to run the service because it was not so well used, little could be done to persuade them otherwise. As the flats were run by a management company, the residents would be best to lobby the company to try to have lifts installed if possible or seek to be transferred to a more suitable location which would suit their needs. It was agreed that City Cllr Williams would take up the gentleman's issues and attempt to help to resolve them. Cllr Whitfield suggested that the bus company could possibly be persuaded to increase the service until 7pm which would help a little. The resident was asked if he would like to stay to observe the rest of the meeting which he decided to do. **Action: Cllr Williams to work with the resident and attempt to resolve the issues discussed.**

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held 26th July 2017 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Whitfield. There were no matters arising from the minutes. **Action: None required.**

4. Clerk's Report: The Clerk's Report previously circulated was briefly discussed and accepted as a true reflection of matters to date. Proposed Cllr Tarr, seconded Cllr Sayer. Regarding the paths that are in the process of being adopted, Cllr Whitfield reported that there were still boulders left alongside the area of the path from Penylan Close to Woodland Drive where a resident of Highfield Gardens had created an entrance into their garden from the path. It was understood this would be an issue to have cleared up, as the path is not yet adopted and NCC say any issues on it are not the City Council's responsibility. However, it was agreed to ask NCC if they would remove the debris in the interest of public safety. Regarding the roundabout at St Basil's shops, Cllr Gregory agreed to speak with NCC officers to determine whether or not they had agreed that grass cutting on the roundabout was NCC's responsibility. The replacement of the bollards on the roundabout was also discussed but no decision was made. **Action: Cllr Gregory to speak with NCC officers regarding the grass cutting on the roundabout. Clerk to request NCC clear up the boulders on the footpath.**

5. Projects:

a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade: Cllr Whitfield reported that she was struggling to find suitable funding options to upgrade the Centre. There was a lot of funding available to be accessed, but unfortunately either the Council or the project did not meet the criteria for funding to be offered. She had a few more avenues to try, but was concerned that external funding may not be an option. It was discussed whether it would be a good idea to consider having a survey or job specification completed at this early stage, as if funding was applied for, or if Council tried to fund the work themselves, this would be a necessary step. It was agreed that the funding group should meet to discuss fully. Cllr Whitfield was thanked for all her efforts. **Action: Cllr Whitfield to arrange a funding working group meeting.**

6. Reports:

- a. Newport City Councillors - Cllr Cornelious reported that she had been sorting out stiles in the ward and ensuring all stiles on footpaths were clear and easy to access. Council pointed out that hedges along Pentrepoeth Road and at the bottom of Caerphilly Close needed cutting back as they were overhanging the roads and pavements, and it was noted that despite the interim cut of The Griffin hedge, many brambles and rubbish remained at the bottom of the hedge obstructing the pavement. Cllr Cornelious told the group there were still issues with a resident's dog on Pentrepoeth Road that she was attempting to resolve, and was waiting for the Environmental Health Department to attend the property. Cllr Williams reported that there was no progress regarding the cycle path and that the Coach House issues should be resolved soon. The owner of the footpath from Berkley Close to Wentworth Lane wished to close the footpath, but NCC said as a legal footpath his only option is to apply for a temporary closure. He also reported that NCC refuse to change the position of the newly erected street sign for Church Crescent which had been located on the roundabout outside St Basil's shops. Cllr Whitfield again brought up the issue of the mud on Park View which had not been resolved. All Council agreed that the state of the road was not acceptable. Cllr Williams agreed to keep trying to resolve. Cllr Sayer asked that he also address the waste and broken railings outside Rhiwderin Community Centre as both had still not been removed. **Action: Cllr Cornelious to progress the issues of the brambles obstructing the pavement on The Griffin and keep Council updated on progress of the issue with the dog on Pentrepoeth Road. Cllr Williams to monitor progress with the cycle path issue, the Coach House and ask NCC to remove the undergrowth and railings from the side of Rhiwderin Community Centre.**

Sub Committees

- b. Graig Community Centre - NTR, Committee meeting to be held the following week. **Action: None required.**
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre - NTR except that the summer play scheme had been successful and the next Committee meeting would be 11th September 2017. **Action: None required.**
- d. Allotments - NTR. **Action: None required.**
- e. Burial Board - A Board meeting to be held the following week. The major item for the Board is to progress the issues with land registration. The topic of more proportional representation on the Board was discussed, and Council felt that since both Graig and Rogerstone wards had changed over the years since the percentages of representation had been agreed, this was now out of date and should be looked at again. Cllr Evans was asked to put to the Board that Graig's representation become equal to that of Rogerstone, and if accepted, Graig would be willing to contribute an equal proportion of the Board's annual precept. Cllr Gregory expressed concern that issues being addressed by the Board were taking a long time to resolve. **Action: Cllr Evans to put equal representation to the Board and report back to Council. Board Members to attempt to move for faster progress on the issues being dealt with.**

Working Groups

- f. Play Areas Group - Cllr Appleton told the group she had noticed that there was a lot of litter in the play areas and that they needed larger bins to cope with the amount of rubbish generated due to them being so well used. Cllr Fry noted that gravel from the footpath through the open space was migrating into the toddlers enclosed play area on Bassaleg Green. It was agreed that this was an issue as toddlers could fall and graze themselves on the gravel, so the area should be swept weekly until it is no longer an issue. Cllr Gregory reported that he had engaged a local contractor to renew the fencing along the stream side and entrance to Rhiwderin play area which was now complete. **Action: Clerk to ask the cleaning company for Graig Hall if they would be willing to take on the work and at what cost.**
- g. Best Kept Villages Group - Cllr Tarr told Council he joined in with the litter pick that took place in July. **Action: None required.**
- h. Horticultural Group - Cllr Gregory thanked the group who had been working hard. It was agreed to paint a further 6 planters ready for positioning in the ward. Cllr Sayer offered to check that the planters were accessible and empty ready for decoration. Volunteers were asked for, and it was agreed to begin the decorating the following Monday weather permitting. **Action: Cllr Sayer to check planters are ready to decorate, volunteers to attend the following week to decorate the planters.**
- i. Technology Group - A meeting of the group was arranged for the following week. **Action: Tech Working Group members to attend to discuss the creation of a new website.**
- j. Rhiwderin CC Fundraising Group - Discussed in 5a above. **Action: See 5a action point.**

7. Items for forthcoming agendas:

- a. Presentation on electric vehicle charging points - 13th September meeting
- b. Finance Meeting recommendations - 13th September meeting
- b. Reverend Christopher Stone - 27th September meeting

8. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. NCC's Active Travel Plan consultation - Cllr Tarr gave a presentation and asked questions of Council in order to make an accurate representation on NCC's online form. It was agreed that in addition, further information should be submitted to give an overview of the ward and Council's views on the condition of its roads, pathways and safe routes to school. Cllr Tarr was thanked for his work on this item. **Action: Cllr Tarr to submit the online form on behalf of Council using the information gained, Chair, Cllr Tarr and Clerk to meet to put together a statement to be submitted as discussed. Cllr Tarr to forward the link to the online survey to all on email to allow individuals to make their own submissions as they felt necessary.**
- b. Grounds maintenance issues at Fort View play area & Penylan Close to Caerphilly Road footpath - Cllr Fry submitted a schedule of works he believed were needed to address issues in these areas. Ownership of the areas was discussed as it was known that Newport City Homes owned the Fort View play area and leased a portion of it to the Council, and the footpath from Penylan Close to Caerphilly Road was in the process of being adopted but the process was not complete. That being said, NCC do partially maintain the area periodically. Cllr Whitfield also advised Council that the steps on a footpath from Woodland Drive to Garth Close were in a dangerous condition and needed maintenance. **Action: Cllr Fry and Cllr Cornelious to meet onsite to discuss and Cllr Cornelious to take the matter to NCC if deemed appropriate.**
- c. NCC's response to Section 106 enquiries - Cllr Smart still had concerns that advice she had received stated that Section 106 funds from the Former Tredegar Golf Club site were to be used inside the Graig ward, but this now appeared not to be the case. Information forwarded to Cllr Williams and on to the Clerk made no mention of what would happen with the funding as the report contained only items that had been formally decided, and as the Golf Club development was not yet out of the ground, information regarding the allocation of its funding was not included. **Action: Cllr Smart to forward the email she had from the Section 106 officer detailing the plans for the money to Cllr Cornelious who agreed to investigate the matter.**
- d. Councillor identification badges - Deferred to the next meeting. **Action: None required as yet.**
- e. Invitation to comment on NCC's Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance on Development Management and Air Quality - Deferred to the next meeting. **Action: None required as yet.**
- f. Update on Waste Transfer planning application if available - The Clerk reported that she had been told by the Planning Officer overseeing the application that it would be included in the forthcoming agenda of the September Planning Committee meeting for a decision. **Action: Cllr Cornelious to attend and represent Council and residents strong objections, and advise the Clerk of the outcome as soon as was practicable.**
- g. Litter bins - Deferred to the next meeting. **Action: None required as yet.**
- h. Update on street sign at Church Crescent - Discussed in Item 7a above. **Action: None required.**

9. Correspondence for Information:

Not discussed

10. Accounts for Payment: Proposed Cllr John, seconded Cllr Tarr and accepted.

Clerk salary and office allowance for August 2017	£1777.10
August misc. expenses	£89.15
TalkTalk Business - Graig Hall broadband (taken by DD)	£20.34
TSO Host - Council monthly webmail charge (taken by DD)	£5.00
Taffspeed Cleansing - play areas additional cleansing August 2017	£200.00
Cllr Gregory - reimbursement of memorial bench cost	£269.01
Newport City Homes - Grass cutting at Fort View July 17	£212.04
EE General Solutions - grounds maintenance at Fort View play area	£200.00
SET Office supplies - stationery	£57.47
BPU Chartered Accountants - internal audit annual fee	£1200.00
Rob Williams Landscaping Ltd - new fencing at Rhiwderin play area	£1110.00
Total to date:	£5140.11

Receipts:

Newport City Council - 2nd Precept payment	£18544.33
Newport City Council - Payment for hire of Graig Hall	£85.00
British Gas - Extra compensation payment for complaint upheld in 2015	£100.00

Bassaleg Community Woodland Trust - reimbursement of unused donation funds £500.00
Total to date: £19229.33

Cllr Sayer left the meeting at 9.40pm.

11. Urgent Business not discussed above:

None

12. Planning:

- a. 17/0740 - Site: Jubilee Park Development Site, Tregwilym Road, Rogerstone, Newport. Description: Non material amendment for reserved matters application 16/0063 relating to landscaping, layout, access, scale and appearance for primary school pursuant to outline permission 12/0886. Application relates to amendments to materials, glazing, layout and landscaping. Application Type: Non-Material amendment. **Comment: No objections.**
- b. 17/0752 - Site: 19 Ffos-y-fran, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8LU. Description: Ground floor side extension to provide new kitchen and family room. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections provided neighbours are consulted and agree.** Cllr Tarr did not participate in the discussion of this item.
- c. 17/0633 - Site: Ruperra Arms, 73 Caerphilly Road, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8LJ. Description: Retention of timber lean to. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections.**
- e. 17/0777 - Site: Land forming part of Coed Mawr Woodland, Fox Hill, Rhiwderin, Newport. Description: Prior notification for works to various woodland tracks. Application Type: Agricultural Determination. **Comment: No objections, Council supports the work being carried out to maintain the tracks and cycle-ways in the ward.**

13. Dates of next meetings:

Mid Month Meeting - Wednesday 13th September 2017 at 6.30pm
Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 27th September 2017 at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.50pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 27th September 2017

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