



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 6.30pm on 27th September 2017.

1. Apologies for absence: 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, D Williams. Chaired by P Gregory. Also present Rev. Christopher Stone, Rector of St Basil's Church.

2. To receive and welcome Reverend Christopher Stone, Rector of St Basil's Church: Rev.

Stone was welcomed and introduced to the group. Rev. Stone told the group he was rector of St Basil's, St John's in Rogerstone and St Anne's at High Cross. He said that forthcoming Church events included an All Souls Service on 6th November to remember loved ones, Remembrance Sunday on 12th November at 10am, St Basil's Christmas Carol Service on 17th December at 7pm, Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm and Midnight Mass and 2 Services on Christmas Day. The Church was currently looking to appoint a Youth Leader and would be advertising the post in the New Year. Cllr Fry asked if there would be any work carried out to the stone boundary wall which was in need of repair, Rev. Stone replied that it would be costly, and he was seeking funding to assist with this, but it was currently beyond the Church's financial capability. Cllr Smart commented that the Churchyard is always well kept and everyone was very proud of it. Rev. Stone told Council the Church operates an after school club which offers free drinks and games to children which is quite popular and regularly has 20 or more attendees. Cllr Appleton asked if Rev. Stone would be interested in reviving the previously held Carols around the Christmas Tree event which took place years ago, and Rev. Stone was in favour of this. Events & Social Group (E&SG) to discuss. Council had invited Rev. Stone to attend the meeting to build a closer relationship and offered to assist with advertising events at the Church, Church Hall and with advertising the parish magazine. Cllr Tarr was appointed liaison between Church and Council. All agreed the meeting had been useful and productive. Rev. Stone left the meeting at 7.25pm.

3. Public Representation: None

4. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held 30th August 2017 previously circulated were read and subject to a minor alteration were approved. Proposed Cllr John seconded Cllr Harries. Matters arising from the minutes were: Item 4, NCC accepted responsibility for grass cutting on St Basil's roundabout. Item 5a, Cllr Whitfield had held the funding meeting as agreed. Item 7f, Graig Hall management Committee offered to pay for the weekly sweeping of stone dust being tread inside the toddler's play area on Graig Green. Item 7H, Planters were now decorated and ready to place out, HWG to make the necessary arrangements. Item 8b, Cllrs Cornelious and Fry met as agreed and Cllr Cornelious to take issues to NCC. Item 8c, Cllr Smart was concerned that Section 106 money she had been informed would be used inside the ward looked now to be earmarked for outside the ward. Item 8a, Cllr Tarr had submitted Council's comments and he, the Chair and the Clerk had met and formed a statement on behalf of Council that had also been submitted. Cllr Tarr had provided links to all Cllrs on email so they might also log their comments individually if required.

5. 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 Harries. **Action: None requested.**

6. Projects:

a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade: Cllr Whitfield reported that she has contacted the 3rd architect to have a schedule drawn up to satisfy Council's Standing Order requirements. Once received a decision can be made on who to engage. **Action: Cllr Whitfield to progress.**

7. Reports:

a. Newport City Councillors - Cllr Williams declared an interest but informed Council that the planning application for the proposed Waste Transfer Station at Croescarneinon Farm had been rejected by the City Council. He reported that there was no progress on some of the items he was asked to look into. Namely, the cycleway and the Coach House, but the issue of the undergrowth and railings needing removal at Rhiwderin CC had been dealt with. He informed Council that he had received concerns from local residents about the proposed Plas Machen development, Council informed him that the

planning application had already been discussed at the previous meeting and Council had also lodged concerns with the Planning Department. He had been working on the issues raised by the gentleman who attended the previous meeting from Clearwell Court and passed on information to the housing group and City Council. He also confirmed that NCC's footpath's officer had said NCC would be responsible for the footpath from Berkley Close to Wentworth Lane/Caerphilly Road. Cllr Gregory mentioned that a lot of debris is being washed down the path from the overflowing gullies in Wentworth Close. Cllr Williams offered to check if NCC had put in another gully as was suggested. He had also received complaints that the new lighting installed on Bassaleg Roundabout was too bright, and Court Crescent residents also had concerns about the new layout of the roundabout which he would be looking into. Regarding the issue of mud on Park View road, he had contacted Newbridge Estates and felt that it had slightly improved, but not enough, and he would follow this up. Cllr Whitfield read an email from an NCC officer which threatened action against the developers if they did not resolve the issue, and thanked Cllr Williams for his efforts. He confirmed that Section 106 money from the development was not guaranteed for Bassaleg School, and that to date NCC would not commit to where the money would be spent as it is categorised to be spent in schools for Western Newport and not Bassaleg specifically. He was asked to invite the Officer in charge of the money to meet with Council. Cllr Haigh informed Council he was aware that there were plans to cease free bus passes in 2019 and Cllr Williams offered to look into this. Cllr Harries asked him to find out if NCC have a policy on Fracking. Cllr Williams left the meeting at 8.10pm. **Action: Cllr Williams to progress with the cycle path and Coach House issues, to discover if NCC had already, or intended to put another gully at the end of Berkley Close, investigate the complains of bright lighting and layout of Bassaleg Roundabout, follow up on the mud issue on Park View, invite the Section 106 Officer to meet with Council, investigate the ceasing of free bus passes and find out if NCC has a policy on Fracking.**

Sub Committees

- b. Graig Community Centre - Cllr Evans reported that the Committee was waiting for quotes on replacing the rainwater goods and soffits at Graig Hall, it was thought the costs would be about £5K
Cllr Tarr left the meeting briefly at 8.12pm
Action: Committee to collect quotes and inform Council.
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre - NTR **Action: None required.**
- d. Allotments - Cllr Caston set the allotment inspection date at 29th October. He reported that the Allotment Association had obtained some grass cutting equipment but needed a commitment to be able to store it in the Pump House. Cllr Evans thought that may be difficult as there was little room.
Cllr Tarr returned to the meeting at 8.17pm.
Cllr Thomas was asked to investigate if a car seen regularly parked at the allotment gates was an allotment holder or a resident. **Action: Hall Cttee to look into finding space in the Pump House for the storage of equipment, Cllr Thomas to investigate who owned the car parked at the gates..**
- e. Burial Board - Cllr Evans reported that at the recently held meeting, the BB Clerk's salary had been resolved and passed by the Board. Also that there were still issues with Rogerstone CC wanting to try to resolve the land registration issues themselves without the assistance of a solicitor. It was their belief that it was a simple process and the hiring of a solicitor would be costly and unnecessary. The question of equal representation was not tabled as discussed, but this was thought to be an important issue. Cllr Gregory offered to speak with the Chair of Rogerstone CC and attend the next Burial Board meeting. All agreed this would be sensible. **Action: Cllr Gregory to speak with the Rogerstone CC Chair and attend the next Burial Board meeting if necessary.**

Working Groups

- f. Play Areas Group - Cllr Gregory reported that the fencing at Rhiwderin village play area had been completed. It was noted on the Graig News Facebook page that there were complaints about the long grass on Bassaleg Green, and that a resident had cut part of the green himself to enable his son to play. All agreed that the grass cutting schedules were inadequate now that the City Council had reduced the number of cuts each year. It was noted that all Community Councils were complaining as it affected the whole of the City. Cllr Thomas reported that the back rail of the bench close to the car park was broken. As mentioned earlier in the meeting, the Clerk confirmed that an arrangement had been made for the weekly sweeping of the toddler's play area at Graig Green to remove loose stone dust from the path which could cause toddlers to graze themselves if they fell. This was being paid for by Graig Hall's Cttee. **Action: Cllr Fry to look at the broken bench.**
- g. Best Kept Villages Group - NTR. **Action: None required.**
- h. Horticultural Group - Cllr Smart reported that 4 planters had been decorated and were ready to plant up. The group had arranged for 2 more to be sited at St Basil's shops and 2 on Grosvenor Road on the

green area close to the underpass. **Action: Group to arrange for the planting and positioning of the planters.**

- i. Technology Group - Cllr John reported that he had received the required 3 quotes and a meeting was set for the group to discuss on 3rd October. **Action: Tech Working Group members to attend and discuss the best option for Council and report back at the next meeting.**
- j. Rhiwderin CC Fundraising Group - Discussed in 6a above. **Action: See 6a action point.**
- k. Events & Social Group - The date for the event was set at 8th December, agreed my majority. The Group to meet on 17th October to progress. **Action: Group to begin arrangements and invite other contributors to meet with them soon after.**

8. Items for forthcoming agendas:

None

9. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Finance Meeting update and recommendations for 2018/19 Precept allocation - The Finance & Administration Group gave Council its Precept request recommendation following its recent meeting to analyse the accounts. The group suggested the Precept for 2018/19 should be raised by 3% meaning each Band D household would be charged £20.00 which would be an extra 59p per year and increase Council's annual precept total by £1691.06 to £57324.00. The Group advised that this amount was only a very little above inflation, and that as external funding for the upgrade of Rhiwderin CC was extremely hard to come by, that Council would need to set this as a priority. Proposed Cllr John, seconded Cllr Sayer and agreed unanimously. **Action: Clerk to advise NCC of Council's request when the appropriate forms are submitted.**
- b. Approve Annual Return following external audit - Approval of accounts following external audit – the Clerk presented the fully externally audited accounts to Council for approval along with the auditor's "Issues Arising from the Audit" report and an action plan to address the minor issues identified during the audit. Council were content with the findings and the way the audit was conducted. The paperwork and accounts were approved proposed Cllr Gregory, seconded Cllr Harries and agreed by all. Permission was given to the Clerk to advertise the paperwork according to the legal requirements. **Action: Clerk to action all the requirements set out by the auditor within the required time limits.**
- c. Liaison meeting update - Cllr Caston told the group that the issue of Concurrent allocations had still not been settled, again NCC said it should be resolved soon. The issues faced by Community Council audits was also discussed and an Information Sharing Group was suggested. **Action: Clerk to join the sharing group when formed, and try to address the issues of costs and complicated audits.**
- d. Head of Streetscene response to ward queries raised - Responses to the ward queries raised at the meeting with the Head of Streetscene were read to the group, all felt that the responses were unacceptable and that lack of funding was being used as a blanket cover for not addressing any issues put forward. Council discussed the possibility of speaking with a Welsh Assembly Member to see if anything could be done. **Action: Question of Section 106 funding to be put to NCC officer if he takes up the invitation to meet Council, and also Cllr Smart to contact him again for clarification on where the money will be spent. Cllr Gregory to advise NCC of Council's dismay at the response.**
- e. Proposed schedule for maintenance of St Basil's roundabout - Cllr Fry put forward a proposal for a maintenance schedule for the roundabout. It was agreed that the roundabout planters had never looked better thanks to the efforts of Cllrs Appleton, Bailey and Sayer. It was also agreed that the bollards should be reinstated and it would be desirable for the grass to be cut more often. The HWG felt that any plans for maintaining the roundabout should be firstly put to the group as they had carried out a lot of work there. **Action: Cllr Fry to oversee the reinstatement of the bollards.**
- f. NCC response to the request to clear the footpath from Woodland Drive to Penylan Close: The Clerk submitted an email response from NCC to the request to carry out maintenance to this path. Council were not surprised to hear that as the footpath has not yet been adopted, NCC said it was not their responsibility to maintain it. **Action: None requested.**

10. Correspondence for Information:

Not discussed

Cllr Sayer left the meeting at 9.40pm

11. Accounts for Payment: Proposed Cllr John, seconded Cllr Whitfield and accepted.

Clerk salary and office allowance for September 2017	£1776.40
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 September 2017	£200.00
Newport City Homes - Fort View play area grass cutting August 2017	£212.04
Wales Audit Office - External audit costs	£179.55
SSE - Graig Hall Gas costs Jun-Sep 2017	£86.77
HMRC - PAYE & NI	£1916.15
Total to date:	£4396.25

Receipts:

None to date

13. Planning: (discussed out of agenda order)

17/0897 - Proposal: Two storey side and rear extension. Site: 9 Caernarvon Drive, Rhiwderin, Newport NP10 8QT. Application Type: Full. **Comment: Council is concerned about the number and layout of the parking spaces proposed, considering this development would be forming an additional bedroom, turning the property from a 3 bed to 4 bed home. They also feel this would be overdevelopment of the site considering the proposal would take up the complete width of the plot to each side boundary, thus preventing sufficient access to the rear of the property. Council is also aware that there is resident opposition to the proposed design of this application.**

12. Urgent Business not discussed above:

Cllr Tarr reported that there were lights out near the footbridge over the A467 and that he had reported this to NCC.

14. Dates of next meetings:

Mid Month Meeting - Wednesday 11th October 2017 at 7pm
Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 25th October 2017 at 7pm

Cllr Gregory advised he would be on holiday for the 11th October meeting and asked Cllr Fry to take the Chair. Cllr Fry agreed.

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

Signed..... (Chair) – 25th October 2017

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