



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Full Council held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 25th April 2018.

1. **Apologies for absence:** K Sayer, K Harries, D Williams.  
**Present:** Cllrs R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, M Smart, P Gregory, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, P Appleton, J Bailey, K Thomas, N Tarr. Chaired by P Gregory. Also attended, a resident of Caerphilly Rd.
  2. **Public Representation:** The lady attending from Caerphilly Rd addressed Council and reported that she had been told there were issues with Caerphilly Road sinking and drains collapsing due to the increasingly heavy traffic using the route through the village. She was informed by workmen repairing the road that buried services were being affected. Cllr Gregory reported that he had recently witnessed 17 HGV's pass in a 15 minute period, 90% of which were from a local quarry so were very heavily laden. It was also noted that as the repair works along Caerphilly Road were causing delays, HGV's were using Laurel Road as a rat run to by-pass the problem. All agreed this was unacceptable. The lady was also concerned about resident's health due to high pollution readings and that the Post Office had lost trade due to the lay-by dedicated to customer parking not being accessible for long periods of time during the repair works. NCC had admitted that pollution along the route was twice the levels recommended. It was also noted that the road surface is poor on Park View and mud on the road is still an issue at that location. The lady was thanked for her time and left the meeting at 7.25pm.  
**Action: Cllrs Gregory and Williams to liaise and discuss the issues with the Streetscene Managers and Head of NCC. Clerk to write on behalf of Council to request action is taken to reduce pollution in the area as has been carried out in other areas of the city. Also, regarding the mud still being deposited on Park View road.**
  3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 28th March 2018 previously circulated were read and subject to minor amendments were approved. Proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Tarr. Matters arising from the minutes were briefly discussed. **Action: 1 outstanding item to be addressed by Cllr Gregory.**
  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 Harries, seconded Cllr Bailey. **Action: Report to be kept updated by the Clerk as usual, Cllr Tarr to try to progress bus stops issue.**
  5. **Projects:**
    - a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade: A meeting had been held to complete an application form for funding. It had been agreed that as Council was unable to gain access to most funding streams, applications should be made by Rhiwderin Centre's committee and user groups. **Action: Cllr Whitfield to progress.**
  6. **Reports:**
    - a. Newport City Councillors - Neither City Councillor attended the meeting, Council were concerned about the infrequency of attendance at meetings. **Action: Clerk to write to each Councillor, express Council's concerns and ask for comments.**
- Sub Committees**
- b. Graig Community Centre - Cllr Fry confirmed that works to the outside of the Hall would commence on 22nd May subject to good weather. Cost of replacing rainwater goods etc. would be £4800, the cost to be borne by the Hall finances. A new member had been found to join the Hall Committee, licensing of the Hall was being attended to. Cllr Gregory passed on Council's thanks to the Committee for their hard work. **Action: Hall Committee to progress.**
  - c. Rhiwderin Community Centre - Covered in 5a above, also Cllr Gregory reported that work on the Centre's roof had commenced, and its Committee was seeking a new secretary. **Action: Cllr Gregory to progress roof repairs.**
  - d. Allotments - Cllr Caston reported that the Allotment Association members had offered to assist by taking over most admin duties connected to the site. The Clerk expressed her thanks to the Association. Other duties had so far prevented her from being able to adequately cover administration as she would have wanted. Council accepted this option with assurances that the Committee would be answerable to Council, Clerk and Allotment Committee to ensure compliance. An allotment inspection

is to take place on Sunday June 3rd at 10.30am. **Action: Clerk and Allotment Committee Chair to meet with Allotment Association Chair, Secretary and Treasurer to progress.**

- e. Burial Board - Council were still very concerned that RCC had refused to consider equal representation on the Board. Cllr Gregory expressed his frustration in trying to deal with longstanding issues. Council recorded a unanimous vote of confidence in him, strongly supported him in his efforts and thanked him for working so hard on the issues surrounding the Board. It was noted that NCC legal Department were attempting to register the cemetery land on behalf of the Board. **Action: Council to monitor.**

#### **Working Groups**

- f. Play Areas Group - The litter bins had been placed in the play areas as previously discussed. Cllr Smart asked that now they were in place, could a review of roadside litter bins be carried out. The Clerk reminded Council that in order to change any bins at the roadside, permission from Streetscene would need to be sought. **Action: Clerk to ensure keys for the play area bins are given over to NCC for emptying purposes, and agenda roadside bins at the next available meeting.**
- g. Best Kept Villages Group - NTR. **Action: None required.**
- h. Horticultural Group - A good price for bedding plants to fill the planters had been obtained by the group from NCC, and also for providing filled hanging baskets for the Halls. An agreement to replace the Haras fencing at the Coach House was being finalised. Cllr Thomas to check the watering system for the baskets at Graig Hall, and Cllr Gregory asked that he also check the system at Rhiwderin CC. A working party was to be arranged to decorate the planters needed for the Coach House. **Action: Group to progress, Cllr Thomas to check the watering system at both Halls.**
- i. Technology Group - Cllr Appleton agreed to contact Cllr John regarding the current position with the new website and request a handover meeting. **Action: Cllr Appleton to progress.**
- j. Rhiwderin CC Fundraising Group - Cllr Whitfield to contact the bookings manager of Rhiwderin CC and arrange a meeting of centre users to progress a funding application. **Action: Cllr Whitfield to progress.**
- k. Events & Social Group - A meeting for the group had taken place, the Christmas event had been reviewed, and the group were considering holding a Summer event on the green at Bassaleg on 7th or 14th July. In principle Council agreed this would be a good idea but some were concerned about the amount of work this would entail and the tight timescale in which to organise the event. It was suggested that maybe September might be a better month to consider. The group agreed to organise another meeting. **Action: Group to arrange meeting to discuss.**
- l. Consultation Review Panel: A recent opportunity to comment on a Local Government Green Paper had arisen which Cllr Tarr felt it important to make comment on. He asked for volunteers to meet to review the document and formulate comments on behalf of Council. Meeting to be held 15th May at 5.30pm. Volunteers were Cllrs Thomas, Tarr, Smart, Gregory and Appleton. **Action: Cllr Tarr to progress.**

#### **7. Items for forthcoming agendas:**

- a. None.

#### **8. Items for Discussion/Action:**

- a. Update on invitation to Head of Streetscene to attend a meeting to follow up on issues raised previously - Nothing to report as yet. **Action: Cllr Gregory to progress.**
- b. S106 funding update if available - Nothing to report as yet. **Action: Cllr Smart to update when news is available.**
- c. Bassaleg Community Woodland Trust - Cllr Gregory thanked all who walked the area to inspect. It was thought that the area was reasonably well managed to date. It was agreed that the boundaries needed to be identified and that managing and maintaining could be costly leading to reservations about Council becoming heavily involved. It was thought best that the group work with NCC initially to define where boundaries sit. **Action: Advise the Trust of Council's concerns and suggest that at least initially, working with NCC would be the best way forward for them.**
- d. HGV's using A468 & Laurel Road - Discussed above in Item 2. **Action: See Item 2.**

#### **9. Correspondence for Information:**

Not discussed

#### **10. Accounts for Payment:** Proposed Cllr Evans, seconded Cllr Whitfield and accepted.

Clerk salary and office allowance for April 18	£1993.95
Misc expenses for April 18	£12.60
TalkTalk Business - Graig Hall broadband (taken by DD)	£28.74
OVW - Training for Cllrs Whitfield & Appleton	£80.00

SSE - Electricity costs to Rhiwderin CC Dec 17- Mar 18	£630.45
SSE - Gas costs to Rhiwderin CC Dec 17 - Mar 18	£620.23
S Rose - final payment for notice board refurbishment	£431.00
AEGON - underpayment for Clerk pension requirements from April 16-April 18	£66.78
NCC - annual charge for play area SLA	£7800.00
Newport City Homes Ltd - Grass cutting at Fort View play area March 18	£212.04
R Charles Plastics - maintenance works to noticeboards	£320.00
<b>Total to date:</b>	<b>£12195.79</b>

**Receipts:**

NCC - 1st Precept payment	£19201.80
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**11. Urgent Business not discussed above:**

- a. It was noted that there was a recent fatality near Lower Machen village involving a motor cyclist.  
**Action: Cllr Gregory to add this to his list when approaching the Head of Streetscene.**
- b. Following the resignation of Cllr John, and the fact that he had been with Council many years, the Cllrs discussed personally contributing to a leaving gift for him. **Action: Clerk to progress.**
- c. With the forthcoming AGM on 30th May, Cllr Gregory asked all Cllrs to consider their roles and contributions to the Council and whether they wished to remain with Council for the coming year.  
**Action: Clerk was asked to wait until after the AGM to advertise the post vacated by Cllr John, to see if there would be was more than 1 post to advertise.**

**12. Planning:**

- a. 18/0154 - Proposal: Non material amendment to planning permission 15/1532 for rear single storey extension and utility extension to amend roof pitch and increase height of utility. Site: 7 Graig Close, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8PE. Application Type: Non-Material Amendment - **Comment: No objection provided neighbours are consulted and agree.**
- b. 18/0303 - Proposal: Single storey rear extension, installation of ramp and installation of dormer windows. Site: Dellmay, Church Road, Lower Machen, Newport, NP10 8GW. Application Type: Full - Comment: **No objections.**

**13. Dates of next meetings:**

Mid Month Meeting - Wednesday 9th May 2018 at 7pm  
Full Council Meeting & AGM - Wednesday 30th May 2018 at 7pm

Cllr Bailey asked that her apologies be recorded for the 9th May meeting. **Action: Clerk to record.**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.55pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 30th May 2018

Posted to notice boards 08.06.18

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