



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning and Environmental Meeting held at the Graig Community Hall Bassaleg 6pm on 12th February 2014.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs A Whitfield, V Cox-Wall, M Smart
Present: Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, W Haigh, N Mountain, K Harries, L Fry, J Harris, D Evans, M Cornelious, P Stokes, Kathryn Ashton. Also present: DCC Lorraine Bottomley & PS Carl Williams
2. **Public Representations:** None
- 6.(a) Cllr Gregory introduced DCC Lorraine Bottomley and her Staff Officer PS Carl Smith to the group. He informed the officers of the boundaries of the ward and explained the issues and responsibilities of the Community Council.
DCC Bottomley gave a little of her background and outlined her plans. She mentioned that one of her aims is to improve community engagement and that she is actively encouraging officers to be out on foot and on bikes talking to members of the community and getting back to basic policing methods. She asked Council what they felt could be improved and how they thought residents would like to be engaged. Following on from the workshops she held recently, she is aware that there are issues with officers being moved around a lot, this was also a concern of the Community Councils. PCSO's have been drafted to be out in the neighbourhood more and officers should be more static giving better continuity. PACT meetings were discussed and it is intended to re-introduce these meetings in a different format, this is being trialled at the moment and seems to be successful.
Mobile Police Stations were discussed, Council felt many of these were ineffective as they were held in odd places at times of the day when many people would be unable to attend. This was taken on board, and it was recognised that another form of engagement would be more beneficial. Council were told that officers up until recently were concerned that policy restricted their ability to interact with residents as they would like. She assured Council that this is no longer the case and has instructed officers that they have full permission with no restrictions to engage with residents as much as possible.
The police were invited to join Council's Community Day event being held at Graig Community Hall on Saturday 17th May which they said they would be happy to attend (details to be advertised at a later date).
Council were assured that police presence at meetings and monthly reporting of crime figures would be improved.
ACC Bottomley was asked about issues specific to the ward. The current issue with parking on Laurel Road was discussed, as was parking on junctions such as Laurel Road/Channel View. Junctions in particular were of concern to the police and the matter would be looked into. Cllr Stokes expressed concern about the number of motorists who drive through the village on mobile phones or texting as they drive, and asked if a "blitzing" of an area would be effective. It was agreed that this was a good exercise, and that one such exercise had been carried out recently in the area.
The problem with speeding on Caerphilly Road was discussed, the fact that the crossing patrol by the Friendly Fox public house had been terminated and that Council felt static speed cameras in both directions would be more beneficial close to the Caerphilly Road/Close junction instead of the current mobile unit.
Cllr Gregory asked that when victims of crime are attended to in the area, could his details be forwarded to the victims. He suggested that as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the area, he could be contacted by them to offer support and advice, this was agreed.
ACC Bottomley and PS Williams were thanked for their time, PS Williams agreed to look at and feedback the suggestions given by Council, and Council were asked to think about how they would like to be further engaged.
ACC Bottomley and PS Williams left the meeting at 7.55pm.
3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2014, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Harries seconded Cllr Evans.

4. Planning:

- a. CONEX/14/0018 - Erection of detached garage. Site: 50 Caerphilly Road, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8LF. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections.

5. Items for next agendas:

Discussion of budget and priority list - 26th February 2014 meeting

6. Items for Discussion:

- a. Lorraine Bottomley, Assistant Chief Constable presentation and discussion - reported above.
- b. Budget review - copies of the Council's accounts to date and details of works to be carried out were given to all Councillors to take away and study in readiness for discussion at the 26th February meeting. Photovoltaic panels were briefly discussed.

It was noted that Councillors had been receiving very complimentary comments regarding the new fencing on the open space in Bassaleg, but that everyone was under the impression it was installed by the City Council and not the Community Council. It was agreed that Council should ensure it is added to the next article submitted to the Bassaleg & Rhiwderin directory.

7. Urgent Business not on the Agenda:

Cllr Caston commented that planning had been passed for the proposed railway station at Pye Corner, it is anticipated that work should be completed by the end of the year.

Cllr Gregory told the group that he and the Clerk had visited the Editor of the Argus regarding his letter sent expressing dismay that newsworthy items Council had undertaken had not been reported in the paper. The Editor apologised and is investigating the matter, it is hoped that relations will be much improved in the future.

Cllr Harris confirmed that following NCC's call for volunteers to organise walks in the area, he had put his name forward and will be assisting NCC with their request.

8. Accounts for payment:

None

Receipts

None

9. Correspondence for information:

Not discussed.

10. Dates of next meetings:

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 26th February 2014 at 7pm
Planning Meeting – Wednesday 12th March 2014 2013 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.30pm. Confirmed this 12th day of March 2014.

Signed..... (Chair) – March 2014

Posted to notice boards 10.03.14

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