



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning and Environmental Meeting held at the Graig Community Hall Bassaleg 6pm on 9th April 2014.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs M Smart, K Sayer
Present: Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, D Evans, N Mountain, W Haigh, V Cox-Wall, J Harris, L Fry, K Harries, P John, A Whitfield
- 2. Public Representations:** None
- 3. Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2014, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Haigh.
- 4. Planning:** None. Cllr Whitfield asked that the Clerk check on the planning decision for the erection of a detached garage for one of the houses on the new former Bassaleg Church Hall site on Caerphilly Road. It was noted that the garage had been constructed despite Council raising concerns and she asked that it be checked that NCC had received and noted Council's comments prior to the decision. Council discussed the fact that despite entering comments on all planning applications they receive, there are times that planning decisions paperwork either note Council's comments as "no comments received" or recommendations seem not to be taken into consideration. Clerk also to check if the proposed widening of Caerphilly Road to make a dedicated right turn into Laurel Drive is to go ahead. It was also noted that there were rumours that Bassaleg Post Office was to move into the convenience store at St Basil's shops. Cllrs to enquire of the Post Mistress when visiting.
- 5. Items for next agendas:**
 - Approval of accounts for internal auditor - 30th April meeting
 - Arrange AGMs for Community Centres - 30th April meeting
- 6. Items for Discussion:**
 - a. Notice board re-siting update - The Clerk informed Council that she had a reply from NCC following her seeking permission to re-site the notice board from the junction of Caerphilly Road and Station Approach to the bus stop at Park View. This stated that the notice board would need to be installed by NCC and the Clerk was awaiting a quote for the work.
 - b. Update on Graig Hall meeting room/kitchen project - Cllr Fry reported that some people had tried to enter the Hall whilst building work was being carried out which could be quite hazardous and notices were made to prevent this happening. Works were proceeding as planned. Cllr Fry was thanked by Council for all his efforts in spearheading the refurbishment works.
 - c. Update in Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade - Cllr Gregory reported that the project was out to tender and that all tenders should be returned by Friday 11th July. The architect is to collate the information and liaise with Cllr Gregory to see if another meeting is necessary.
 - d. Youth Forum update - The first meeting went very well and the children seemed very interested and quite knowledgeable about issues in the ward which was encouraging. Another meeting is to be set for the end of the term. Councillors were encouraged to know of the children's interest and hopes that this interaction with the Community Council will lead to even more of an interest in community life and to using their vote in years to come. The main concern of the children was the lack of play facilities in the ward which will hopefully help when engagement is needed to decide on the kind of equipment most useful to furnish the areas as well as being able to call on the results of the Fort View survey carried out some time ago. Council are still awaiting a response from Newport, but have been assured there will be money to be used to upgrade the play areas in the ward sometime soon.
 - e. Council website - Cllr Cox-Wall reported that she had been in touch with a website creator who had agreed to put a package together for Council to consider. Cllr Gregory also said he had a contact who also was in the same business. Cllr Cox-Wall to contact and ask for a quote to build a new website for the Council and bring the two proposals to the end of month meeting for comparison and discussion.
 - f. Signage - New signage for the car park and open space was presented to Council and approved.
 - g. Engraving of Chain of Office - It was agreed to update the current chain of office which had not been carried out for some years. Councillors were asked to try to remember or discover what had happened to the previous chain of office as the Clerk had not seen it nor knew of its whereabouts. Cllr Caston agreed to contact a former Cllr who was Chair when the new chain was commissioned, to see if the old

chain can be located. Cllr Haigh agreed to look into updating the current chain. Cllr Evan suggested that a board of past Chairmen should be commissioned. Cllr Fry circulated some photographs which he suggested should be framed and hung in the newly enlarged meeting room. Council agreed to this but suggested that as well as the newer photographs supplied by Cllr Fry, it would be good to have some old photographs framed too. Cllrs were asked to submit some old photographs for framing.

7. Urgent Business not on the Agenda:

Cllr Evans reported that as parking at the Hall is an issue, Council should explore the possibility of extending the car park. He worried that groups using the Hall may go elsewhere if the issue persisted. It was agreed that outside factors were mainly to blame such as the increased popularity of the Ruperra Pub, cars being parked whilst drivers car share etc.. It was agreed that other avenues should be explored before committing to increasing the car park and concentration should be centred on keeping the car park free of unauthorised vehicles.

Cllr Harris brought to Council's attention that in Ty Coch Close, residents were concerned for security as the lights in the area were switched off at night making the Close very dark. Cllr Harris was advised to ask residents to ring or email NCC's Contact Centre and attempt to have some of the lights kept on. Clerk to request a map of the area detailing all street lamps and identifying which ones are turned off at night.

Cllr Gregory reported that the dangerous practice of parents parking on Caerphilly Road just prior to the Friendly Fox pub whilst waiting to pick up schoolchildren had been reported to the Police, as this is a particularly hazardous spot to park.

8. Accounts for payment:

None

Receipts

None

9. Correspondence for information:

Not discussed.

10. Dates of next meetings:

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 30th April 2014 at 7pm

Planning Meeting – Wednesday 14th May 2014 2013 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9pm. Confirmed this 14th day of May 2014.

Signed..... (Chair) – May 2014

Posted to notice boards 23.05.14

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