



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Planning and Environmental Meeting held at the Graig Community Hall Bassaleg 6pm on 13th August 2014.

**1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs K Sayer, R Caston.

**Present:** Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), D Evans, V Cox-Wall, J Harris, K Harries, P Stokes, M Smart, W Haigh, N Mountain, L Fry, A Whitfield.

**2. Public Representations:** None

**3. Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2014, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Stokes seconded Cllr Harries.

### **4. Planning:**

a. CONEX/14/0750 - Proposed extension to form one bedroom dwelling (amendment to previous submission 14/0352). Site: 168 Laurel Road, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8PT. Application Type: Full. Comment: Council re-iterates its objections to previous applications to develop this site to create a new dwelling. Especially with regard to overdevelopment of the plot, parking issues and visibility issues of the junction with Grosvenor Road.

### **5. Items for next agendas:**

Photovoltaic cells for Graig Hall - 10th September meeting (LF)

### **6. Items for Discussion:**

- a. Approval of Council Accounts from External Auditor - Council approved the accounts and read and noted the auditor's comments. Minor adjustments were made as suggested. The Annual Return was duly signed by both the Chairman and Clerk ready for final submission.
- b. Chairperson's board for Graig Hall - Cllr Evans advised Council that he had obtained ball-park figures for the creation of a traditional Chairman's board as discussed previously. The board would be likely to cost £1300 for the current Community Council (from 1974) and £1975 for the old Parish Council (from 1874 - 1973). After discussion it was agreed that a modern acrylic version should be purchased for the current Community Council which would cost approximately half the price of the traditional board (proposed Cllr Fry, seconded Cllr Cox-Wall and agreed by all) and further enquiries made as to the full cost of a traditional Parish Council board which could be purchased at a later date if funding is available.
- c. Furniture for coffee room at Graig Hall - Following comments by Cllr Mountain that Hall users agreed the furniture currently placed in the coffee room is acceptable, Council decided to put on hold any plans for purchasing new furniture for the room.
- d. Update on Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade - Cllr Gregory advised Council that the new toilet block and car park were progressing. Savings had been made in some areas but money needed to be spent in other areas due to unexpected issues. Overall the project is expected to have a small overspend of £525. Quotes were being sought for an extension of the fire alarm into the prior Headmasters house, improvements to the gas governor housing and repair and decoration of fascias and guttering.
- e. Christmas event - It was agreed to hold a Christmas tree lighting event again this year, accepting that lessons needed to be learned from last year. Events and Social Committee to arrange to meet in order to start organising.
- f. Bassaleg & Rhiwderin Directory article - Following previous agreement to place an article in the Directory, Cllr Gregory presented a rough draft to Council which was amended slightly. Chairman and Clerk to progress.
- g. Graig Hall car park - Cllr Harris had been conducting a survey of the number of cars parked in the car park at various times. Flyers have been produced to place on cars which are not authorised to park. Cllr Harris was thanked for his vigilance. The situation will continue to be monitored.
- h. Communications between the Community and City Council - Council discussed the growing frustration due to the lack of, or poor communication between the two parties. It was agreed that a formal letter be compiled to the Ward's City Council representatives setting out some examples, and to implore them to take up the issue with the City Council on the Community Council's behalf in an effort to improve relations. It was agreed that if no improvements were forthcoming, the Community Council would seriously consider taking the issue to the Local Government Ombudsman.

**7. Urgent Business not on the Agenda:**

- a. Cllr Whitfield expressed concern regarding a fence which had been erected around a house on Highfield Lane. The fencing seemed very high and should possibly have been a planning consent issue. Clerk to enquire of the Planning Department if permission should have been sought.
- b. Cllr Evans informed the group that the accounts for Graig Community Hall were in dire straits and that he was concerned that the Hall's bank account would fall into debit. Of particular concern was the utilities bills and the Performing Rights Society annual invoice. Clerk to arrange for Council to take over the utility bills for both Graig Hall and Rhiwderin Community Centre as previously agreed.
- c. Cllr Stokes told the group he had been contacted by a resident who had heard that development in the vicinity of Bartholomew's land is to take place. No-one at Council had heard this rumour and the Clerk confirmed that no communications had been received indicating that this could be true.
- d. Cllr Harries confirmed to Council that a resident at the top of Laurel Road had conducted a land registry search, and that the triangle of green at the top of Laurel Road above Duffryn Close was not registered. The Clerk confirmed that a previous search on the area had also delivered her the same information.

**8. Accounts for payment:** None

**Receipts** None

**9. Correspondence for information:**

Not discussed.

**10. Dates of next meetings:**

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 27th August 2014 at 7pm  
Planning Meeting – Wednesday 10th September 2014 2013 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.00pm. Confirmed this 10th day of September 2014.

Signed..... (Chair) – September 2014

Posted to notice boards 26.09.14

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