



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning and Environmental Meeting held at Rhiwderin Community Centre, Rhiwderin 7pm on 10th September 2014.

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

Prior to beginning the meeting Councillors went on a tour of the Centre to look at progress of the upgrade. All were pleased with the results so far.
- 2. Public Representations:** None
- 3. Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2014, previously circulated were read and with the exception of a minor correction were approved. Proposed Cllr Harries seconded Cllr Mountain.
- 4. Planning:**
 - a. CONEX/14/0811 - Demolition of the side extension building and replace with a two story side extension. Site: 12 Church Crescent, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8NQ. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections provided neighbours were consulted and agree.
- 5. Items for next agendas:**
Honorariums - 1st October meeting
Budget & Precept - 29th October meeting
- 6. Items for Discussion:**
 - a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade - The group agreed that work was progressing well so far even though the project was behind schedule. It was noted that the project could have overrun in costs, but due to the diligence and hard work of the architect, savings were made and overall the project was expected to come in slightly under budget. Architect fees were higher than first estimated, but as the architect had project managed the upgrade and saved many thousands of pounds, it was agreed that the benefits far outweighed the extra costs. Rhiwderin Community Centre has offered to make a contribution towards the upgrade following a profitable year. Contracting out the cleaning of the centre was also discussed, Cllr Gregory and Clerk to investigate costs.
 - b. Rhiwderin Community Centre Secretary - Cllr Gregory informed Council that following many years of exceptional service in the role of Treasurer and Secretary of Rhiwderin Community Centre, Mr Geoff Smith had resigned. Council agreed that it was a huge loss to the Centre and commented that Mr Smith had done an excellent job over many years and would be sorely missed by everyone. The engagement of a replacement was discussed.
 - c. Wales Rural Development Programme (Usk Vale Group) invitation to comment - Cllrs Harris and John had looked into the proposal which targeted rural communities in the Vale of Usk which included wards in Newport. The organisation was looking for strategic ideas for funds to be used to make improvements to these areas. The criteria for gaining funding was discussed and ideas were put forward. Cllr Harris to take the matter forward and report back to Council.
 - d. Newport review of polling stations - Cllr Caston had read that there was to be a review of polling stations and put forward the issue of residents in Pentrepoeth Close having to visit Rhiwderin Community Centre to vote whilst having to travel past the polling station at Graig Hall to do so. It was agreed that this was an anomaly which should be addressed if a review was taking place. Clerk to contact NCC Electoral Department to make comment if possible.
 - e. Photovoltaic cells for Graig Hall (LF) - Having given some thought to the earlier discussion approving the investigation into whether installing photovoltaic cells on the roof of Graig Hall would be cost effective, Cllr Fry advised the group that it would be prudent to have the roof surveyed to ensure its structure was suitable to support such an installation. The group agreed and Cllr Fry to progress.
 - f. Premises license for Graig Hall (JH) - Cllr Harris had gained his personal licence discussed previously and advised the group that the premises license for Graig Hall needed to be looked at. Cllr Harris to progress.

- g. Christmas Event - It was agreed that the Christmas Lighting event should be held again this year and a meeting of the Events Committee was needed. Clerk to arrange.
- h. Newport Volunteer Awards - It was agreed that Council would nominate the Best Kept Villages Group for their sterling work in the villages. Also, Cllr Mountain suggested a young volunteer for nomination. Clerk to progress.
- i. Caerphilly Road/Close junction - Previously drawn up plans for a scheme to improve the area were discussed by the group and it was agreed that although the area needed to be upgraded, the plans previously made were not ideal. Cllrs to use the next few weeks to formulate ideas and bring them back to the October planning meeting for discussion. Cllr Sayer offered to work with Cllr Fry on the project.

7. Urgent Business not on the Agenda:

- a. Notification of information event - Cllr Cox-Wall emailed the Clerk to give apologies for the meeting and to advise Council of an information event taking place at Rhiwderin Village Hall on 12th September run by Rosemary Butler AM. Paul Flynn MP would also be in attendance. This information was relayed to Council and noted.
- b. The Clerk advised the group that the scheduled Liaison meeting with NCC had been cancelled and that the next meeting would be held in December.

Cllrs K Sayer, K Harries and N Mountain left the meeting at 8.55pm.

- c. Cllr Harris advised that he was aware that some small plastic bags of the kind that could have been used for drugs were found at the footbridge over the A467 in Bassaleg. The Clerk advised that she had been aware of this and had contacted the Police previously. Clerk to ask for an update.
- d. The Clerk asked to engage a local contractor to trim beneath the new fencing on Caerphilly Road to improve appearances, and to report that growth from the hedgerow dividing the allotments from The Griffin needed clearing by NCC.

8. Accounts for payment: Accepted. Proposed by Cllr Caston and seconded by Cllr John.

Noel Fitzpatrick Ltd - interim invoice for Toilet block at Rhiwderin CC	£11965.28
Noel Fitzpatrick Ltd - Final invoice for car park resurfacing at Rhiwderin CC	£41242.50
Combined Playground Services Ltd - Annual play areas inspection costs	£172.80
Mr C Ricci - bin cleaning for August (replacement cheque, previous lost in post)	£250.00
Total	£53630.58

Direct Debit mandate for signature for Graig Hall water rates monthly payments.
Refund from Wales Audit Office

Receipts None

9. Correspondence for information:

Not discussed.

10. Dates of next meetings:

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 1st October 2014 at 7pm (due to Chairman's absence)
Planning Meeting – Wednesday 15th October 2014 2013 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10pm. Confirmed this 15th day of October 2014.

Signed..... (Chair) – October 2014

Posted to notice boards 24.10.14

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