



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning and Environmental Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg 7pm on 11th February 2015

1. **Apologies for absence:** A Whitfield, K Sayer, M Cornelious, V Cox-Wall, P John, W Haigh.
Present: Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, J Harris, K Harries, D Evans, N Mountain, M Smart, L Fry, P Stokes.
2. **Public Representations:** None.
3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2015, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Evans.
4. **Items for Discussion:**
 - a. Welcome new Police Inspector and Sergeant - The Inspector and Sergeant were invited to meet the Council following their new appointments but were unable to attend. The recent serious incident at Church Crescent reported in the local newspaper was briefly discussed.
 - b. Council finances - deferred to later in the meeting.
 - c. Fire evacuation procedures - Cllr Fry reported that drawings for Graig Community Centre had been completed for the fire evacuation manuals and procedures he and Cllr Harris had complied. The Clerk was asked to source binders for the new paperwork which would be kept at the Centre. Cllrs Harris and Mountain joined the meeting at 7.10pm giving apologies for lateness. Cllr Harris explained the new paperwork and notices displayed in the foyer. Cllr Gregory reported that he had obtained two quotes and was waiting on another to extend the fire alarm system into the Headmasters House at Rhiwderin Community Centre, but needed a risk assessment, Cllrs Harris and Fry offered advice and help. Cllrs Fry and Harris were thanked for their work on improving Graig Community Centre's procedures, and Cllr Gregory suggested inviting the Fire Service to the Centre to take a look around.
 - d. Dog fouling - Cllr Gregory reported that he and the Clerk had met with NCC Community Safety Wardens following the continuing dog fouling issues in the ward. They confirmed they would have no hesitation in fining anyone seen not picking up after their pets. NCC's policy was to move away from attempting to educate people to handing out more fines and would be more pro-active in seeking out offenders. Extra patrols would take place and more stencilling on pavements reminding residents to "bag and bin it" would be carried out. Council agreed to have some extra signage produced to be displayed in the problem areas.
 - e. Play areas update - Cllr Gregory told the group that he, Cllr Smart and the Clerk had met with the NCC Officer in charge of creating the proposed new play areas for an update on progress, and were told that the play area previously proposed for the junction of Caerphilly Road and The Griffin had been reconsidered following the public consultation. The play area had now been moved to the open space close to Graig Hall car park instead. NCC were looking to go out to tender and following a further consultation based on the plans drawn up by the play specialists tendering, he would be looking to have the play areas installed and ready for use some time during the school summer holidays. Three areas were still to be given to both Bassaleg and Rhiwderin villages as he believes that by supplying so many, children using them would be dispersed throughout the villages avoiding conflict and large groups congregating in one place.
 - f. School Liaison meeting update - An update of the recent meeting at Bassaleg School was given. It was felt the meeting went well and both Cllrs and Mr Batton (teacher liaison for the meetings) felt some interesting information was relayed on both sides. Another meeting is planned for next term. Cllr Harris reported that he planned to arrange a similar meeting for Pentrepoeth Primary School.
 - b. Council finances - a set of accounts were made available to each Councillor and the figures were discussed briefly. It was agreed that Council's previous projections were on target and finances were looking as expected. More money is earmarked to finish the upgrade of Rhiwderin Community Centre, as all expected works are not yet complete but the budget for the work had been taken into consideration in the figures and looked to be on target. Councillors were asked to study the figures at their leisure and the accounts would be revisited in the near future.
5. **Planning:**
None

6. Items for next agenda:

None

7. Urgent Business not on the Agenda:

- a. Cllr Caston told the group that following NCC's adoption of the LDP he was pleased to see that the Inspector did not allow the extra land requested for housing at the Former Tredegar Park Golf Club Development. The Inspector had recommended that all the cycle-ways planned for the area should be implemented, and that the flood prevention arrangements must be kept in place. The green belt between Newport and Cardiff was to be extended to Michaelstone-Y-Fedw and the green wedge retained.
- b. Cllr Gregory told the group that he had heard there may be plans in the near future to ask for planning permission to build on the area in front of the nearest property to Caerphilly Close on the former Garthfield Cottage site. It was noted that the owner had removed some trees and all the mature hedging on the boundary between his property and the public footpath up to Pentrepoeth School from Caerphilly Close, replacing it with some temporary plastic fencing. Council felt this fencing was totally inadequate and unsafe considering schoolchildren use the footpath and were also dismayed that mature hedging and trees had been removed. Clerk to investigate with NCC Planning Department and Countryside Wardens.
- c. Cllr Fry asked the Clerk to investigate whether NCC or NetworkRail were responsible for cutting along the fence line to the railway between the Rhiwderin Inn and Laurel Road, as brambles have taken hold over the years, look unsightly, and are in danger of encroaching the footpath.
- d. Cllr Mountain reported he had been told there were rumours that there was the possibility of a road being built from the former Alcan site development into Bassaleg, coming out in Church Crescent. No City Cllr was present to advise, but having had all plans for the access to the site forwarded to Council for comment, it was agreed by all that no plans had been put forward for a road into Bassaleg. The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Cornelious and the Community Council had already stated that no road should be constructed between the site and Bassaleg or Rhiwderin in their comments to the Planning Department.
- e. Cllr Stokes reported that Bassaleg Post Office were fundraising for the Alzheimer's Society and suggested Council make donation as the society does a lot of work in supporting local residents who suffer from the condition. Council agreed on a donation of £100 to the cause, and to help publicise the event on social media.

8. Accounts for payment:

None

9. Correspondence for information:

Not discussed.

10. Dates of next meetings:

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 25th February 2015 at 7pm
Planning Meeting – Wednesday 11th March 2015 2013 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.55pm. Confirmed this 11th day of March 2015.

Signed..... (Chair) – March 2015

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Clerk to the Council: Sian Davies
Email: clerk@graigcc.co.uk Website: www.graigcc.co.uk

Website: www.graigcc.co.uk



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