



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

**1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs A Whitfield, P Stokes.

**Present:** Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, J Harris, K Harries, D Evans, N Mountain, L Fry, K Sayer, V Cox-Wall, P John, W Haigh.

**2. Public Representations:** One member of the public who wished only to observe, Mr Adams.

**3. Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2015, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Evans seconded Cllr Haigh.

### **4. Items for Discussion:**

a. Council finances (Projects) - Deferred to the end of the meeting.

b. Litter bins - the litter bin at the Forge Mews side of the footbridge over the A467 was thought to have disappeared. Clerk to ask NCC for a replacement and also if the Community Council were prepared to supply extra bins in the ward, would NCC would agree to add them to the refuse emptying schedules. The Clerk was asked to have the litter bin at the former Rhiwderin play area relocated to the open space green and to arrange for it to be emptied by the Community Council's regular contractor who maintains the area. Cllr Gregory agreed to look at designs for dog waste signs for the ward to help alleviate the dog mess issue in the area. Cllr Sayer reported that the gully ways and footpaths in the Bassaleg area were very littered and in need of cleansing, Clerk to investigate if this was the responsibility of NCC or NCH.

c. Parking on river bridge in Bassaleg - A complaint had been received regarding inconsiderate parking on the river bridge at Forge Mews, and that also there were youths drinking and taking drugs in the area as had previously been an issue. Clerk to report the practice to the Police and ask for patrols to be carried out. Regarding the inconsiderate parking, it was agreed that any restrictions requested from NCC would be denied due to costs and needing traffic orders, and if the Community Council were to place a sign in the area it would not be enforceable.

d. Combining inspection schedules for both Community Centres - It was agreed that this would be a sensible thing to do, and that hopefully it would save money. Clerk and Chairman to take forward.

e. Folk & Food Festival - Cllr Harris gave the group details of the forthcoming folk festival event being held at the Ruperra and also at Graig Hall on the 18th April 2015, and asked if the Community Council were prepared to allow a banner to be erected on the open space fencing to advertise the event. It was agreed that as no other organisations were allowed to erect banners, it would be unfair to allow this. It was agreed a banner could be displayed on the day of the event as other organisations have been allowed, but must be taken down when the event is concluded. It was also agreed that the Council would donate £50 towards the event. It was suggested that the Ruperra could place a banner on the railings outside the pub or on the pub itself prior to the event.

### **5. Planning:**

a. CONEX/15/0064 - First floor side extension. Site: 22 Park View Gardens, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8JZ. Application Type: Full. Comment - No objections.

b. CONEX/15/0204 - Erection of 14 dwellings, new road, drainage, main services and associated works. Site: Land to the rear and north of 1-16 Ruperra Close, Bassaleg, Newport. Application Type: Full (Major). Comment - Council strongly objects on the grounds that this would be overdevelopment for such a long narrow site, and that the access to the site is very narrow and passes by a busy restaurant and church hall on a road which already has very bad parking issues. Any increase in traffic would exacerbate the issues at the junction of Caerphilly Rd, Viaduct Way, Station Approach, and Churchmead even though improvements have been suggested. The impact on the surrounding road infrastructure and local facilities would be put under even more pressure, particularly the A468/A467.

### **6. Items for next agenda:**

None

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

- a. Cllr Caston asked if there was any news on the Coach House issue on Caerphilly Road which was previously discussed. The Clerk had written but had received no reply to date and would write again for an update.
- b. Cllr Gregory mentioned the forthcoming Liaison meeting with NCC, the Clerk to ask for a Concurrent expenditure update be added to the agenda for the next meeting following the previous meeting's discussions, and Community Councils being asked to submit their preferences for a fairer method of distribution.
- c. Cllr Harris informed the group he had attended a meeting regarding the Active Travel Bill which is being introduced to encourage people to walk and cycle more.
- d. Cllr Gregory informed the group there was a position being advertised on the panel for the Boundary Commission Wales board if any Councillor was interested in applying.

**8. Accounts for payment:**

None

**9. Correspondence for information:**

Not discussed.

The member of the public who was observing the meeting left at 8.15pm.

- 4a. Deferred from earlier in the meeting. Council finances (Projects) - The current and forthcoming projects were discussed. Cllr Fry proposed upgrading the toilets and foyer at Graig Hall and told Council he was putting together a proposal with full estimated costs which would be presented at the 25th March meeting. Council discussed what it could do for the outlying areas of the ward such as Afon Village and Lower Machen, it was decided that some new village signage welcoming people into the area would be desirable. Once a design is decided, Clerk to request permission for the erection of the signs for the villages.

**10. Dates of next meetings:**

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 25th March 2015 at 7pm

Planning Meeting – Wednesday 8th April 2015 2013 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.30pm. Confirmed this 8th day of April 2015.

Signed..... (Chair) – April 2015

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