



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Planning and Environmental Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg 7pm on 8th July 2015

Minutes of the Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg at 7pm on 8th July 2015.

**1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs A Whitfield, K Sayer, K Harries, V Cox-Wall, D Williams.

**Present:** Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, D Evans, P Stokes, M Smart, N Mountain, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, M Cornelious. Also present Mr M Griffiths of Stratus Environmental Ltd, Dr Clive Wetherby of SBC Renewables and 5 members of the public, Mr R Pope, Mr R Smart, Mr D Stanbridge, Mr J Adams & Mrs B Adams.

**2/3. Presentation on a proposed solar farm at Pantglas Farm Rhiwderin:** Mr Griffiths and Dr Wetherby were introduced to the group and gave a short presentation on proposals to install a solar farm at Pantglas Farm in Rhiwderin. Mr Griffiths confirmed that the company had sought pre-application advice earlier in the year and had been advised that the proposal did not require an environmental assessment. The proposal was to place a solar farm on land leased from the landowner, the company was now in the process of engaging with stakeholders. The attending members of the public all had properties in the area and had grave concerns about the development. The solar farm would be highly visible from the homes of all who attended the meeting, and one home in particular would be almost completely surrounded by solar panels which would be visible from every window of their home. Council were concerned about the visual impact on the residents, the village, the surrounding area and public rights of way as the area is much used by walkers and joggers. It was also noted that the Sirhowy Way walk went through the area. Mr Griffiths confirmed that the company intended to present a planning application for the scheme during August 2015. Cllr Gregory asked that the company arrange to meet again with Council in the near future, and that they produce accurate projections of the visual impact on residents. The residents of Pantglas Farm invited a delegation of Cllrs to visit the site which was taken up, the date to be arranged with the Clerk in the near future. All visitors were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting at 19.40pm.

**4. Minutes:** There was no Planning meeting on 10th June 2015, instead a planning training session for Councillors was held. Therefore, there were no meeting minutes to be approved.

### **5. Items for Discussion:**

- a. Play Areas (update) - Cllr Gregory reported that he had been given plans of the play areas and had displayed them in the relevant community centres. He had been contacted by a number of residents to say that they thought the plans looked good. NCC confirmed that as they had not heard from the objectors of the Caernarvon Drive proposals nor from the Ombudsman, and that works would proceed. All installations are planned for August 2015.
- b. Bassaleg Allotments (greenhouses & maintenance of vacant plots) - Cllr Caston informed the group that 3 more plot holders had given up their plots making 7 plots available in total. A letter to plot holders was read out which informed allotment holders of Council's decision to allow greenhouses on the site provided strict rules were adhered to. Following a quote for the cost of strimming, rotavating and covering plots being more expensive than first expected, it had been decided that strimming and covering the plots would be sufficient. Clerk to ask the contractor to re-quote. Cllr Harris joined the meeting at 20.50pm.
- c. Liaison meeting (update) - Cllr Caston reported that Concurrent expenditure was discussed but was not being adequately dealt with. He submitted a letter he had drafted to Cllr Giles (the Cabinet Member for Human Resources and Assets at NCC). He asked Council to support its contents and to authorise the Clerk to send the letter on behalf of Graig Community Council to rebut an earlier letter sent to Cllr Giles by Rogerstone Community Council. The letter was approved, Clerk to draw up and deliver.
- d. Maintenance at Wentworth Lane - Following a call from a resident the Clerk informed Council of a complaint that the lane was overgrown and was becoming difficult for pedestrians to use. Cllr Gregory to investigate.
- e. Maintenance at St Basil's Roundabout - It was noted that the shrubs on the planting boxes on the roundabout were dying, Cllr Fry offered to contact the contractors to find a solution.

- f. NCC's proposed CIL draft charging schedule proposal for review and comment - Cllr Caston offered to review and return to Council at the next meeting.
- g. SWOB letter to landowner (for information) - The letter the group submitted was read out and its contents noted. Council agreed that they supported the spirit of the enterprise.
- h. Councillor vacancy (update) - The Clerk confirmed that there had been 2 interested applicants to date but it was not yet known if an election would be necessary. The closing date for calling for an election was the following day, and the closing date for applicants to apply to be co-opted was Friday 10th July 2015. As the Clerk would be on annual leave at this time, she would take up the arrangements on her return.
- i. Police report for June - The report for June was read out to Council. During June 101 calls were made to the 26 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: criminal damage/arson 5, all other theft 2, shoplifting 2, violence with injury 2, violence without injury 4, public order 3, vehicle crime 2, burglary - dwelling 1, bicycle theft 1, burglary - non dwelling 1, sexual offences 1. There had been an increase of 3 calls for anti-social behaviour. Section 59 warnings were given for anti-social driving on Viaduct Way and the missing bollards at the lane entry point have been reported to NCC's Highways department. 3 arrests had been made for a burglary at Pentre Tai Road and 1 arrest for a burglary at Pentrepoeth School. Regular patrols were being carried out following reports of drugs misuse in Grosvenor Road.
- j. Invitation to attend Bassaleg School "Community Week" - Council were reminded of the invitation. Cllr Harris agreed to attend.

**6. Planning:**

CONEX/15/0640 - Substitution of house type, alteration to approved dwelling to include the erection of a rear conservatory. Site: Plot 21 Phase H3 Jubilee Park Development Site, Tregwilym Road, Rogerstone, Newport. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections.

**7. Items for next agenda:**

Cllr Harris reported that he had been approached by someone who wanted to hold a presentation event at Graig Hall regarding a proposal for a crematorium to be built in the area. As Cllr Harris had very little information, and this would be a very contentious issue, he was asked to direct the gentleman to contact the Council via the Chairman or the Clerk.

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

None.

**9. Accounts for payment:** Approved, proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Stokes

SSE - Graig Community Centre electricity invoice £506.73

**10. Correspondence for information:**

Not discussed.

**11. Dates of next meetings**

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 29th July 2015 at 7pm  
 Planning Meeting – Wednesday 12th August 2015 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9pm. Confirmed this 12th day of August 2015.

Signed..... (Chair) – August 2015

Posted to notice boards 21.08.15

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

Website: www.graiGCC.co.uk

 www.facebook.com/GraigCommunityCouncil

 @GraigCommCoun