



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Planning and Environmental Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg 7pm on 12th August 2015

Minutes of the Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg at 7pm on 12th August 2015.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs R Caston, K Sayer, K Harries, J Harris, D Williams.  
**Present:** Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), A Whitfield, D Evans, P Stokes, M Smart, P John, N Mountain, W Haigh, L Fry, V Cox-Wall.
- 2. To receive public representations if required:** None
- 3. Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2015, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Stokes seconded Cllr Evans.
- 4. Reports:** Brought forward from 25th August meeting as some Members would be on leave.
  - a. Police - Cllr Gregory reported that following a comment on Council's social media, Gwent's PCC picked up the comment and local police staff were taken to task which they were upset about. A discussion followed about what information should be released on social media and whether guidelines should be introduced. Cllr Cox-Wall joined the meeting at 7.15pm and was appraised of the meeting so far. The July report was read out to the group. During July the Ward had experienced 26 crimes, categorised as follows: Criminal Damage & Arson - 6, All Other Theft - 1, Shoplifting - 2, Violence without Injury - 5, Drug Offences - 1, Vehicle Crime - 10, Public Order Offences - 1. Your Voice has now replaced the previously known 'PACT'. Your Voice Surveys were completed by residents in March both in person with local Officers and are available to view online at <https://www.gwent.police.uk/yourvoicesurvey/> After reports of anti-social behaviour in the area of Lavender Way an action place was put in place, involving local officers, response officers and community safety wardens. This has resulted in numerous youths being identified and having their names taken, the last call to the location was on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July where the youths had made off prior to the arrival of officers. There have been several calls to the area of Five Lanes concerning off road bikes, there is an operation being planned to counter this activity in the near future, at present mobile patrols are being carried out on a regular basis. there had been parking issues at Tabernacle Drive in Rhiwderin and an incident with stone throwing on River Mead Way. Local CSO's have attended various engagement events during July and will continue to do so throughout the month of August which can be discussed in more detail at the forthcoming surgeries. It appears that a trend is starting to take place in the area of Caerphilly Close with unknown youths kicking front doors and running away, these incident need to be reported when they happen to enable a better picture of the issue to be built. There also appears to be a trend starting in the area of the Friendly Fox on Friday and Saturday nights with rowdy behaviour and bad language outside the premises this has been forwarded to the relevant officers who deal with licence premises. It was noted that no Police representatives are stated for the Graig area on the Police mobile app as there should be.
  - b. Newport City Councillors - NTR, no City Cllrs present.
  - c. Graig Community Centre - Cllr Evans reported that the Management Sub-Committee had held their AGM the previous Monday and that there were no current issues. The Centre's finances were stable and could now support using its own money to fund any day to day maintenance and sundry costs. Cllr Fry reported that the fire extinguisher testing was to be carried out the following week and an automatic shut off valve for the gas supply is to be fitted.
  - d. Rhiwderin Community Centre - Cllr Gregory told the group that there had been a smell of gas reported, a leak was attended to and appliances serviced. Following a second report of the smell of gas it seemed there was some form of emission but no leak was detected. It was agreed that a safety shut off valve be installed at this location too. A local contractor had been engaged as agreed previously to install the fire alarm and also carry out emergency lighting and PAT testing which would begin within the next week or two. The Centre's AGM has been set for 14th September 2015. The Clerk was asked to engage a local contractor to weed kill and clean-up all the hard standing areas of the Centre.
  - e. Best Kept Villages Group - Cllr Fry reported that he was waiting for a quote to carry out an improved landscaping scheme at St Basil's shops roundabout and was drawing up a plan for the front of the shops area which he would have included in the quote.

- f. Allotments - It was noted that residents who had made enquiries were being offered vacant plots and the newly formed working party was beginning to sort out some maintenance issues.
- g. Play Areas - Cllr Gregory confirmed that the football posts on the open space had been removed by the contractors as they did not conform to current safety standards. The Community Council still did not have a schedule for the works being carried out and Council felt a little let down that they are not being kept informed of developments. On a more positive note, the equipment is very good, caters for all age groups and a reasonable amount of green space at Bassaleg is still available to use although all felt it could have been a little more condensed to leave a larger open space. Caernarvon Drive play area has been postponed at present, and following a meeting between the residents and the NCC Officer in charge of the project, Council believes that the residents have been given until 21st August to bring an alternative suggestion to the NCC Officer. The Community Council was very disappointed not to have been informed or invited to the meeting. Cllr Gregory told the group he had been asked to sign a petition against the play area which described the development as a "skate park" which it clearly would not be according to the displayed plans.
- h. Burial Board - Cllr Harris had completed his term as Chairman to the Board and the position would now be taken over by a Rogerstone Community Cllr.

### **5. Items for discussion:**

- a. Request for donation from Whitehead Steelers JRFC - Cllr Whitfield declared an interest and did not take part in the decision. All other Cllrs agreed that £150 be donated as in previous years and that the Clerk request confirmation on how the money was spent.
- b. M4 Corridor around Newport exhibition dates - noted but not discussed.
- c. Funding and grants - Cllr Whitfield reported that the criteria for funding from the Big Lottery Fund was very similar to that of the Heritage Fund. It was agreed that some assistance would be useful to her and Cllrs Caston and Smart offered to help. Cllr Whitfield to meet with them as a working group. Cllr Cox-Wall left the meeting briefly at 8.20pm.
- d. Pantglas Farm site visit - All who attended agreed that the visit was very worthwhile and it gave a good insight to just how affected the residences in the area would be. A close eye is to be kept out for any planning applications which may follow.
- e. Christmas lighting event - Discussed briefly prior to the Events Sub-Committee meeting, it was considered if the event needed to be ticketed to keep numbers limited, but it was decided that it would be logistically difficult to do so. Less advertising last year kept numbers to a manageable size although it is recognised that the management of the outdoor section of the event needs to be revised.
- f. Graig Hall car park - Cllr Gregory noted that when there were previous issues with parking at the Hall car park, he and Cllr Harris had a meeting with the landlord of the Ruperra and agreed to a number of suggestions to help alleviate the problem but most have not been carried through. It was also suggested that another letter to residents be sent, but was agreed for the time being to just keep an eye on the situation and revise if necessary. Cllr Cox-Wall returned to the meeting.

### **6. Planning:**

CONEX/15/0893 - Erection of front extension. Site: 28 Park View, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8LA. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections.

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

Bore hole for water supply to Graig Hall and allotment site - 25th August 2015 meeting.  
Councillor vacancy interviews - 9th September 2015 meeting.

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

A letter drafted to the owner of the Coach House on Caerphilly Road was read and approved for sending. A letter to Cllr G Giles, the Cabinet Member for Human Resources and Assets at NCC was read and approved for sending. Cllr Haigh added that City Cllr Cornelious had attended a site meeting at the top of Highfield Lane and had agreed to ask NCC to carry out some maintenance in the area. Cllr Cox-Wall reported the difficulty for residents living beyond St Basil's Church now that the new gas pipeline road works were in place and was concerned should emergency service vehicles should be needed in the area as they would not be able to get through the road works as they were. Cllr Gregory advised Council he would be on leave for the next meeting dated 26th August 2015 and Vice-Chairman Cllr Fry agreed to take the Chair.

<b>9. Accounts for payment:</b> Approved, proposed Cllr John, seconded Cllr Whitfield	
Newport City Council - Rhiwderin CC annual lease	£50.00
K Jones Heating Services Ltd - repair of leak and annual service to Rhiwderin CC	£378.00
	<b>Total £428.00</b>

**10. Correspondence for information:**

Not discussed.

**11 Dates of next meetings**

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 26th August 2015 at 7pm  
 Planning Meeting – Wednesday 9th September 2015 at 6.30pm

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

Signed..... (Chair) – September 2015

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