



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning and Environmental Meeting held at Rhiwderin Village Hall, Bassaleg 7pm on 13th April 2016

Minutes of the Meeting held at Rhiwderin Village Hall, Rhiwderin at 7pm on 13th April 2016.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs R Caston, K Sayer, M Cornelious, D Williams

Present: Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), A Whitfield, D Evans, M Smart, K Harries, P John, N Mountain, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, V Cox-Wall, P Appleton

2. To receive public representations if required: None.

Cllr Gregory apologised to the group for the late change of venue, but due to refurbishments at Graig Hall and the heavier bookings at Rhiwderin CC, it was unlikely that the room at Rhiwderin CC would be available in time to start the meeting promptly.

3. Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2016, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr John seconded Cllr Harries. Arising from the minutes, it was asked if the Police had responded to the question of what "incidents" refer to on the reports from them, no reply had been received to date. The Clerk confirmed that NCC are happy with the locations requested to place planters except for the location of St Basil's Shops as this area is controlled by Newport City Homes. NCH have been contacted and a response is awaited.

4. Reports:

- a. Police – No Officers were able to attend, but the report received for March was read out. The report contained the following information: During March there had been 99 calls to the Police, 15 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: All Other Theft - 2, Vehicle Crime - 1, Violence with Injury - 1, Criminal Damage - 2, Burglary Dwelling - 2, Burglary Non-Dwelling - 2, Violence without Injury - 5. Following the latest Your Voice survey, the Ward priority is still speeding on Laurel Road. Residents can speak with local Officers and give comments online via <https://www.gwent.police.uk/yourvoicesurvey/>. Speed checks had been carried out on Laurel Road and the paperwork has been sent to the Speed Analysis Unit. The results will be available once analysed. A male had been dealt with in the Bassaleg area for the cultivation of cannabis and drug dealing had been reported in the area of the green river bridge and Jasmine Close in Afon Village. There were also reports of anti-social behaviour in the same area and local teams were carrying out patrols. Reports of heavy goods vehicles using Pentrepoeth Road are to be investigated by local teams who will carry out patrols in the area. Council discussed the report but did not fully understand the statistics it contained. The new Inspector to be invited to meet with Council where this can be discussed. Cllr Gregory explained that the Community Speedwatch programme was being reviewed and its responsibilities were to be passed on to local officers, when things are settled the Council will be contacted to set up a programme in the ward. The issues on Pentrepoeth Road, which includes HGV's, speeding traffic and lack of pavements were discussed and it was decided to look at arranging a public meeting for local residents to attend to look at ways to push for traffic calming and weight restrictions to be placed on the road.

Action - The Clerk was asked to invite the new Police Inspector to attend a meeting. Clerk and Chairman to look at holding a public meeting for residents of Pentrepoeth Road.

5. Items for discussion:

- a. Council Finances at Year End - The Clerk circulated what is expected to be the financial position at year end for Council's finances. This was yet to be confirmed as the final bank statement for the year had not been received to reconcile, but would be within a few pounds of the final figure.

Action: Clerk to finalise once bank statements have been received and circulate the full accounts to Cllrs. Clerk to submit final accounts to the internal auditor by 5th May 2016.

- b. Graig Community Council Calendar Proposal (NM) - Cllr Mountain put forward the proposal that Council consider producing a calendar using photographs of the villages kindly given by the Bassaleg & Rhiwderin Directory producers to use free of charge. The estimated cost from a local printer was £1200 for 1000 calendars which Cllr Mountain suggested could be sold by Cllrs and the local shops and post offices. All agreed this was a very nice idea and approved for Cllr Mountain and a working group to progress.

Action: Cllr Mountain and the working group of Cllrs Smart, Appleton and Cox-Wall to progress. Clerk to add the item to the Projects section of the Full Council meeting agenda for regular feedback.

- c. Farrier's Gate parking issues (VCW) - Cllr Cox-Wall reported that there had been disquiet with the residents of Farrier's Gate regarding parking issues. She had visited and spoken to many residents in the area who were concerned about the parking on the pavement of Forge Road which can obscure turning in and out of the cul-de-sac in addition to obstructing the pavement for pedestrians and cycle path users, and that generally the area is congested due to the number of vehicles parked in the cul-de-sac. It was noted that parking is greatly exacerbated when the school is open, and that the school does not assist to resolve the problems. It was also noted that one resident has turned a piece of waste ground at the rear of his property into a parking bay for 2 cars. Cllr Cox-Wall spoke with the gentleman who, with the best of intentions, had carried out this work without the authority of the City Council. Council agreed that even though the gentleman was attempting to help the parking situation, they could not condone the creation of the parking bay without the proper permissions and should write to the gentleman advising that they have real concerns regarding the parking bay as it has no dropped kerb, cars would be reversing from the bay onto a highway that can be very busy at times, that trees and shrubs were removed without permission and the wall alongside altered. That he should heed advice from NCC that either the proper permissions are sought or that he should abandon its use and return the area to its former state. It was also noted by Cllr Cox-Wall when she visited the area that at the side of the school property on the corner of Vicarage Close and Forge Road where fencing should meet the front gates of the school, the new fencing that has been erected has not been completed and road signage has been removed. Harras fencing encloses the area but a good deal of rubbish has been left.

Action: Clerk to write to the owner of the house who created the parking bay to advise him of Council's comments and also to the school to ensure the fencing contractor completes the fencing, removes the rubbish and the replaces the street signage as soon as possible. Also to ask for assistance with educating the students on responsible parking and provide extra on-site parking for students who are causing parking issues in Court Crescent, Vicarage Close, Farrier's Gate, The Griffin, Penylan Road, Caerphilly Road, Forge Road and Churchmead.

- d. Street lighting (PG & AW) - Cllr Whitfield felt the responses from NCC over the past 30 years and recently regarding the lack of street lighting on both Caerphilly Road and Laurel Road are unacceptable, especially in light of Council gaining the knowledge that the City Council has had an under-spend of funds both last year and this year. NCC have carried out investigations in both areas and agree the lighting is sub-standard but cite lack of funding for refusing to make improvements. She reported that she regularly walks along Laurel Road and that in places a torch is necessary to light the way. All agreed that any leftover under-spend by NCC at the end of the year should be used to make priority improvements such as these. As the City Cllrs have been asked to take this issue forward already there is no action point allocated to this item.
- e. Graig Hall toilet refurbishment update - Cllr Fry reported that the refurbishment is proceeding as expected and should be finished on time. There was an issue with an incoming water supply which has been resolved by Welsh Water at no cost to the project. It was agreed that the Hall should engage a hygiene bin service for the toilets at a cost of £104 per annum.

Action: Cllr Fry to progress and Cllr Evans to arrange the hygiene bin contract.

- f. Graig Diamond Jubilee Path leaflets (JH) - Cllr Harris reported that all the English versions of the Graig Diamond Jubilee Path have been distributed and that more were needed. NCC were to arrange the printing of another 1000 leaflets at the cost of £186. Council agreed to contribute half of the costs for the production run.

Action: Cllr Harris to advise the Clerk to whom payment should be made and request an invoice for the cost, Clerk to add to the 27th April meeting agenda for authorisation of cheque payment.

6. Planning:

Deferred to the end of the meeting.

7. Items for next agenda:

None to date

8. Urgent Business not on the Agenda:

- a. Cllr Harries advised the group that rubbish had been dumped at the end of Duffryn Close.

Action: Cllr Gregory to investigate.

- b. Cllr Smart advised that 6 planters had been taken to a location where they could be stored and painted under cover. She had spoken to the BKV group who were unhappy that Council were considering using all

the planters as the cost of maintenance could be better spent elsewhere, and as they already maintain so many themselves it would be overkill to locate another 19 throughout the villages. It was agreed that for now the 6 would be refurbished and placed as follows: 2 at Lower Machen, 2 at the Friendly Fox (replacing the 2 located there currently) and 2 at St Basil's shops if permission is given. One quote gained would see the costs for each planter at £40 per annum to plant and £70 per annum to maintain. It was unanimously agreed that Council would not wish to offend the BKV group and would look at finding a way to assist their efforts.

Action: Cllrs Smart and Appleton to progress and Council to look again at assisting the BKV group more.

- c. Cllr Cox-Wall told the group that she was aware that there would very likely soon be another application for housing on the land at Station Approach. This land has previously been subject to a planning application which was later withdrawn and prompted the creation of the Save Our Woodland Bassaleg group. She was aware that the developer would want to cut down 60% of the individual trees and 60% of the groups of trees on the site and that some had been marked up, it was thought the reason for this could be to cut the trees down. She asked that everyone keep an eye on the area and as the trees are subject to TPO's, it would be a crime to cut them down so the Police should be informed immediately.

Action: All to monitor the area whenever possible and report any suspicious activity to Cllr Cox-Wall.

- d. Cllr Fry advised he had received more complaints from residents in Pentrepoeth Road about waste lorries visiting Croescarneinon Farm, he had raised the issue with Cllr Cornelious in September 2015. Cllr Gregory told him that the issue had been taken as far as possible during that time with NCC's Environmental Dept and that everything had been checked out by them and eventually approved. Despite the fact that the area had a bad history it was felt that Council would be unable to help further

Action: Cllr Fry was advised to ask residents to contact NCC themselves to see if any more could be done.

- e. Cllr Appleton advised Council that She, the Chairman and the Clerk had met again with the local contractor engaged to undertake extra cleansing of the play areas following receipt of the timesheets previously issued to him being returned. This meeting was to ascertain what areas were being covered and what was the breakdown of the time spent at each park. Following this, it was thought that some improvements could be made in the area of rubbish disposal and litter picking. It was suggested that the rubbish from the play areas could be combined with the rubbish from Graig Hall to save on time spent taking it to the local waste disposal site, and that the contractor would include the area around both community centres when litter picking (as well as defining other areas not covered) which would eliminate the need for Graig Hall to carry out litter picking themselves. Cllr Appleton was thanked for her efforts which all agreed would be sensible to put in place.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Evans regarding the litter bin collections. Cllr Evans to stop litter picking taking place by Hall employees. The situation to be monitored to ensure once changed it ran smoothly.

Cllr Harris left at 8.50pm.

- f. Cllr Appleton also mentioned that graffiti was appearing in the villages and noted areas in both Bassaleg and Rhiwderin where it was spotted.

Action: Clerk to report to NCC and request a clean-up crew to attend to its removal.

- g. Cllr Gregory told everyone the AGM for the Council would be held on 25th May 2016, and he felt it important, that within reason, all Cllrs should be prepared to undertake an active role in Council business if they wished to continue to serve.

- h. Cllr Gregory advised Council he had received an email from the Officer in charge of the play areas upgrades which stated that the land which was the former site of Rhiwderin Play Area had now been purchased and plans to construct the new play area could proceed. Unfortunately a 2m strip of the land had to be forfeited and kept free of equipment, as the seller would only agree to the purchase if this was kept available for future access options should any development take place next to the play area.

9. Accounts for payment: Proposed Cllr Appleton, seconded Cllr Haigh.

Rhiwderin Village Hall - Hire on 13.04.16

£20.00

Receipts

None

6. Planning: Deferred from earlier in the meeting.

- a. App No: 16/0261 Type: Full Expiry: 25/05/2016 Site: 23 Springfield Lane, Rhiwderin, Newport, NP10 8QZ
Proposal: SINGLE STOREY GARDEN EXTENSION AND FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION OVER GARAGE
Comment: No objections provided neighbours are consulted and agree.

- b. App No: 16/0262 Type: Full Expiry: 23/05/2016 Site: 20 Gloch Wen Close, Rhiwderin, Newport, NP10 8UN Proposal: PROPOSED SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, INSERTION OF FIRST FLOOR WINDOW IN BOTH SIDE ELEVATIONS AND REAR VELUX ROOFLIGHTS
Comment: Concerns of possible overdevelopment of the site and also that one of the proposed windows would overlook the neighbouring property.
Action: Clerk to forward comments to NCC's Planning Department, and as it was agreed that discussing planning applications would sit better at the end of the agenda, to move the Planning item for both Full Council and Planning meetings.

10. Correspondence for information:

Not discussed.

11 Dates of next meetings

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 27th April 2016 at 7pm
Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 11th May 2016 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.17pm. Confirmed this 11th day of May 2016.

Signed..... (Chair) – May 2016

Posted to notice boards 14.05.16

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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