



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Planning and Environmental Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg at 7pm on 11th May 2016**

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- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs A Whitfield, P Stokes, K Sayer, M Cornelious  
**Present:** Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, D Evans, M Smart, K Harries, N Mountain, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, V Cox-Wall, P Appleton
- 2. To receive public representations if required:** None.
- 3. To welcome Inspector Richard Blakemore of the Newport West Policing Team:** Inspector Blakemore was introduced to the group.
- 4. Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2016, previously circulated were read and subject to a small amendment were approved. Proposed Cllr Haigh seconded Cllr Evans. Cllr Caston commented that the introduction of action points for each item were helpful and a good decision.
- 5. Reports:**
  - a. Police – Inspector Blakemore read the report for April to Council. The report contained the following information: During April there had been 72 calls to the Police, 14 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: All Other Theft - 1, Vehicle Crime - 2, Violence with Injury - 1, Drug Offences - 1, Criminal Damage - 2, Burglary Dwelling - 1, Shop Lifting - 3, Violence without Injury - 3. Following the latest Your Voice survey, the Ward priority is parking issues in the area of Bassaleg High School. Actions and activities by the local teams during April included: Patrols being carried out in the Bassaleg School area in accordance with ward priority, no fixed penalties were awarded but numerous motorists had been given advice about parking and traffic enforcement. Local teams had carried out speed checks on Laurel Road and paperwork had now being analysed, it was calculated that the average speed was less than 30mph. Due to further complaints, a Golden River Unit was deployed on Laurel Road on 15.04.16 and was recovered on 29.04.16. Data confirmed that between these dates 23,907 vehicles used the road with an average speed of 29mph. The results had been forwarded to see if they meet the criteria for a speed camera site. 3 vehicles had been seized during April, a scooter, an off-road bike and a scrambler motorcycle and 5 individuals had been issued with section 59 notices for causing alarm, distress and annoyance to members of the public. An abandoned vehicle had been recovered from Rivermead Way after it became a focal point for local youths. 2 Males had been arrested after fuel theft from a HGV in the Afon Village area. There seemed to be an emerging trend of vehicles being damaged in Berkley Road. Following the report Inspector Blakemore explained the categories on the report told the group that Graig has the lowest crime rate in Newport West. ASB figures had dropped by 61% on last year and crime was down by 23%. The Golden River speed monitoring unit mentioned above is an apparatus used to determine if a speed van would be used regularly, and he would report back to Council when a decision had been made. Cllr Gregory asked what was now happening with the Community Speedwatch/GoSafe programme as Council were keen to be involved, and was told that it had been handed over to an Officer who should be contacting Council soon. Cllr Cox-Wall had also been in touch with the programme, but Inspector Blakemore offered to contact the Officer if Council had no movement on this issue soon. Traffic issues on Pentrepoeth Road were discussed, and it was felt that the GoSafe programme could be very useful in educating motorists and for speed awareness on this road. Cllr Cox-Wall suggested matrix signs would help. Insp. Blakemore told Council the Police do all they can to cover Graig but as they are spread over a large area and some areas under their responsibility have much more issues than Graig, there are occasions where Officers need to be deployed in those areas rather than having such a presence in the villages. He was told that although Council sympathises and realises that resources need to be deployed to other areas when necessary, that does leave Graig feeling vulnerable and it has been noted that criminals travel to the villages from other areas to commit petty crime because of the good transport links and desirability of the area. Insp. Blakemore confirmed that the Police are recruiting more Officers and he hopes this will make a difference. Cllr Appleton mentioned that Police surgeries are usually held during the week and also during the daytime, it would be more beneficial if some could be held during the

evenings due to residents working during the day. Inspector Blakemore was thanked for his time which was very much appreciated and left the meeting at 8pm.

**Action - Inspector Blakemore to report back to Council whether the Golden River unit information suggests whether a speed camera unit is needed on Laurel Road. Council to let Insp. Blakemore know if his help is needed to arrange meetings with the Community Speedwatch/GoSafe Officer. Insp. Blakemore to look into the possibility of holding some Police surgeries during the evening.**

## 6. Items for discussion:

- a. Bollards at St Basil's shops roundabout - following the accident where a Stagecoach vehicle knocked down 6 bollards at the roundabout, the incident has now been passed over to Stagecoach's insurers.  
**Action: Clerk to write to the insurers to make a claim and obtain quotes for the repairs.**
- b. Use of Bassaleg Village Green (JH) - Due to increased queries to use the village green for events, Cllr Harris asked Council whether charges for the use should be made. Council agreed that charges at the same rate of Graig Hall should be made.  
**Action: Cllr Harris to raise this at the next Graig Hall Committee meeting.**
- c. Play areas update - Cllr Gregory reported that objections by a local resident has held up proceedings at the Rhiwderin Village play area and the installation of play equipment has been temporarily postponed.  
**Action: Cllr Gregory to monitor.**
- d. Allotment Inspection - Cllr Caston suggested that if members of the Allotment Committee wanted to proceed with an allotment site inspection he would be happy for them to arrange this. No decision was made at the meeting. Cllr Haigh reported that he was aware there were water wastage issues as 2 of the water troughs needed levelling up to prevent water spillage over the sides. Cllr Cox-Wall reported that the tool store she shared at the site had its lock forced open and broken by the plot holder with whom she shared the store. The store was left unlocked and some items were missing.  
**Action: Clerk to obtain a quote for the work to the troughs and write to the other allotment holder who shared the store to ask for an explanation and to determine if any of the missing items were in her possession.**
- e. Response from Farrier's Gate resident - Following the parking issues at Farriers Gate and the creation of a new parking area, the Clerk had written to one of the residents. On receipt of the letter the resident rang the Clerk to advise of the current situation and comment on the contents of the letter which was relayed to Council.  
**Action: No action necessary.**
- f. Hanging Baskets for Halls - The Clerk checked with Cllr Harris that the baskets for Graig Hall would be able to be in place by 1st June in time for the BKV Competition judging. Cllr Sayer who offered to produce baskets for Rhiwderin Hall was not present at the meeting.  
**Action: Cllr Harris to make sure with this could be actioned. Clerk to email Cllr Sayer to check.**
- g. Rhiwderin Post Office - A letter from Royal Mail was read to Council stating that Rhiwderin Post Office would be closing from 4th May 2016, and it was noted that Bassaleg Post Office would be closing for refurbishment from the end of the month also.  
**Action: No action necessary.**
- h. Correspondence from the Office of Police & Crime Commissioner - A feedback form had been received asking for comments on services.  
**Action: Cllr Gregory and the Clerk to respond if necessary.**
- i. One Voice Wales - The organisation were keen for Council to re-join as members and this was relayed to Council who still saw very little benefit in comparison with the cost.  
**Action: Clerk to inform OVW that Council declined the offer and the reasons why.**

## 7. Items for next agenda if agreed:

AGM - 18th May meeting

Cllr Gregory asked Cllrs to please take time to consider their roles as Community Councillors, to think about the sub-committees of interest to them and what they could contribute to those committees, and to only agree to sit on a committee if they believed they could bring commitment and value to it.

## 8. Urgent other business not on the agenda

Cllr Gregory reported that following the previous meeting regarding who should be the official employer of the Burial Board Clerk and his subsequent discussion with the Chair of Rogerstone CC, he rang the BB Clerk to suggest both he and the Chair of RCC meet with her to discuss RCC taking over her employment and to try to clear the air after recent issues. The BB Clerk refused to be employed by RCC but agreed to be employed by Graig CC if they were willing. Cllr Gregory asked Council how they would like to progress. Following a brief discussion, Cllr Evans proposed that Graig CC agree to be the employer of the BB Clerk under the same conditions as Council suggested RCC be the employer which was in name only

and that things remain as they have always been with the BB Clerk being answerable to the BB and not to either GCC or RCC. This was seconded by Cllr Harris and a vote taken the votes cast were 7 for the proposal, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

**Action: Cllr Gregory to move this forward as soon as practicable.**

## 9. Accounts for payment

None to date

### Receipts

None to date

## 10. Planning - Applications to be considered:

Prior to the first application (16/0269) Cllr Haigh expressed an interest and apart from explaining the issues took no part in Council's comment to the application.

- a. App No: 16/0269 Type: Tree Preservation Order Site: 22 Foxwood Court, Foxwood Close, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8PQ Proposal: CROWN REDUCTION AND PRUNING OF T1, T2, T3 and T4 (PROTECTED BY TPO 4/82) **Comment: Council supports this application.**  
Prior to the following application, Cllr Mountain expressed an interest as he was the applicant. He took no part in Council's comment to the application.
- b. App No: 16/0427 Type: Full Site: 5 Church Crescent, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8NQ Proposal: REPLACEMENT OF FLAT ROOF SIDE EXTENSION WITH PITCHED ROOF AND ERECTION OF A SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION **Comment: No objections provided neighbours are consulted and agree.**
- c. App No: 16/0161 Type: Full Site: 9 Berkley Road, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8PP Proposal: TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AND FIRST FLOOR REAR EXTENSION **Comment: Council shares the concerns of residents regarding the angle of repose of the proposed new extension and the neighbouring property.**

## 11. Correspondence for information

Planning information if available, Clerks & Councils magazine

## 12. Dates of next meetings

Full Council Meeting & AGM – Wednesday 18th May 2016 at 7pm

Planning Meeting – Wednesday 8th June 2016 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.20pm. Confirmed this 8th day of June 2016.

Signed..... (Chair) – June 2016

Posted to notice boards 24.06.16

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