



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning and Environmental Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg at 7pm on 13th July 2016

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1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs P Stokes, K Sayer, M Cornelious

Present: Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, M Smart, K Harries, P John, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, V Cox-Wall, P Appleton, D Williams. Also present, 2 residents of Pentrepoeth Close.

Cllr Gregory thanked Cllr Fry for stepping in and chairing the meeting held 29th June 2016 in his absence.

3. (brought forward) To welcome and receive a short presentation from Deserie Mansfield, Rural Programmes Co-ordinator for the Vale of Usk area: Cllr Gregory welcomed Ms Mansfield and she introduced herself to the group. She gave a presentation to Council to advise them of the opportunities for funding currently available for the area, where the money was sourced from and what kind of projects would be allowed under the requirements for funding. It was thought that it may be possible to apply for assistance with finishing the upgrade for Rhiwderin Community Centre and Council agreed to explore this as well as other projects that could meet the criteria. Council thanked Ms Mansfield for her time and she left the meeting at 7.33pm. **Action: Cllrs Gregory and Whitfield to explore if funding from this source could be applied to Rhiwderin Community Centre. Councillors to bring ideas for using funding from this source for projects in the ward and return with any ideas to a future meeting.**

2. To receive public representations if required: 2 residents asked if they may speak with Council concerning the issues on Pentrepoeth Road. They pointed out the issues they face every day using the road to travel to and from their homes in Pentrepoeth Close. Council agreed that there were a number of problems of which they were aware, and had been lobbying for some years to have NCC make improvements but to no avail at present. All agreed the road is becoming more and more dangerous as time goes on and that it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or a fatality occurs. There is a number of issues in different sections of the road that need to be addressed and includes:

- problems with resident parking, which narrows the road to single line traffic towards the Caerphilly Road junction stretch, this is further exacerbated by some vehicles which are not in use but are being stored at the roadside.
- the Ruperra pub's popularity but small car park means some patrons also park on the road and delivery vehicles often partially block the road whilst making deliveries to the pub
- the lack of pavements and safe havens for pedestrians along the whole stretch of the road
- the excessive speed of vehicles and cyclists using the road
- the amount of traffic using the road as a rat run to Cardiff at busy times of the day
- overgrowth from hedges lining the road which further narrows the carriageway at many points and obstructs visibility

All these issues have been pointed out to NCC numerous times over recent years but Council has been told that no action to remedy these issues will be taken. Council has requested the speed be reduced to 20mph between the Caerphilly Road junction and the Pentrepoeth Close junction but have been told that this would not be enforceable so would not be considered. Council recently requested that the GoSafe team assess the road, and their report pointed out that they would be unable to monitor the speed of vehicles due to there being no appropriate and safe place to set up monitoring equipment, they suggested Council request that NCC use their smaller tube speed monitoring equipment which could be utilised safely. This has been requested but a response has not yet been received. Council discussed the use of signage such as "20 is plenty" which has been successful in other areas. The residents were thanked for their attendance and assured Council is and will continue to do all it can to have the issues on this road recognised and improved. The residents left the meeting at 8pm. **Action: Cllr Williams to speak with the owners of the vehicles being stored on the roadside and request their removal asap. Also to check with NCC's Legal Dept. regarding Council erecting some "20 is plenty" or similar signage, and to request speed monitoring of the area. Clerk to ask a NCC Highways officer to meet with Council to look at the issues and agree some action.**

4. Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2016, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Harries.

5. Reports:

a. Police - The officers were unable to attend but a report for June was received and read to Council. The report contained the following information: During June there had been 108 calls to the Police, 25 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Vehicle Crime - 6, All Other Theft - 2, Violence with Injury - 3, Drug Offences - 2, Criminal Damage & Arson - 4, Burglary Dwelling - 1, Shop Lifting - 3, Violence without Injury - 1, Burglary non-dwelling - 3. Following the latest Your Voice survey, the Ward priority is still parking issues in the area of Bassaleg High School. The next survey will take place in October, please email <https://www.gwent.police.uk/yourvoicesurvey/> with any suggestions or issues. Actions and activities by the local teams during June 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. Patrols have been carried out in the area of Jasmine Close following reports of youths causing a nuisance, the patrols will continue throughout the summer months. A cannabis cultivation was located in the area of Oaklands Park Drive, two males were arrested in connection with this. Emerging trends - it seems that youths are gathering in the Foxwoods area regularly. Following requests from the Community Council, extra evening Police surgeries are being held as follows: Friday 15.07.16 at Graig Community Hall 8pm to 9pm, Tuesday 16.08.16 at Rhiwderin Village Hall 7pm to 8pm and Friday 23.09.16 at Bassaleg Shops 6pm to 7pm. **Action: None required.**

6. Items for discussion:

- a. Pentrepoeth Road issue update - Discussed above
- b. Council finances - The Clerk handed out copies of Council's finances to date and these were briefly discussed. It was agreed that all was as expected. Cllr Cox-Wall mentioned that a local resident was keen to put together a group of volunteers who could carry out small tasks around the ward that would otherwise have to be paid for by public funds which all agreed would be a great idea. Cllr Caston reminded Council that Concurrent funds paid to Council each year were likely to cease or be much reduced soon due to budget cuts at NCC and Concurrent funding being discretionary. This would leave a £14k plus hole in Council's budget each year (more than 21.5% of Council's total annual budget). With this in mind it would be prudent to increase the Precept request each year to help plug the gap. **Action: Increasing the Precept is to be considered when planning the next budget in September/October.**
- c. Burial Board update - The current issues of the Burial Board were discussed, a meeting with Rogerstone CC's Chair and Vice Chair and Graig's Chair and Vice Chair is being arranged. **Action: Cllr Gregory to update Council following the aforementioned meeting.**
- d. NCC grass cutting - Council discussed the level and quality of the grass cutting recently carried out by NCC. Cllr Williams told the group that NCC have now set a schedule to carry out grass cutting once per month, but that he was sure a month was missed which was why the grass everywhere was so overgrown. This has now been cut but all agreed the work was carried out to a poor standard in comparison with the normal service. Many residents have been very upset about the unkempt look the ward has had and Cllr Williams suggested that the Cabinet Member in charge of the maintenance be invited to the meeting. **Action: Council requested Cllr Williams report back to NCC the feelings of Council and the residents and invite the Cabinet Member to contact the Clerk if he was willing to attend a meeting.**
- e. St Basil's shops roundabout - Cllr Fry had contacted Monmouthshire CC who are contracted to carry out grounds maintenance to the area and complained about the lack of maintenance being carried out. MCC had attended and carried out a lot of work earlier today and the area was looking much better. Some members were concerned that MCC have not been performing as contracted to do and that the annual cost should be reduced. Cllr Fry reported that MCC had already agreed to reduce the annual charge significantly due to the misunderstanding. Cllr Gregory told the group that as Council had not been happy about the maintenance of this area by MCC for a number of years, that Council should consider offering the contract to another provider when the current contract ends. The Clerk told Council she has been trying to arrange the repair of the bollards recently damaged by a Stagecoach driver, but had been having contact issues with MCC who were chosen to carry out the repairs so this had not yet been resolved. **Action: Council to look at other providers, Clerk to arrange the repair of the bollards as soon as practicable to progress the insurance claim with Stagecoach's insurers.**

7. Items for next agenda if agreed:

Clerk's appraisal - July 27th meeting

8. Urgent other business not on the agenda

- a. Cllr Gregory asked that the Technologies group meet as following discussion about Council's finances it was felt that Council could afford to explore commissioning a new website from a local company as suggested by Cllr Cox-Wall. **Action: Cllr Cox-Wall to invite the web designer to a meeting of the sub group to discuss Council's needs and explore what was available and the associated costs.**
- b. Although Cllr Stokes was unable to attend this meeting, Cllr Gregory advised Council that it was his intention to resign at the 27th July meeting. He felt that he was unable to properly fulfil his role within the Council as he would wish to due to other commitments. **Action: None required until Cllr Stokes formally resigns.**
- c. Cllr Gregory informed the group that he had been contacted again by the resident who put forward a presentation on erecting a pop-up coffee shop on the green. Cllr Gregory had spoken with Newport Norse who hold the land leased to the Council and it was felt by them that there may be some planning issues. Cllr Caston said he believed that utilising the pump house would be the best option, Cllr Evans was against this idea. **Action: Cllr Gregory to keep the resident updated on progress.**

9. Accounts for payment

NetworkWaste - St Basil's Churchyard clearance

£402.00

Receipts

None

10. Planning - Applications to be considered:

- a. App No: 16/0629 Type: Full Site: 24 Court Crescent, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8NH Proposal: DEMOLITION OF EXISTING GROUND AND FIRST FLOOR EXTENSIONS AND DETACHED GARAGE, ERECTION OF PART TWO STOREY/PART SINGLE STOREY REAR AND SIDE EXTENSIONS, INCLUDING ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING ROOF. Comment: Council are concerned about the effects of the proposal on the neighbour to the South and feels it would be overdevelopment of the site and too close to adjacent residents. There were also concerns regarding the number of allocated parking spaces for the size of the property if developed.
- b. App No: 16/0650 Type: Full Site: 4 St Basil's Crescent, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8PH Proposal: DEMOLITION OF EXISTING GARAGE, CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSION. Comment: No objections provided adequate parking facilities are provided.
- c. App No. 16/0557 Type: Certificate of Lawful Use (Proposed) Site: 8 Campanula Drive, Rogerstone, Newport NP10 9JG Proposal: CONVERSION OF DOMESTIC GARAGE TO A HABITABLE ROOM. Comment: No objections provided neighbours agree and adequate parking facilities are provided.

11. Correspondence for information

Planning information if available, The Clerk and Clerks and Councils Direct magazines

12. Dates of next meetings

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 27th July 2016 at 7pm

Planning Meeting – Wednesday 10th August 2016 at 7pm

Cllrs Whitfield and Evans gave apologies for the 27th July meeting. **Action: Clerk to log apologies for both in the register.**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.35pm. Confirmed this 10th day of August 2016.

Signed..... (Chair) – August 2016

Posted to notice boards 26.08.16

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