



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mid-Month Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg at 7pm on 8th February 2017

Minutes of the Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg at 6pm on 8th February 2017.

1. **Apologies for absence:** A Whitfield, K Sayer, V Cox-Wall, M Cornelious
Present: Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, D Evans, M Smart, K Harries, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, P Appleton D Williams.
2. **To receive public representations:** Mrs J Bailey (to observe) & Mrs Tyres, resident of Caerphilly Road.
3. **To welcome Police Sergeant Lawton:** Sergeant Lawton did not attend and no apologies were given. Council were extremely disappointed. **Action: Clerk to investigate.**
4. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2017, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Evans. The action points on the minutes were discussed. Regarding Item 6c, it was noted that the gentleman interested in turning the Pumphouse into a cafe was now going to approach the Scouts Leader to enquire if it would be possible to use the scout hut. Council was concerned about the scout hut being used as this would cause the same issues it would have done for the Pumphouse. It was agreed that the community would benefit from such a development but there was concern that it would cause parking issues on surrounding roads and in the Hall car park. Regarding 6g, it was suggested that the SLA for the play areas not be signed until all works were satisfactorily completed. Cllr Gregory advised this would be an issue as it was nearly the financial year end. Funding promised could not be released until the SLA had been signed and may be lost if not settled by the end of the financial year. Council agreed for the signing to go ahead. Regarding 8b, it was felt that continually repairing the bollards was expensive and they would likely be damaged again. Cllr Sayer had agreed to look into using large boulders. **Action: Cllr Gregory to advise the Scout Leader of Council's concerns and arrange a meeting to inspect the play areas and sign the SLA if all was in order. Cllr Sayer to look at sourcing boulders.**
5. **Reports:**
 - a. Police - The officers were unable to attend and but apologies were given and a report submitted. The report contained the following information: During January there had been 80 calls to the Police, 15 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Vehicle Crime - 1, All Other Theft - 3, Violence Without Injury - 3, Violence With Injury - 3, Miscellaneous Crime – 1, Criminal Damage - 2, Public Order - 1, Burglary Non-Dwelling - 1. The Your Voice survey completed in October is now closed and results have been published. The next survey will take place in March 2017, please email <https://www.gwent.police.uk/yourvoicesurvey/> with any suggestions or issues. The ward priority for Graig is now anti-social behaviour in Lavender Way, Rivermead Way and Jasmine Close. Actions and activities by the local teams during January included: Patrols continuing in Springfield Lane but no suspicious persons or activity have been present at the time of the patrols. A resident of Bassaleg had their vehicle removed due to lack of insurance. Youths were reported climbing on scaffolding at Bassaleg shops but when a patrol arrived they had left the area. Reports had been received about bin fires in the Pentrepoeth Rd area but since the initial report no further reports have been received. There have been no further reports of vehicles parking at the bottom of Laurel Road and no vehicles have been observed causing any traffic offences. It was noted that the report does not contain any positive news such as successes in detecting crimes which would be good for residents to see. **Action: Clerk to investigate why Sergeant Lawton did not attend. Cllrs to request positive results also be given in the report to inform residents when the Sergeant does attend a meeting.**
6. **Items for discussion:**
 - a. Pentrepoeth Road & Caerphilly Road - Cllr Cox-Wall had been approached by the Argus newspaper who wanted to do an article on the concerns the community had with Pentrepoeth and Caerphilly Roads. A meeting at the roadside was arranged and publicised but was not as well attended as hoped. Praise had been given for standing up for residents, Cllr Williams thought the timing of the event could have been better but that it did highlight the traffic issues being faced by residents. Mrs Tyres was asked to voice her

concerns, she spoke about the traffic on Caerphilly Road. She felt that it there were issues with speeding, the large HGVs using the road and the associated pollution. She had contacted NCC but was unable to get any action and felt they were being unfair to the residents of the village as suggested traffic management solutions had been denied. She was aware that pollution from traffic far exceeded European levels and was dismayed that the City Council would take no action, as traffic calming was evident in other areas of Newport. She wished to know what the Community Council was doing to help. The matter was discussed and Mrs Tyres was informed of the steps Council have been taking over the years and that they were still lobbying NCC to address them. Cllr Gregory apologised on behalf of Council that to date they had been unsuccessful, and that it would be discussed with the MD of NCC at a meeting arranged to talk about how the Graig ward is suffering in all areas in recent years. Mrs Tyres was unaware of all that Council had done and was grateful. She left the meeting at 7.45pm. **Action: Cllr Gregory to take this and other concerns to the MD of NCC when they meet.**

- b. NCC Chief Executive meeting - the forthcoming meeting was discussed and the issues needing to be brought to the MD's attention compiled. **Action: Cllr Gregory to raise the issues highlighted with NCC's MD.**
- c. Notification of proposal to establish a primary School at Jubilee Way Rogerstone - Noted. **Action: No action necessary.**
- d. One Voice Wales membership invitation - Council discussed the merits of joining the organisation and decided subject to favourable investigation of whether it would be advantageous, Council would join. **Action: Cllr Appleton agreed to investigate and return to the next meeting with a recommendation.**

7. Items for next agenda if agreed:

- a. NCC Chief Executive meeting update - 22nd February meeting
 - b. Future Projects - 22nd February meeting
- Cllr Williams left the meeting at 8.10pm

8. Urgent other business not on the agenda

- a. Cllr Smart advised that the trees lining the A467 between the railway bridge and footbridge which overlook Park View had become so overgrown it was badly affecting the amount of light in Park View homes. **Action: Clerk to report to NCC and ask that they be cut.**
- b. Cllr Gregory reported that Cllr Cox-Wall had forwarded a quote for a new website design which looked good. Cllr Appleton was also looking at another company who supply websites to neighbouring Community Councils and was investigating its ease of administration and costs. The Twitter and Facebook accounts were looked at and concerns were voiced that some content could be seen as political. **Action: Cllr Gregory to investigate.**
- c. It was noted that following the Argus covering the issues on Pentrepoeth & Caerphilly Roads, an article was placed in the newspaper highlighting the issues. It was also noted there was an article on Community Council audits about the way accounts are prepared and presented. The article reported that more than 30% of Councils received a qualified audit opinion, meaning they did not fully comply with accounting regulations. The Clerk told Council that since she had been in the post, Council has received recommendations to improve procedures, but had never received a qualified audit opinion. The recommendations are suggested improvements only, no cause for concern has ever been raised. **Action: No action necessary.**

9. Accounts for payment: Accepted - proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Harries

Wales Audit Office - External audit costs	£268.65
Calico UK - Annual domain name charge for Council	£36.00
Rogerstone & Bassaleg Joint Burial Board - 2016-17 precept request	£608.00
R Charles Plastics - Park View notice board repair	£140.00
	Total £1052.65

Receipts

PSV Claims Bureau Ltd - refund of St Basil's shops r/about bollards repair	£540.00
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10. Planning - Applications to be considered:

- a. CONEX 17/0042 Proposal: PROPOSED 2 STOREY SIDE EXTENSION, FRONT PORCH AND AMENDED PARKING ARRANGEMENT TO INCLUDE REMOVAL OF EXISTING GARAGE AND SIDE PORCH. Site: 30 Channel View, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8PJ. Application Type: Full **Comment: Council expressed concerns about the structure of the presently joined garage and party wall and supported the comment from Highways regarding the insufficient parking spaces.**

Cllr Gregory asked Mrs Bailey if she had enjoyed the meeting, and reminded Council that at the previous meeting Council had agreed that as a previous applicant for a vacancy, and having already had a successful interview, if Mrs Bailey wished Council would be pleased to offer her to be co-opted to fill one of the 2 current vacancies for Cllrs. Mrs Bailey said she did find the meeting very interesting and would be happy to join Council. Council agreed and invited Mrs Bailey to take up the post at the next meeting scheduled for 22nd February where she would be properly inducted. Mrs Bailey accepted. **Action: Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.**

11. Correspondence for information

Not discussed

12. Dates of next meetings

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 22nd February 2017 at 7pm
Mid-Month meeting - Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45pm. Confirmed, this 8th day of March 2017.

Signed..... (Chair) – March 2017

Posted to notice boards 24.03.17

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