



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Mid-Month Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg at 6.30pm on 8th March 2017

Minutes of the Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg at 6.30pm on 8th February 2017.

The agenda for the meeting as taken out of order to accommodate for holding the Cllr Interview and discussing a planning application with a concerned resident.

### 2. Apologies for absence: A Whitfield, K Sayer, D Williams

**Present:** Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, D Evans, M Smart, K Harries, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, V Cox-Wall, P Appleton, J Bailey.

Also present at 6.50pm Mr K Thomas for Community Cllr interview & at 7.10pm a resident of Pentrepoeth Road, regarding a planning application on the agenda.

### 4. Minutes:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2017, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Harries. The action points on the minutes were discussed. Regarding Item 4, Cllr Gregory had spoken with the Scout Leader and the SLA for the play areas had been signed. Regarding Item 6b, Cllr Gregory, the Clerk and both City Cllrs had met with the MD of NCC and a report was given at the 22nd February meeting.

### 1. Interviews for Councillor vacancy:

Cllr Gregory explained to the group that of the two candidates for the Cllr position, one had withdrawn so there was only one interview to conduct. Mr Keith Thomas was welcomed into the meeting and a casual interview took place. He expanded on his background and gave good feedback to questions posed.

Cllr Cox-Wall joined the meeting at 7.10pm.

Mr Thomas showed much interest in the works of the Council and interviewed well. Following the interview he was asked if he would like to stay and observe, which he did.

### 3. To receive public representations:

The Pentrepoeth Rd resident joined the meeting at 7.20pm and was invited to speak with Council to air his concerns regarding Planning Application 17/0070 below.

### 10. Planning - Applications to be considered:

b. CONEX/17/0070 - Proposal: CHANGE OF USE TO WASTE TRANSFER STATION (AFFECTING FOOTPATH 393/89/1) Site: Croes-carn-einon Farm, Holly Lane, Newport NP10 8RR Application Type: Full (Major) - The resident told of how he had been aware of the application and wanted to raise objections against it. His concerns were mainly of the safety of pedestrians and schoolchildren on such unsuitable access roads, the disturbance to residents, the frequency and times the vehicles used the road, the size of the vehicles associated with the business, the damage the operation could do to both the land and water courses, the amount the business is requesting permission to process, that the business also uses Penylan Road and Holly Lane (which had been badly damaged by large vehicles using such an inappropriate Road) and the fact that homes and businesses along the access routes were not consulted. Council told him of what they had been doing to highlight the issues on Pentrepoeth Road to date and Cllr Gregory read out a statement from City Cllr David Williams who had been advised by NCC's legal department that as he lived on the site in question and family owned the land, he would not be able to be a part of any discussions despite having no material gain from the business himself. It was agreed that Council would most strongly object to the application and a comprehensive objection statement should be compiled by the Clerk stating all the issues believed to be pertinent, urging NCC to refuse the application. The resident left the meeting at 7.46pm. **Action: Clerk to compile a statement from Council to submit to NCC stating all the reasons for refusal.**

a. CONEX 17/0164 Proposal: COVERSION OF GARAGE TO GAMES ROOM. Site: 8 Badgers Wood Close, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8SG. Application Type: Full **Comment: No objections.**

### 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 February there had been 101 calls to the Police, 21 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Violence Without Injury - 4, All Other Theft - 1, Burglary Dwelling - 2, Public Order - 4, Criminal Damage - 5, Violence With Injury - 1, Miscellaneous

Crime – 1, Shoplifting - 2, Rape - 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. Regular patrols had been carried out in priority areas and no anti-social behaviour had been seen or reported. Emerging trends - stone throwing had been reported in the Forge Lane vicinity and this will be monitored. A male was seen acting suspiciously (walking up and down driveways) in Gloch Wen Close, Residents are asked to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour/activity. The local team have been carrying out patrols in Afon Village on Wednesday evenings following previous anti-social behaviour but none has been seen or reported lately. A male had been arrested on suspicion of committing a number of burglaries across Newport. Cllr Appleton mentioned that it would be useful if a little more detail on incidents was given so Council could make the public aware and to be vigilant. As some crimes reported come from other departments it would be useful if these too could add to the report. **Action: None requested.**

## 6. Items for discussion:

- a. Roundabout improvements update - All agreed the presentation held by the developers at Graig Hall had been helpful. Cllr Gregory reported that residents in Court Crescent/Forge Lane had been very concerned about the number of mature trees cut down to make way for improvements to Bassaleg roundabout. The developers assured them that trees will be replanted once the works are completed. **Action: All to monitor the works.**
- b. Play Areas update - Cllr Gregory reminded the group that he had reported previously that the SLA had been signed. There was a redundant lamp and post in the Rhiwderin Village play area that NCC had offered could be removed and the cost shared with the owner of the land next door to the play area as they had requested the removal of the lamp and post on the ground outside. The cost of removal would be £436 After a short discussion it was decided that as it posed no H&S risk, removal was an unnecessary cost and it need not be removed for the time being. **Action: Clerk to advise NCC.**
- c. Village greens registration - It was recommended by Cllr Caston that Council look to register all its green spaces in the ward to safeguard them for future generations. Cllr Cox-Wall agreed to look into the matter when her time allowed. **Action: Cllr Cox-Wall to report back to Council with recommendations at her convenience.**
- d. Invitation to comment on responses to the 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales - Noted. **Action: None necessary.**
- e. Response from NCC regarding ponding issues and trees overlooking Park View - Noted, Council were dismayed that yet again it's requests are not taken up by NCC. **Action: Area to be monitored.**
- f. Invitation to add items to the forthcoming Liaison Meeting agenda - Cllr Caston asked that Concurrent Expenditure be raised again. **Action: Clerk to advise NCC of the addition to the agenda.**
- g. Latest responses from NCC regarding Pentrepoeth Road issues - The latest responses to Council's efforts to improve safety on Pentrepoeth Road were read to the group. Council were again dismayed that any suggestions are deemed unnecessary. Council were keen to move forward with advisory signs stating "20 is plenty". **Action: Cllr Gregory to speak with the head of Streetscene.**
- h. Highfield Lane adoption - The Clerk presented Council with confirmation that at last Highfield Lane footpath had been formally adopted by NCC. **Action: None necessary.**
- i. Litter bins in Afon Village - the Clerk advised Council of the cost of the litter bins agreed previously for Afon Village. Council agreed the cost and were given the choice of having "funded by " and Council's logo printed on the bins. This was agreed. Proposed Cllr Fry, seconded Cllr Harries. **Action: Clerk to progress with NCC.**
- j. Section 106 money for Former Tredegar Golf Park development update - Confirmation of where the Section 106 funds for the former Tredegar Park Golf Club development would be spent by NCC was presented to Council for information. **Action: None necessary.**

## 7. Items for next agenda if agreed:

None.

## 8. Urgent other business not on the agenda:

- a. Cllr Bailey voiced concerns about the steepness of the banking that had been cut away for a proposed new development at the former Garthfield Cottage site. Council told her that this issue had been brought up with NCC already as they too have concerns, but the site had been inspected and NCC have no issue with the work completed to date. **Action: None necessary at this time.**

- b. Cllr Caston advised Council that he had been looking at the BB Clerk's salary and would be discussing it with the BB Chairman. **Action: Cllr Caston to advise of any progress.**
- c. Cllr Fry noted that the timber bollards that had been damaged by a large vehicle at St Basil's shops roundabout had not been moved or repaired. It was agreed that it was time to progress this as Cllr Sayer had offered to look into sourcing large boulders to replace them. **Action: Clerk to remind Cllr Sayer.**
- d. Cllr Cox-Wall was asked if there was any progress with the Save Our Woodland Bassaleg Group's court case against NCC regarding the felling of trees on the woodland site at the rear of Church Crescent. She told the group that it was progressing but there was nothing of note to report to date. She did remind everyone to monitor the planning as it was expected to be updated soon. **Action: All to watch for any additional planning information added and if so, Clerk to agenda for discussion.**

**9. Accounts for payment:** None

**10. Planning - Applications to be considered:** Discussed above.

As all items for business had been discussed, Mr Thomas was asked to leave the meeting to allow Council to discuss his interview. Mr Thomas left at 9.15pm. Council discussed the interview and voted on whether to offer him the vacant position of Community Councillor representing the Bassaleg Ward. The vote was unanimously in favour, save that Cllr Cox-Wall abstained as she did not arrive until the interview was closing and felt it would be inappropriate to take part in the vote. **Action: Clerk to advise Mr Thomas and invite him to join the group at the 29th March meeting where he would be properly inducted.**

**11. Correspondence for information**

Not discussed

**12. Dates of next meetings**

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 29th March 2017 at 7pm

Mid-month meeting - Wednesday 12th April 2017 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.25pm. Confirmed, this 12th day of April 2017.

Signed..... (Chair) – April 2017

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