



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mid-Month Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg at 7pm on 12th April 2017

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

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

Also present: Mr N Tarr to observe the meeting.

2. To receive public representations: None.

3. Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2017, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr John seconded Cllr Haigh. The action points on the minutes were discussed. Regarding Item 6a, Cllr Gregory reported that a meeting had been set up with NCC Officer Mr Jenkins to discuss traffic and highways issues in the ward on 25th April. Regarding Item 6c, Clerk to forward information gathered on registering village greens to Cllr Cox-Wall who offered to investigate the procedure on behalf of Council. Cllr Appleton asked if any progress had been made on sourcing boulders to replace the wooden bollards on St Basil's roundabout. The Clerk was able to report that she had spoken with Cllr Sayer who was progressing this item and that he should be able to update Council at the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Gregory to report progress of the meeting with Mr Jenkins at the 26th April meeting. Clerk to forward information to Cllr Cox-Wall as requested. Cllr Sayer to progress sourcing the boulders.**

Cllr Smart joined the meeting at 7.10pm.

4. Reports:

- a. Police - No report had been forwarded to the Clerk as PCSO duties had prevented it being compiled in time. **Action: Clerk to add the item to the next meeting agenda by which time the report should be available.**

5. Items for discussion:

- a. Election results and paperwork - Following confirmation from NCC, the Clerk was able to report that no Community Council election would be necessary. Of the 15 Cllrs, 14 had re-applied, 1 had stood down and one new candidate had applied thus maintaining the maximum 15 Cllrs to fill the allotted 15 posts. Cllr Cox-Wall had stood down and her post is to be filled by Mr Nathan Tarr, present at the meeting as an observer. **Action: None necessary at this time. Clerk to begin preparing the necessary paperwork for the AGM.**
- b. Retaining wall in Graig Hall car park - Cllr Fry put forward a plan for renewing the wall, it was agreed that it should be replaced, but that cost should be a big consideration. Cllr Fry agreed to explore alternative more cost effective solutions than his initial recommendation. Cllr Gregory reminded Council that it was also agreed some time ago to look at creating a gap in the wall surrounding the patio area, and that maybe the 2 jobs could be combined to minimise costs. Cllr Fry asked that Cllrs also consider this issue and bring any ideas or suggestions to the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Fry to explore more cost effective solutions, Cllrs also to bring suggestions to the next meeting.**
- c. Birthday celebration event - Cllr Cox-Wall put forward a suggestion that Council hold a 100th Birthday celebration for Mr Ron Jones, a longstanding resident of the community, war veteran and local celebrity. Council agreed this was be a very good idea and the event would bring together the community. A small budget was set to hold the event at Graig Hall which was proposed by Cllr Caston, seconded by Cllr Haigh and agreed by all. **Action: Cllr Haigh agreed to liaise with the family and order the cake and the card. Other Cllrs to work together to organise the event.**
- d. Gwent Now - The Clerk advised Council that if they wished to influence the Police priorities for the coming months, Cllrs should log into the Gwent Now survey online and request the priorities they believed should be concentrated on as the answers given in the survey that was about to come to an end would automatically set Police priorities for the area for the coming months. **Action: Cllrs to log into the Police website and complete the survey if they wished.**
- e. Vacancies on One Newport Engagement Group and Standards Committee - The Clerk submitted details of the vacancies and suggested anyone interested in the posts either contact the Clerk or apply directly. **Action: Cllrs to apply if they wished.**

6. Items for next agenda if agreed:

Cllr Smart asked that Section 106 funding for the former Tredegar Golf Club be added to the next agenda.

Action: Clerk to add for discussion.

7. Urgent other business not on the agenda:

- a. Cllr Fry suggested that as there are issues with the St Cecelia apple tree, which was damaged many years ago and is now growing very crookedly, that it may be possible over time to straighten the trunk if an adjustable splint support was constructed. This could be adjusted over time to straighten the trunk enough to ensure it remains healthy. As it was planted as a remembrance tree and comes from a variety which is quite rare, the idea was thought to be worth exploring. **Action: Cllr Fry to return to Council with suggestions for a suitable support and costings.**
- b. Cllr Caston submitted a newspaper clipping to Council detailing information on the refusal of a planning application for a waste facility in another area, which may be pertinent to the current application for a similar facility in the Ward. **Action: Progress of the local application to be monitored by all.**
- c. Cllr Bailey spoke of dog fouling issues on the green space in Sunnybank, Rhiwderin. Cllr Gregory confirmed that dog fouling is a real issue throughout the ward. Of particular concern was the potential harm to children. Supplying bins and having them emptied was discussed and it was decided that initially, Council should explore some clear signage stating the dangers and possibly supplying dog waste dispensers and bags to some areas. **Action: Cllr Gregory to explore and return to Council with suggestions.**
- d. Cllr Thomas expressed concern regarding the grounds maintenance of Bassaleg green. He had observed amongst other things that the grass is cut less often and the hedge surrounding the allotment site was overgrown. Cllr Gregory confirmed that this was maintained by NCC and that Council had very little control over the grounds maintenance of the area. The only other option would be for Council to employ contractors which was a very costly option. **Action: All to monitor and if the hedge becomes problematic prior to NCC's scheduled cut, to request it is carried out sooner.**

8. Accounts for payment: Accepted, proposed Cllr Caston Seconded Cllr John

HMRC - PAYE & NI Dec-Mar	£1945.71
Welsh Water - Allotment water costs	£13.24
SSE - Electricity costs to Graig Hall	£580.27
SSE - Gas costs to Graig Hall	£342.12
Total	£2881.34

Receipts

Newport City Council - 1st Precept staged payment	£18544.33
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9. Planning - Applications to be considered:

- a. CONEX 17/0304 Proposal: INSTALLATION OF DISABLED ACCESS RAMP AND STEPS. Site: Tabernacle Congregational Church, Harlech Drive, Rhiwderin, Newport. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections.
- b. CONEX/17/0326 Proposal: DEMOLITION OF EXISTING SINGLE STOREY REAR/SIDE CONSERVATORY AND ERECTION OF NEW PART SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AND PART TWO STOREY SIDE/REAR EXTENSION Site: 3 Laurel Drive, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8NL. Comment: Objections due to overdevelopment of the site with concerns regarding the proximity of the proposed extension to the boundary wall which could cause access issues and could result in structural damage to the garage of the neighbouring property.

10. Correspondence for information

Not discussed

11. Dates of next meetings

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 7pm

Mid-month meeting & AGM - Wednesday 10th May 2017 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.35pm. Confirmed, this 10th day of May 2017.

Signed..... (Chair) – May 2017

Posted to notice boards 26.05.17

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