



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

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- 1. Apologies for absence:** R Caston, D Evans, K Harries, J Harris, J Bailey
Present: Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), A Whitfield, M Smart, K Sayer, P John, W Haigh, L Fry, T Appleton, K Thomas, N Tarr, M Cornelious, D Williams
- 2. To receive public representations:** None.
- 3. Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2017, previously circulated were read and subject to a minor amendment, were approved. Proposed Cllr John seconded Cllr Tarr. The action points on the minutes were discussed. **Action: None necessary.**
- 4. Reports:**
 - a. Police - The report for the Police for June was reviewed. The report contained the following information: During June there had been 124 calls to the Police, 22 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Violence Without Injury - 3, All Other Theft - 4, Burglary Dwelling - 3, Public Order - 2, Criminal Damage/arson - 7, Shoplifting - 2, Drug Offences - 0, Misc. Crimes Against Society - 0, Vehicle Crime - 1. The next Your Voice survey will take place in November 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 June included: Reports had been received from a member of the public that groups of youths were gathering on the shingle beach/river bank behind Viaduct Way who were smoking drugs and behaving in an anti-social manner. It was confirmed that patrols have been taking place and will continue. An abandoned vehicle was reported on Laurel Road, NCC were informed and a notice put in place to have the vehicle removed. Several calls were received from residents in the area of Laurel Road about a fight which took place in the street, one male was arrested and officers are investigating. Emerging Trends: Youths are gathering in the areas of Churchmead and the river bank of Viaduct Close to smoke drugs and engage in anti-social behaviour. Cllr Appleton commented that it would be good to know what the Police action is on the emerging trends section, as it states the issues but not the resolution. Cllr Williams thought it would be useful to gate off the river bank area to prevent it being used. Council were concerned that issues were being highlighted but not addressed. It was also noted that Graig Hall car park and green is being used by youths for cannabis smoking. **Action: Cllr Gregory to email ward surgery dates to Cllrs, request increased patrols in trouble spots and ask for more information to be logged on monthly reports.**
- 5. Items for discussion:**
 - a. Roundabout improvements update: It was agreed that following the initial traffic jam issues, that traffic was now flowing better. No updates were available. **Action: Council to publicise any updates received on social media to keep residents informed.**
 - b. Church Crescent street sign: The inappropriate positioning of the sign for Church Crescent on the roundabout at St Basil's shops was discussed. Council were updated on the work Cllr Sayer and the Clerk had carried out trying to persuade NCC to re-position it. To date all requests had been denied. **Action: Clerk and Cllr Sayer to continue pressing for the sign to be re-sited and bring the issue to the attention of the new Head of Streetscene when he meets with Council shortly. City Cllrs to also lobby for the sign to be repositioned to a more appropriate location.**
 - c. The Tree Charter (deferred from last meeting): It was decided that Council should remain a member of the Charter, but not be involved other than this. **Action: None necessary.**
 - d. Waste Transfer Station (deferred from last meeting): The Clerk had spoken with the Planning Officer handling the application and was told not to be alarmed that no decision was imminent. As this was a major application, much research had to be carried out by NCC and the timeframe would be much longer than usual. The Clerk was assured that both she and Cllr Cornelious would be made aware when the application would be heard at Committee to enable Cllr Cornelious to represent at the meeting. Cllr Williams declared an interest in this item and made no comment. **Action: Clerk and Cllr Cornelious to monitor progress.**

- e. Active Travel consultation (deferred from last meeting): Council were invited to make comment on the Plan, and delegated Cllr Tarr to look at the proposals and bring suggestions for comments back to a future meeting. **Action: Cllr Tarr to evaluate and compile comments for Council's approval.**
- f. Ward maintenance recommendations (deferred from last meeting): Cllr Fry presented a list of maintenance issues in the ward that needed attention. These were discussed briefly along with other issues noted by other Cllrs. The items were noted, but no decisive action was taken to address them. Cllr Smart asked Cllr Williams to investigate where exactly the Section 106 funds from the development at the former Tredegar Park Golf Club would be spent, he agreed to do so. Cllr Williams noted that the 20MPH signs erected on Pentrepoeth Road seemed to be having an effect. **Action: Cllr Williams to investigate the Section 106 funding and discover exactly where the money will be spent once received.**
Cllr Williams left the meeting at 8.03pm.
Council went on to discuss progress on some grounds maintenance issues, it was noted that Cllr Sayer had cleared the weeds and overgrowth from the front of Rhiwderin CC and was progressing the replacement of the bollards on St Basil's roundabout. Cllr Sayer was thanked for his efforts. Cllr Gregory reminded the group he was to meet with the new Head of Streetscene Services in 2 weeks time and asked Cllrs to bring any issues they felt needed addressing with him to the next meeting so a list could be compiled. **Action: Cllrs to bring issues for Streetscene to the 26th July meeting.**
- g. CPRW donation request (deferred from last meeting): A request for funding assistance had been received. Council discussed the matter but decided it was not in a position to help at this time. **Action: none required.**
- h. Decision on proposed 11 houses near J28 restaurant: It was noted that the planning application had been refused by NCC, Council expressed relief. **Action: None necessary, for information only.**
- i. Rural Market feedback forms: Cllr Appleton discussed the content of feedback forms filled out by residents at the recent event. Comments included issues with the length of the grass on open spaces, dog fouling on Bassaleg open space and at St Basil's Crescent, youths gathering in the vicinity of Caerphilly Rd/Forge Mews, issues with the development of the former Garthfield Cottage site, high hedges on Cwm Cuddy Drive, general untidiness and unkempt look of the villages, issues with residents placing cones in the road on Pentrepoeth Rd to save their parking spaces. Council agreed that many maintenance issues were out of their control as these were the responsibility of NCC, other issues were already being addressed. Cllr Appleton was thanked for her efforts, Council considered it a worthwhile exercise and would do it's best to lobby for resolution of the issues raised with the relevant responsible authorities. **Action: Council to act on the concerns of the residents where possible.**
- j. Graig Hall events parking arrangements: Cllr Sayer asked for Graig Hall Management Committee to address the parking issues arising from large events at the Hall. He had been travelling through the village at the time of a recent large event, and observed cars parked on both sides of Caerphilly Road, making it difficult for traffic passing through the village. He also almost had an accident with children trying to cross the road between the parked cars. He asked that the Management Committee look at the parking issues and requested that large event organisers are asked to consider parking facilities to prevent future problems occurring. **Action: Graig Hall Committee to review and act as necessary.**
- k. Shared Community Charter (deferred from last meeting): Cllr Whitfield asked if NCC have a charter setting out their responsibilities in terms of timescales for answering correspondence and acting on information received etc.. **Action: Cllr Cornelious to investigate.**
- l. Memorial for Cllr Mountain (deferred from last meeting): It was decided by majority vote to install a memorial bench, the cost and location to be decided. **Action: Cllr Gregory to look at options.**
- m. Payments: Council discussed the timescales that invoicing from contractors should be expected. This arose as a contractor used regularly by Council presented invoices for payment sporadically, with long periods between when work was carried out and invoices issued. The Clerk and Cllrs expressed concern as it was difficult to reconcile invoices with work carried out. It was agreed that all contractors, when issued work on behalf of Council would be asked to invoice for payment within 30 days of completion. **Action: Clerk and all Cllrs to abide by the above rule when offering contractors to quote for work, making it clear that invoices will expect to be received in a timely manner.**
- n. Volunteer Awards: Noted. **Action: None necessary.**
Cllr Fry left at 9.06pm.

6. Items for next agenda if agreed:

- Defibrillators - 26th July meeting
- Litter bins - 9th August meeting

7. Urgent other business not on the agenda:

- a. Cllr Tarr asked when the Technologies Group would meet. Cllr John confirmed it would meet soon. **Action: Cllr John to arrange a meeting of the group as soon as was convenient.**

b. Cllr Gregory reported that the dog fouling signs had been obtained and would be erected soon. **Action: Cllr Gregory to progress.**

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

Griffiths Signs - dog fouling signs and fixings	£278.32
NetworkWaste - Skip for churchyard clear-up	£420.00
Bassaleg Community Woodland Trust - donation towards judicial review costs	£900.00
SSE - Graig Hall gas costs	£127.42
SSE - Graig Hall electricity costs	£184.21
Newport City Homes - grass-cutting at Fort View play area June 2017	£212.04
Total to date	£2121.99

9. Planning - Applications to be considered:

a. CONEX/17/635 - Proposal: REPLACEMENT DWELLING ALONG WITH NEW DETACHED GARAGE (AMENDMENT TO PERMISSION 09/0252) Site: New property on the site of 18 Forge Lane, Bassaleg, Newport. Application Type: Full **Comment: Graig Community Council objects to this proposal. Council feels that this current proposal would be overdevelopment of the site, and has real concerns it will have an overbearing effect on its surrounding neighbours.**

10. Correspondence for information

Not discussed

11. Dates of next meetings

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

Mid-month meeting - Wednesday 9th August 2017 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.29pm. Confirmed, this 9th day of August 2017.

Signed..... (Chair) – August 2017

Posted to notice boards 25.08.17

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