



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mid-Month Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg at 7pm on 9th August 2017

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1. Apologies for absence: A Whitfield

Present: Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, D Evans, K Sayer, K Harries, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, T Appleton, J Bailey, K Thomas, N Tarr, D Williams. Also present Ex-Cllr V. Cox-Wall and C Young of the Bassaleg Community Woodland Trust and PCSO C Evans

2. To receive public representations: None.

3. Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2017, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Tarr seconded Cllr Harries. The action points of the minutes were briefly discussed. Regarding Item 5b, Cllr Gregory had written to the Police but had not received a response from Hannah Lawton. Regarding Item 5b, Cllr Sayer had still not been contacted by the NCC officer able to overturn a decision made regarding the signage. Regarding Item 5e, Cllr Tarr was formulating a response to the Active Travel Plan Council were asked to comment on. Regarding Item 5k, Cllr Cornelious had confirmed to the Clerk that NCC did not have a charter as described. Regarding Item 7a, The Chair of the group was on holiday and a meeting will be arranged on his return. Cllr Gregory expressed concern and hoped to see progress shortly. **Action: Technology Working Group to arrange a meeting as soon as possible.**

5.b Bassaleg Community Woodland Trust - Brought forward in the agenda. V Cox-Wall and C Young attended the meeting to update Council on recent events with the woodland site adjacent to Church Crescent/Ruperra Close. Both had recently attended a judicial review which was lodged by the Trust against the actions of NCC officers in allowing areas of the woodland to be cut down prior to a planning application being decided. The review found that although NCC were within their rights not to prosecute the owners at that time, a criminal offence had been committed. As the Council had donated funds to assist with the Trust's legal costs for the review, and not all the funds had been used for the purpose it was given, the remainder was offered back to Council with grateful thanks. Mrs Cox-Wall did say the Trust had incurred some costs as a result of the review, for which they would be working hard to raise funds to pay, but the donation from Council was separate to those costs. Council were asked if they would lend their weight to the Trust's intention to investigate the cost of purchasing or leasing the land as a community woodland. This was now a possibility because the recent planning application had now been refused. Council were also asked if they would consider becoming involved with the land if successful. Cllr Cornelious was specifically thanked for the help and support she had given the group in recent months. Cllr Caston proposed a vote of support be given to the group, seconded by Cllr Tarr and agreed by majority. The Trust members left the meeting at 7.40pm. Council discussed the issue and decided that it would be prudent for audit purposes that the Trust return the remainder of the donation to Council and provide evidence of the monies spent, and they would look again at any future plans the Trust requested assistance for as a separate issue. Council were also mindful that if it were to become too involved at this early stage, it could lead to complications and financial obligations should things progress. **Action: Clerk to request the return of the unspent funds and evidence of money spent, and inform the Trust that whilst Council supports their efforts, it must exercise caution. To suggest to them they pursue the possibility of purchasing or leasing the land themselves initially, and if they returned to Council for assistance dependent upon the result, Council would review the matter again.**

4. Reports:

a. Police - PCSO Evans attended the meeting and read the Police report for July to Council. The report contained the following information: During July there had been 85 calls to the Police, 10 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Public Order - 1, Violence Without Injury - 1, Miscellaneous Crime - 1, Burglary Dwelling - 1, Drug Offences - 1, Shoplifting - 1, All Theft other - 2, Vehicle Crime - 2. 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 McDonalds, Rivermead Way and Lilac Grove. Actions and activities by the local teams during July included the following: There had been concern about cold callers visiting the area of Chapel Terrace, Rhiwderin, this was still an ongoing issue and was being monitored by the

neighbourhood team. Patrols were being carried in the areas of Forge Mews and Churchmead due to information being received from a member of the public with reference to anti-social behaviour. No reports of any issues in the location of Afon Village had been received. PCSO Evans reported that the Police were aware there were issues with vehicles parking on double yellow lines on Laurel Drive, the owners were being asked to remove the vehicles by patrols whenever it was observed. PCSO Evans left the meeting at 7.55pm **Action: None requested.**

Cllr Williams gave apologies as he needed to leave the meeting but asked if anyone had any issues for him prior to leaving. Cllr Appleton asked for an update on the issue of the mud on Park View from the Former Tredegar Golf Club development. Cllr Williams told the group he had asked planning to look into the detail of the planning permission and investigate whether wheel washing was a condition of the application, and if so to check it was being carried out as there were obvious issues. He had been informed that the road sweeper had been stolen which was causing issues, but it was felt that the road sweeper was ineffective as it just diluted the mud a little and spread it over the road making the situation worse not better. It was felt the only real solution was to wheel wash vehicles leaving the site so they were clean coming onto Park View. Cllr Williams offered to pursue. He told the group he had been investigating who is responsible for grass cutting on St Basil's shops roundabout but had received no response to date, and that the Church Crescent sign issue had not yet been resolved. He also said he was investigating the Section 106 money and that it was felt there was only a few issues to resolve with the Coach House, then there would then be no reason for the Haras fencing to remain in front of the building. **Action: Cllr Williams to pursue all the above issues.**

Cllr Williams left the meeting at 8.10pm.

5. Items for discussion:

- a. Litter bins - Cllr Gregory suggested Council would need to make the purchase of litter bins soon, and that a review of the current bins, costs and permissions to change some smaller post mounted bins with larger freestanding bins should be carried out **Action: Cllr Gregory and Clerk to carry out the review and bring suggestions back to Council at the 30th August meeting.**
- b. Bassaleg Community Woodland Trust - discussed above.
- c. Railings outside Rhiwderin CC - Cllr Sayer told the group that he had been clearing away overgrowth from the side wall of Rhiwderin CC and had noticed the old metal railings alongside were in a dangerous condition. It was agreed that NCC should be requested to remove the unsafe railings to prevent the possibility of injury. It was noted that Cllr Sayer had done an excellent job and saved costs by eliminating the need to call in a contractor. A vote of thanks was given to Cllr Sayer for his hard work. **Action: Cllr Gregory to report the railings to NCC and request removal as an urgent matter of public safety.**
- d. Update on Park View mud issue - discussed above.

6. Items for next agenda if agreed:

- a. Active Travel Plan Review - 30th August meeting
- b. Presentation on electric vehicle charging points - 13th September meeting
- c. Reverend Christopher Stone - 27th September meeting

7. Urgent other business not on the agenda:

- a. Cllr Bailey asked if any members of the Council would be able to assist in the redecoration of some planters to place in the ward. Cllr Tarr volunteered, as did the Clerk. **Action: Date for carrying out the redecoration to be arranged.**
- b. Cllr Harris reported that a bridge on the Diamond Jubilee Path had worn away and he had reported it to NCC for repairs to be carried out. **Action: Cllr Harris to monitor to ensure repairs are completed.**
- c. Cllr Gregory told the group that the meeting with the new Head of Streetscene had taken place and he and his associate had gone away with a list of issues which he promised to attend to and reply to Cllr Gregory in due course. **Action: Cllr Gregory to chase if no timely response is given.**

8. Accounts for payment:

Accepted, proposed Cllr Bailey Seconded Cllr Tarr
Cllr K Sayer - reimbursement for planter costs on St Basil's Shops roundabout £29.97

9. Planning - Applications to be considered:

- a. CONEX/17/0654 - Proposal: Erection of two storey side extension with front canopy, single storey extension and front porch Site: 5 Court Crescent, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8NJ Application Type: Full **Comment: Council expressed concern regarding the impact this development would have on its neighbouring property due to the proposed proximity to the boundary between the two dwellings.**
- b. CONEX17/0660 - Proposal: Proposed garage conversion and external alterations Site: 8 Churchmead, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8NA Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections.**

- c. CONEX/17/0746 - Two story side extension Site: 10 Penylan Close, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8NU
Application Type: Full **Comment: No objections if adequate parking is supplied and neighbours are content.**

10. Correspondence for information

Not discussed

11. Dates of next meetings

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 30th August 2017 at 7pm

Mid-month meeting - Wednesday 13th September at **6.30pm**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.20pm. Confirmed, this 13th day of September 2017.

Signed..... (Chair) – September 2017

Posted to notice boards 22.09.17

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