

Additional information to the agenda for the meeting being held on Wednesday 28th September at 7pm at Graig Community Hall Bassaleg.

Clerk's Report – 28th September 2011

(Item No 4 on the agenda)

Viaduct Way Adoption – No decision is expected until around September as things have been held up with the beginning of the development at the new Parc Eglwys site. Clerk to chase again in September.

Rhiwderin Community Centre Lease – NCC are currently reviewing their portfolios, a favourable decision is anticipated. Clerk has received confirmation that the review has not been concluded yet and will continue to chase. The Clerk is obtaining a copy of the current lease.

Riverbank Clean-up – Ongoing, the Environment Agency advertised for volunteers to assist with the "Great Ebbw Challenge" which took place between 16th & 18th September where the banks of the river were cleaned up.

Forge Road Parking Issue – The Clerk met with an NCC Highways representative on 21st July to discuss the placement of planters in the ward, a decision has been given which warrants further discussion, this will be added to the agenda under Items for Discussion & Action – NCC response to various queries.

Junction 28 Tredegar Roundabout Safety Issues – following the report from Police to NCC regarding their comments and suggestions for making improvements to the junctions on the roundabout. Clerk has received a response stating that due to recent restructuring at NCC and the reduction of staff this issue has not been considered yet. Clerk has agreed to contact NCC again in October for an update.

Overhanging Tree Branches in Orchard Close and Associated Wentworth Lane Issue – The trees on the piece of land owned by the Council have been assessed and a report produced. The Clerk has now engaged the services of a tree surgeon to carry out the recommendations in the report which includes the trimming back of the overhanging branches into the garden on Orchard Close. The work is to take place week commencing 17th October 2011. It has been agreed to replace the permissive pathway sign which has been broken – Clerk has received advice as to the wording of the sign and other information which will be passed on to the owner of Wentworth Lane. The issue regarding the bollards warrants further discussion and will be added to the agenda under Items for Discussion and Action – NCC response to various queries. Clerk has also received an email from NCC regarding previous promise to improve culvert at the top of the footpath, it has been confirmed that a new gully should be in place soon.

Planters from NCC – NCC decisions regarding the locations of the planters have been received but warrants further discussion and will be added to the agenda under Items for Discussion & Action – NCC response to various queries.

'Go Slow' Signs for Afon Village – The police report & Cllr Cornelious' email reply from NCC warrants further discussion and will be added to the agenda under Items for Discussion & Action – Afon Village traffic issues.

Rumble Strip on Forge Road – Clerk emailed City Councillors urging them to help resolve the situation. Cllr Williams has had confirmation that they were awaiting costings to have the

job completed, and hoped to do so during these school holidays to lessen disruption. This has not been completed so both City Councillors are chasing for updates.

Christmas Tree Quality Issue – Assurance has been received that the defective tree will be replaced in the autumn.

Caerphilly Close Junction Landscaping Project – Clerk has approached 3 NCC approved contractors to quote for completing the landscaping scheme. To date two contractors have presented quotes and one other is expected. This project is temporarily on hold – please see next item.

Graig Hall – 3 quotes have been received, the matter is temporarily on hold as there is the possibility of outside assistance for either replacement windows for the Graig Hall or the Caerphilly Rd/Close junction project. The Clerk has chased for an update and is awaiting a response.

Griffin Hedge – Cllr Williams has reported that the face of the hedge along the Griffin has been cut but he and Cllr Cornelious is chasing up if the top and section of Cowshed lane will be attended to.

Play Areas – The replacement swing at Fort View/Highfield play area has been ordered and will be installed soon. The Clerk has met with 2 playground equipment suppliers who have surveyed the sites and will draw up refurbishment schemes for Council approval together with costs. These schemes can then be put forward with funding applications to the organisations provided by the suppliers as support for any applications. The scheme from one supplier is expected prior to the next meeting; the other may be received afterwards. This item will be deferred until both providers have submitted schemes to give Council some comparable figures for decision making.

Notice boards – The refurbishment of all notice boards have been completed. Location approval from NCC warrants further discussion and will be added to the agenda under Items for Discussion and Action – NCC response to various queries.

Councillor Vacancy – The vacancy has been filled via the interviews which took place prior to the last Planning & Environmental meeting. Our new Councillor – Mr John Harris will attend the meeting and be inducted.

Adoption of Footpath Opposite Garth Terrace – Clerk has written to NCC Rights of Way officer again and is awaiting a response.

Footpath Opposite Friendly Fox to Pentrepoeth School – Clerk has received confirmation that this matter is being attended to and is awaiting confirmation that the matter has been dealt with.

Community Council Logo – Cllr Powell is assisting with the design – ongoing.

Conifers at 50a Caerphilly Road – Clerk had comments from Cllr Caston and via the CC website about overgrown conifers obstructing the public footpath between Caerphilly Road and Laurel Road. Clerk has posted a polite notice to homeowner to request that they cut back the hedge and received confirmation that it will be cut as soon as circumstances and weather allow.

Activity at Development Adjacent to Friendly Fox – Clerk has written to NCC Planning Dept to ensure groundworks undertaken at the site are within the bounds of the planning permission given and has received confirmation that the development has been approved.

NCC are to visit the site and monitor progress as expected. This issue is in the hands of the NCC Planning Department and this issue will be removed from the Clerk's Report.

Broken Styles on Footpath Near Old Alcan Site – Clerk has written to NCC Footpaths Officer to request repair of broken styles in the fields which form our boundary with Rogerstone at the back of the site. Since no reply has been received, clerk has chased again.

Bassaleg & Rhiwderin Directory – Cllr Stokes has written an article for the Directory setting out Councils achievements and aims and requesting considerate parking, especially in the Laurel Road area. Article has been submitted for the Nov-Dec issue and will include details of the Christmas Lighting ceremony. Artwork has been added and the finished article is now complete. This item will be removed from future Clerk's reports.

Old Alcan Site – As there seems to be movement on the site, Clerk has checked with NCC Planning Dept what permissions are in place. Currently there are no plans submitted for development but NCC are aware that it is being thought about. Clerk has requested that if an application is submitted that Graig be included in the planning process as such a large site will have real impact on Graig's current amenities and infrastructure. Clerk to monitor, but this item will be removed from future Clerk's Reports.

St Basils Lytchgate and Brass Memorial Plaques – The Clerk has spoken to Cannon Williams about the possibility of working together to make some restoration works to the lytchgate and the possibility of moving the brass memorial plaques inside the church. He is meeting with his Church committee in late September and will come back to the Clerk with comments and suggestions for moving forward.

Beech tree damage beside Duffryn Close – Clerk has contacted NCC to request that an old beech tree that sustained damage during the recent storms in the woods besides Duffryn Close is examined and remedial steps to ensure public safety are taken. Clerk and Cllr Harries to monitor.

Mayor's Buffet – Clerk has sent a note of thanks to the Mayor's office to thank Cllr Cornelious, her consort and the office for an enjoyable evening, and also sent a thank you card to Cllr Cornelious herself.

Bassaleg Church Hall – The Clerk has sent a letter to the organisers containing contact details for the Booking Clerks of each of the Community Centres, offering any available time slots for hire should they find themselves in difficulties during the transition period from the old hall to the new.

Compiled 23.08.11
Updated 28.09.11

Please note: The contents of this report have been compiled by the Clerk and are subject to change as and when new information is received. This report has not been approved by the Community Council before publication as meeting minutes would be, and is intended only as a useful tool to give information on the current status of ongoing issues to reduce time spent at meetings discussing updates unnecessarily.