

GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at the Graig Community Centre Bassaleg at 7pm on 26th October 2011.

Apologies for absence: Cllrs P Stokes, D Williams, R Powell, P Gregory.

Present: Cllrs C Williams (Chair), R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, M Smart, K Sayer, K Harries, P John, L Fry, N Mountain, G Morris, J Harris. Also present PCSO Chris Evans.

Police: The Police report was heard first to enable PCSO Evans to go about his business. 86 calls had been received, 14 of which were crimes. 3 of these had been detected, with enquiries ongoing with the remainder. Crimes included 4 drive-offs from Morrison's petrol station, 3 incidents of fraud, 3 of vehicle damage, 1 burglary, 1 assault, 1 seized vehicle and 1 drugs warrant executed. The priority in the area is youth disorder with operations carried out to crack down on underage drinking. Councillor Williams asked that the Police are involved with safety issues for pedestrians walking between Foss-y-fran junction and the Friendly Fox pub, PCSO Evans to report the issue to his superior.

Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held 28th September 2011, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr John seconded Cllr Harries.

Clerk's Report:

The Clerk's report previously circulated had been read, Council were satisfied that all issues in the report were being dealt with appropriately, no discussion was necessary.

Projects:

Bassaleg CC: Cllr Fry reported that the preferred company to supply windows and doors had submitted a more competitive quote. The colours for the redecoration of the main hall were to be chosen after the meeting. Council are waiting on a decision from NCC re Rhiwderin CC lease before larger projects can be committed to. The Hall Committee offered £5K towards the replacement windows and doors, a final decision regarding their replacement will be made at the November meeting.

Caerphilly Rd/Close Junction landscaping: The project is on hold pending a decision on Rhiwderin CC lease.

Christmas lighting event. The organisation of the event was discussed, Council approved costs of up to £150 from funds could be used if required.

Reports:

Police – Reported above.

City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious advised that grants from NCC could possibly be available towards the community centres. Clerk to write to NCC to explore. She also reported that there have been problems with youths coming into Bassaleg from other areas and causing problems. Council advised her of the frustration regarding the lack of communication between the Community Council and the City Council. She advised writing to the Chief Executive, copying in all departments on email. Clerk to write to the Chief Executive to advise of the problem.

Graig CC – NTR

Rhiwderin CC – Clerk still chasing for an extension to the lease, Quiz night has been set for 26th November. Cllr Fry reported that he was aware that the gas governor housing had been vandalised, and that the building required some secure doors to make it safe. Clerk to contact the utilities company to explore who would be responsible for replacement. Council; approved honorariums to the Caretaker and the Bookings Clerk, Clerk to produce cheques at the next meeting.

Best Kept Villages Group – Council discussed another email received from the group voicing concerns over the cost of continuing with the project at Caerphilly Road/Close junction and placing more planters in the ward. Clerk to invite the group to the next Planning & Environmental meeting to discuss the matter.

Bassaleg Allotments – The planning application is still being dealt with by the architect. One of the locks on the gates had been damaged, and parts of the hedge on the Griffin had not been cut by NCC – Cllr D Williams to chase up.

Play Areas – The Chair & Clerk had met with Newport City Homes regarding Fort View play area, NCH requested that the Council pay their portion of grass cutting for the site. Council approved paying for future costs but asked the Clerk to request that the charge for cutting already completed be waived in light of the fact it had not been approved prior to work being carried out.

Burial Board – The Clerk produced an email from the Clerk of Rogerstone which included a request for both Councils to meet to discuss the future plans for the organisation. Council agreed that they would be happy to meet. Clerk is awaiting suggested dates for the Rogerstone Clerk.

Items for Next Agenda

Post box on Laurel Road (KH) (November Full Council Meeting)

Annual Precept (November P&E meeting)

Further discussion re Neighbourhood Committee Meetings review (November P&E meeting)

Planning:

CONEX/11/1050 – Felling of Ash (T8) and works to Oak (T7 and T6) Trees protected by TPO 8/1997. Site: Badgers Wood Close, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8SG. Comment: Council happy to leave to the TP Officer and made no comment.

Items for Discussion/Action

Diamond Jubilee beacons – Cllr Harries to look into whether the Council could be involved and report back to Council at the next meeting.

Closure dates for agendas for meetings – It was decided that closure deadlines for matters to be added to an agenda be 7pm on the Friday prior to the meeting for which it is produced, no item will be added after that time unless extremely urgent (with the exception of planning applications and late payment requests).

NCC response regarding safety issues on Caerphilly Road – Council discussed the email received by NCC, it was decided to press forward with attempting to have the street lighting improved and the trees cut back on the stretch of road alongside the traffic speed indicator sign prior to the Friendly Fox pub - Clerk to write to NCC again.

Litter issues opposite Bassaleg School – Cllr Cornelious reported that she had complaints from residents about the litter on the footpath from Forge Road to Churchmead. Council approved paying for an additional litter bin to be installed providing NCC would be prepared to add it to their waste collection round, Clerk to write to NCC to investigate and order the bin if a commitment to empty it was obtained.

Concurrent allocations (Langstone Clerk email) – Council received an email to request supporting them in their quest for a fairer distribution of Concurrent Expenditure by NCC. As Council has been championing this cause for many years, they were happy to instruct the Clerk to write to NCC as requested.

Council Logo update – The new logo for the Community Council was produced and approved by Council. Clerk to amend all official stationery to include it in the future.

Remembrance Sunday – Cllr Williams reminded Council of the service and requested support from all who were able to attend.

Correspondence for Information - Not discussed

Accounts Approved for Payment

Clerk salary and expenses for October 2011	£1268.64
C Ricci – bin cleaning, litter picking & maintenance October 2011	£250.00
Edmonds Tree Services – tree surgery in Wentworth Lane	£900.00
Steve Rose – final payment for hall decoration	£450.00
British Legion – payment for wreath and donation	£100.00
Inland Revenue – Wages PAYE & NI April-September	£1835.00
Monmouthshire Council – Year 2 Maintenance at St Basil's Stores roundabout	£642.72

Receipts

None.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.50pm. Confirmed this day, 30th November 2011.

Signed..... (Chair) – 30th November 2011

Posted to notice boards 07.12.11