



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm 27th November 2013.

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1. Apologies for absence: Cllr D Williams.

Present: Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, P Stokes, M Smart, K Sayer, M Cornelious, P John, N Mountain, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, V Cox-Wall.

2. Public Representations: None.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held 30th October 2013, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Haigh.
Cllr Cox-Wall joined the meeting at 7.05pm.

4. Clerk's Report:

The Clerk's Report previously circulated was discussed. Arising from the Report - Item 10: Cllr Stokes commented that it was a shame that the request for a bus stop in the Viaduct Way vicinity had been denied. Cllr Cornelious reported that the area had been checked and there was no room for a turning area besides the timing issues already mentioned.

5. Projects:

- a. Meeting room & kitchen refurbishment at Graig Hall: Cllr Fry submitted an initial quote for the full works which amounted to £19510, but it was agreed that this could be scaled down if necessary to reduce cost, and was also subject to additional quotes for comparison. The quote was discussed, and it was agreed for Cllr Fry to move the project forward, discuss it with the Hall Management Committee, then return to Council with updates and proposals for approval.
- b. Fencing between open space and Caerphilly Road: Cllr Fry reported that the remaining old chain link fencing had been removed and that Council should now decide if it should go ahead with any further works to the western end of the area. It was decided that as there was much other work planned for the short term, it would be best to leave all but placing a surface under the new kissing gates until the Spring. It was noted that many Councillors had had very positive feedback on the replacement fencing from local residents. Cllr Fry to proceed with the kissing gate area resurfacing.
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade: Cllr Gregory reported that NetworkRail had repaired the embankment wall abutting the Centre's grounds, removed trees which were interfering with its safety, and will be installing new fencing along the top of the wall. A meeting had been held with the architect engaged to oversee the upgrade of the Centre's toilet block, and he has been asked to begin the tendering process for the work to be carried out. It is hoped that work can commence during the Easter break of 2014 to minimise disruption to the Meithrin. The Meithrin had won the recent funding competition they entered, and have been awarded £3000 which they will use to upgrade their outside soft play area.

6. Reports:

- a. Police – Not present. Cllr Gregory reported that he was aware that there had been a couple of break-ins and burglaries in the area recently.
- b. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious reported that she thought that the raised path on Caerphilly Road had been cleared, this was challenged by Cllr Sayer who believed that the path had not yet been done, Cllr Cornelious agreed to look into the matter. She also reported that she had reviewed the paperwork given to her at a previous meeting regarding Council Scrutiny and that it pertained to groups who were not as scrutinised as the City Council such as Community Councils. Council agreed that extra scrutiny would be welcomed and that as the Community Council works to the rule that all its proceedings are completely transparent, it was not felt necessary to officially comment to the proposed review. The recent decision by the City Council to finance the proposed Friars Walk development was discussed, Cllr Cornelious described the reasoning behind it and said that almost all City Councillors were behind the decision. The recent Chartist Memorial issue was also discussed briefly.
- c. Graig CC – Cllr Fry expanded on the preliminary plans for the kitchen and Cllr Evans reported that to date the Hall finances showed them to have £3200 in hand, more bills were expected before the

end of the financial year so the figure would reduce. Cllr Mountain asked if it should be considered to have some form of re-usable energy installed with any spare monies left at the end of the year such as solar panelling to reduce running costs. Cllr Gregory asked that the Hall Management Committee look into this matter.

- d. Rhiwderin CC – Discussed above. Another management meeting is to take place on 9th December.
- e. Best Kept Villages Group – Cllr Gregory reported that the City Council had almost finished the resurfacing of the Caerphilly Rd/Close junction area, and that to date there was some improvement in the overall appearance, but that it did not look as good as was hoped. He also reported on a recent meeting with the group and read out an email sent to Council. The group agreed to carry on maintaining the 28 planters they already keep, and thought that they may be willing to become involved on a management basis for other planters or open space maintenance the Community Council cares for. It was agreed that the group would discuss this proposal and update Council following their meeting. They also mentioned that they were very disappointed at the outcome of the results of the Best Kept Villages competition and were upset by some of the judges remarks to the point that they felt they may not continue to enter the competition in the future. Cllr Fry proposed that the spare planters stored at the Rhiwderin Centre be uplifted and relocated to paint and make ready for next year as they needed to be completed before they rust again. This was agreed, Cllr Fry to action. Cllrs Harris, Gregory and the Clerk to look into the best way of covering the City Council logo with the Community Council's as one comment from the BKV group was that if the planters were to be utilised they would look as if the City Council were maintaining them as the logo was quite prominent.
- f. Allotments – NTR
- g. Play Areas – Cllr Cornelious reported that there is money available at the City Council for play areas in the vicinity, but that the City Council were concerned that part of the Fort View area is owned by Newport City Homes. Cllr Cornelious was assured that although this is the case, the Community Council has a 999 year lease on the land and have also had permission for NCH to upgrade the area with their full support. The current situation with Rhiwderin play area had not changed. Cllrs Whitfield, Gregory and the Clerk to look into new funding streams in the new year.
- h. Burial Board – Cllr Harris reported that the business plan and new rules for the cemetery are being worked on with the next meeting being held in March 2014.

7. Items for Next Agenda

Agreed

8. Planning:

- a. CONEX/13/1176 - Erection of single detached garage. Site: Plot 1 Site of former Church Hall, Caerphilly Road, Newport. Application Type: Full. Comment: Concerns that this development was not included in the original application for the whole site. Council objects on the grounds that the proposed garage is forward of the existing buildings line and further obstructs the outward vision of residences in St Benedict's Court.
- b. CONEX/13/1183 - Erection of two storey front extension. Site: 2 The Coach House, Glebe Gardens, Caerphilly Road, Newport NP10 8QY. Application Type: Full. (Cllr Smart declared an interest in this item and left the room whilst it was discussed. Due to the lack of detail on the plans, she was asked to return to explain the topography but took no part in the comment formulated). Comment: Council objects on the grounds that this is an inappropriate development which is insensitive to the neighbouring properties, would be directly overlooking and affecting the quality of light to the property next door, and would also be overdevelopment of the site.
- c. Update regarding planning application for solar farm at Michaelstone-y-fedw - It was noted by the Clerk that this application had already been decided by the City Council, no further comments were necessary.

9. Items for Discussion/Action

- a. Technology Sub Committee meeting update: The newly formed Committee reported that they had held their first meeting and discussed costs, the setting up of Facebook and Twitter pages and maintenance. It was suggested that to promote the website, that the address be added to all official Council paperwork, this was agreed - Clerk to action. The committee was thanked and Council looked forward to further information.
- b. Christmas lighting event update: Details of the forthcoming event were discussed in detail.
- c. Feedback from Cllr Cornelious regarding the consultation on WG's Designated Persons Order: discussed, no action needed.

- d. Street lighting on Laurel Road: Cllr Whitfield commented that the street lighting on Laurel Road is poor in the area just above the shops and an extra lamp would be useful. It was noted that this issue had been raised with the City Council previously but to no avail, but a fresh complaint should be made. Clerk to action.
- e. Welsh Government - Consultation on the Proposed Revocation and remaking of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2005 - Cllr Caston agreed to review and return to the next meeting on 11th December.

10. Correspondence for Information:

Noted but not discussed.

11. Accounts for Payment: Approved – Proposed Cllr Stokes seconded Cllr Caston.

Clerk salary & office allowance October 2013	£1540.40
October miscellaneous expenses	£475.49
C Ricci – bin cleaning, litter picking & maintenance October 2013	£250.00
Newport City Homes - grass cutting to Fort View play area for October 2013	£212.04
Saldo Pipe & Construction Services - drainage works to Rhiwderin CC	£1173.60
R Charles Plastics - works to notice board & kissing gates	£75.00
Premier Group (UK) Ltd - PA Hire for Christmas event	£48.00
Welsh Water - Bassaleg allotment charges (6 months)	£122.68
	Total: £3897.21

Receipts

Mr A Gooding - donation to Christmas event	£50.00
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12. Dates of next meetings:

Planning & Environment Meeting – Wednesday 11th December 2013 at 6pm
 Combined Full Council Meeting & Planning Meeting – Wednesday 8th January 2014

13. Urgent Business not on discussed above.

Cllr Gregory reported that a letter had been sent by him to the Argus Editor and Letters Page speaking of Council's disappointment of the lack of coverage given to the recent Graig Diamond Jubilee Path opening event. No response had been received to date nor had the letter been published on the Letters Page of the newspaper.

In a newsletter sent out by Pentrepoeth School, it was noted that a pupil had won a prestigious competition, Cllr Evans to forward the newsletter to the Clerk so she had details to send an official congratulatory letter on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Fry asked for a new bin to be procured to replace the broken bin on the open space in Bassaleg - Clerk to action.

It was agreed that the decommissioned notice board located at St Basil's Church should remain in situ for the time being.

It was noted that single yellow lines were being painted in the area of St Basil's shops to restrict parking, and that one traffic island had been omitted which should have been included. Clerk to write to NCC to request this also have restricted parking.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.00pm. Confirmed this 8th day of January 2014.

Signed..... (Chair) – 8th January 2014

Posted to notice boards 24.01.14