



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 28th May 2014.

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1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs M Smart, M Cornelious, D Williams, P John, V Cox-Wall.
Present: Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, P Stokes, K Sayer, K Harries, N Mountain, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, K Ashton. Also present PCSO's N Evans, H Bennett & M Dean.
2. **Public Representations:** None.
- 7a Police - The Police were heard first to allow them to leave and continue with their duties, PCSO Dean gave the following report. 124 calls had been made to the Police between 01.05.14 and 28.05.14, of these 25 were crimes all of which were under investigation. The breakdown was as follows. 7 x all other theft, 2 x burglary dwelling, 2 x burglary non-dwelling, 5 x criminal damage, 3 x violence without injury, 1 x violence with injury, 3 x vehicle crime, 2 x public order. Patrols were being carried out regularly in the Laurel road area - 1 call had been received but there was no obstruction at the time of arrival. The first joint surgery with City Cllrs and the Neighbourhood Watch team was scheduled to take place on 6th June at Rhiwderin Community Centre. The Community Engagement Day went well with several local residents signing up to OWL. The Police held surgery day held in 4 locations brought no new concerns for the area. Inspector Biggs who oversaw the ward has moved on and has been replaced by Inspector Nick Hayes, also Sergeant Akbar Ali has joined the ward team. Cllr Gregory was dismayed that the local Inspector has once again changed after a short period, as Council had been assured by DCC Bottomley that there would be more continuity of service when Council expressed concerns that no sooner than senior staff moved to the ward they were swiftly moving on. PCSO's were urged to patrol the villages as much as possible as crime in the ward was increasing. Parking issues on Laurel Road were discussed, the Clerk to contact the City Councillors to urge them to pursue all possible means with the City Council to resolve the issues being experienced. PCSO Dean was asked to obtain the dates of the attendance of the mobile speed camera at the junction of Caerphilly Road/Close as previously requested of PC Turner, as it was felt that attendance times are very predictable. The Police were thanked for their time and left the meeting at 7.20pm.
3. **To hold internal election and appoint members to sub-committees:** Cllr Paul Gregory was nominated to be Chairman for a third term (proposed, Cllr Stokes, seconded Cllr Fry), and Cllr Fry as Vice-Chairman for a fourth term (proposed Cllr Stokes, seconded Cllr Harries). Cllr Caston proposed that accreditation to both the Chair and Clerk be noted which was supported by all. Councillors were voted onto the various committees of interest to Council, details to be posted in the notice boards and on the website.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 30th April 2014, previously circulated were read and subject to the correction of a small error were approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Harries. It was agreed to add the Bassaleg Post Office issue to the Clerk's report and keep the owners appraised of any developments.
5. **Clerk's Report:**
The Clerk's Report previously circulated was briefly discussed. The report was accepted as a true reflection of matters to date. Proposed Cllr Sayer, seconded Cllr Evans. It was noted that regarding Item 13 - Dedicated right turn into Laurel Road - that an accident had occurred on that junction in the past few days. Council hoped that steps to install the dedicated lane would soon be taken.
6. **Projects:**
 - a. Meeting room & kitchen refurbishment at Graig Hall: Cllr Fry reported that the refurbishment was almost complete. An emergency light was to be installed on the following Friday. Cllr Whitfield remarked that the meeting room had turned out very well and was much more fit for purpose.
 - b. Fencing between open space and Caerphilly Road: Cllr Fry reported that the hard standing under the kissing gates had been completed. Council decided that for the time being no work would be considered on the green area alongside the junction of Caerphilly Rd/The Griffin. It was agreed that

Cllr Fry should obtain a quote for the widening of the path through the open space as previously agreed to complete the project. Clerk to agenda Graig Hall car parking issues for the July 2nd meeting.

- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade: Cllr Gregory reported that following advice from Council's auditors it was necessary to tender for the job of resurfacing the car park. Tenders are being offered to approved contractors for return in 1 week in order to progress quickly with a decision.

7. Reports:

- a. Police – Discussed above.
- b. City Councillors – Not present.
- c. Graig CC – Cllr Evans reported that end of year figures were not as healthy as expected due to the extraordinarily large energy bills which would leave the Hall's bank account in the red if action was not taken. Council agreed to give over £1000 to assist and prevent the account going into overdraft. Cheque to be authorised with this month's payment schedule (see Payments below). New hand dryers are to be installed in both toilet blocks. Repainting of the lines in the large hall for the badminton court were approved at the cost of £360, Cllr Fry to organise. Clerk to purchase a 50 person first aid kit for both Graig and Rhiwderin Community Centres.
- d. Rhiwderin CC – Discussed above and Cllr Caston had agreed with the Railway Group that another set of keys should be made available for the area they use - Centre Caretaker to arrange. Cllr Gregory reported that as the only appointed person in the Centre was the Caretaker, that the Booking Clerk had also volunteered to undergo training. An appointed person was also needed at Graig Hall, Cllr Harris offered to undergo the training.
- e. Best Kept Villages – A cheque for £100 to be donated to the group to assist with the cost of planting up some tubs and beds (see Payments below)..
- f. Allotments – The recent inspection was discussed, payment for allotment rents and insurance have almost all been received.
- g. Play Areas – Council are still lobbying NCC hard for a decision on proceeding with the upgrade of the 2 current play areas and the re-instatement of Rhiwderin play area either to its original location or another site in the village. City Cllr M Whitcott is now in charge of the issue and it is being addressed.
- h. Burial Board – Meeting 16th June.

8. Items for Next Agenda

None

9. Planning:

- a. CONEX/14/0394 - 3No. Roof lights in front roof slope. Site: Land to the rear of 4 Caernarvon Drive Rhiwderin Newport. NP10. Application Type: Full. Comment: No Objections provided the neighbours in Harlech Drive opposite this development are consulted and agree.
- b. CONEX/14/0381 - Variation of standard time condition to allow a further 5 years to implement planning permission 09/0665 for erection of first floor side extension. Site: 5 Gerbera Drive, Rogerstone, Newport. NP10 9JD. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections.
- c. CONEX/14/0412 - Single storey rear extension with the use of the flat roof as a roof terrace together with a spiral staircase to allow garden access from the roof terrace and erection of garden fence to the east side. Site: Whiteoaks, 2 Highfield Lane, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8LQ. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections.

10. Items for Discussion/Action

- a. AGMs for Community Centres - Graig Hall, 14th July. Rhiwderin Community Centre, 21st July.
- b. Review of grounds maintenance for St Basil's shops roundabout - Cllr Fry had dealt with the issue.
- c. Website update - Progressing.
- d. Light opposite Garth Terrace - No update available, City Cllr Williams attending to the matter.
- e. Dog fouling - Cllr Ashton suggested the ward is falling down badly with regards to this issue. Areas of Rhiwderin Heights, Bassaleg open space and Five Lanes are particularly bad. Clerk to invite NCC's dog warden to meet with Council. Cllr Gregory reported that the NCC Dog Warden had attended the recent Community Open Day and gave him signs and leaflets. They said they have patrolled the area and put markings in various areas. It was felt that not enough action was being taken and that the ward would benefit from more bins, signage and maybe request that free foul bags be given out at local libraries. Suggestions to be put to the Warden when attending a Council meeting.

- f. Open Day Review - Cllr Gregory was disappointed with the turnout for the event and felt that were it not for the plant sale there would have been far fewer people.
- g. Request for Liaison Meeting items for agenda - Cllr Caston suggested Concurrent expenditure be discussed. Cllr Whitfield suggested communications between the City and Community Councils be discussed.
- h. Integrity of Graig Hall roof for photovoltaic cells - Cllr Fry reported that he was concerned with the integrity of the roof of Graig Hall should photovoltaic cells be considered, as these cells would be of considerable weight. It was agreed to revisit this issue at a later date.
- i. Landscaping of Caerphilly Rd/Close junction - Cllr Fry asked that the area be revisited. As this is an item which formed part of the loan agreement it will be looked at in the Autumn.
- j. Council accounts - A breakdown of costs to individual suppliers was submitted by the Clerk which raised some questions which will be addressed.

11. Correspondence for Information:

Noted but not discussed.

12. Accounts for Payment: Accepted. Proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Mountain.

Clerk salary & office allowance May 2014	£1641.09
May miscellaneous expenses	£89.45
C Ricci – bin cleaning, litter picking & maintenance May 2014	£250.00
Monmouthshire Council - repair of wooden bollards at St Basil's shops area	£95.80
Newport City Homes - grass cutting at Fort View play area for March & April 2014	£414.08
Staples - office supplies	£24.48
Welsh Water - Bassaleg allotment supply	£104.00
Griffiths Signs - signage for Graig Hall and open space	£494.10
Office Furniture Online - Conference Furniture at Graig Hall	£619.20
Aon Insurance - annual premium	£4275.69
S Rose - redecoration & making good Graig Hall following refurbishment	£105.00
K Jones Heating - modifications to Graig Hall heating system & service	£400.80
Rob Williams Fencing - Various works from August '13 to April '14	£3828.00
Office Furniture Online - Conference furniture at Graig Hall	£1639.20
R Charles Plastics - works to Graig Hall refurbishment	£230.00
Graig Community Hall - see item 7c above	£1000.00
Best Kept Villages - see item 7e above	£100.00
Total to date:	£15310.89

Receipts

Newport City Council - 1st Precept and Concurrent payment	£30566.45
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12. Dates of next meetings:

- Planning Meeting – Wednesday 11th June 2014 at 7pm
- Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 2nd July 2014 at 7pm (due to Clerk's holiday)

13. Urgent Business not on discussed above.

None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.40pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 02 July 2014

Posted to notice boards 11.07.14

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