



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 2nd July 2014.

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1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs D Williams, P Gregory

Present: Cllrs L Fry (Chair), R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, P Stokes, M Smart, K Sayer, K Harries, M Cornelious, P John, N Mountain, J Harris, W Haigh, K Ashton, V Cox-Wall. Also present Inspector Nick Hayes of Gwent Police.

2. Public Representations: None.

Inspector Hayes was heard first to allow him to continue with his duties. He introduced himself and told the group he is the new Inspector for the area, taking over from Inspector Biggs. He is based in Bettws. He reported that there has been a spate of garage and shed thefts in the area and it was agreed to help inform the public, Council would use the Facebook and Twitter accounts to publicise the issue. He asks that all residents be vigilant and keep all sheds, garages and cars locked at all times, keep downstairs windows shut at night and keys away from doors and windows. Most crimes are opportunistic and simple measures will deter thieves. He confirmed that there are 8 PC's, 10 PCSO's and response shifts covering a large area which includes the Graig ward. Speeding through the villages and the use of mobile phones whilst driving was discussed, as was the fact that Council has been pressing for a static speed camera instead of a mobile camera for the area. The report was read out for July which reported that 102 calls were made to the Police, 13 of which were crimes, all of which were currently under investigation. The breakdown was as follows: 8 x all theft other, 2 x burglary dwelling, 2 x burglary non-dwelling, 1 x vehicle damage. The Neighbourhood Team has given a briefing regarding the forthcoming NATO summit to local businesses and schools, and the Police have been in the area carrying out high visibility patrols. Statistics were given of the dates and times the mobile speed camera had attended at Caerphilly Road/Close junction, but no other information was available. Inspector Hayes agreed to provide more in-depth information as soon as he could obtain it. Inspector Hayes was thanked and left the meeting at 7.30pm.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held 2nd July 2014, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Sayer. The Clerk was asked to chase for the Building Inspector's certificate for the works completed at Graig Hall.

4. 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 Caston, seconded Cllr Evans. Regarding item 9, Council approved the quote from NCC to relocate the notice board from St Basil's Church to Park View and gave permission to the Clerk to authorise the work to be carried out.

5. Projects:

- a. Meeting room & kitchen refurbishment at Graig Hall: Cllr Fry reported that following receipt of the certificate from Building Control, he would proceed with plans for the vision panel. Following a discussion on furniture for the small meeting room, the Clerk was asked to source appropriate small tables and chairs as the furniture currently in the room is unsuitable.
- b. Footpath through open space in Bassaleg: Cllr Fry advised Council that a quote of £3500 had been given by Council's usual contractor for widening the path and installing a suitable walking surface. As the expected cost is above the threshold for accepting one quote, Cllr Fry agreed to obtain two further quotes and return the matter to Council for a decision.
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade: In Cllr Gregory's absence, the Clerk updated Council on this item. The building work for the toilet block was well underway, and the car park resurfacing had hit a small issue as some "soft spots" had been discovered in one area to be resurfaced, but the matter was in hand, and progress was being made.

6. Reports:

- a. Police – As reported above.
- b. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious reported that the parking on grass verges issue on Laurel Road was being looked into by NCC and action was being considered. She asked that Council take resident's objections into account when commenting on the recent Whitehead's former caretaker's bungalow planning application as there is an issue with adequate entry and exit between the development and the main road which has caused major issues in the past. Council agreed to amend their former comment to take this into account. She also reported that she felt the issue with the play areas in the ward was close to resolution. Cllr Whitfield asked if the scheme Council worked so hard to put together for Fort View play area could be used and Cllr Cornelious agreed to have it checked out.
- c. Graig CC – Cllr Evans reported that there had been an issue the previous week where a hall user had collapsed, but that there were too many cars double parked in the car park to be able to get him to his car. It was agreed that a survey of car park users should be taken and Cllrs Harris and Ashton agreed to head up the investigation and survey of the car park and report back to Council at the end of September meeting.
- d. Rhiwderin CC – Discussed above.
- e. Best Kept Villages – NTR
- f. Allotments – NTR
- g. Play Areas – NTR
- h. Burial Board – NTR, the next meeting of the board takes place in September.

7. Items for Next Agenda

Cllr Caston asked that the Clerk's salary and appraisal be added to the 27.08.14 meeting agenda.

8. Planning:

- a. CONEX/14/0642 - Conversion of outbuilding to stand alone residential building. Site: Ffynnon-oer, Penylan Road, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8RW. Application Type: Full. Comment: No objections.

9. Items for Discussion/Action

- a. Website - Following the Clerk sending out samples to Councillors to agree on the overall look of the new website, the majority vote was that the Wordpress option was the best. Clerk to inform the web designer so work could continue.
- b. Dilapidations schedule - a copy of the dilapidations schedule compiled by Cllr Fry some years ago has been resurrected and Cllrs were asked to look at the work in the ward that needs doing at present and make suggestions at the end of August meeting for amending the schedule to bring it up to date.
- c. Household Waste Recycling Centre - Information given to Cllrs and noted.
- d. M4 corridor around Newport - Information given to Cllrs and noted.
- e. Quote for grass cutting - Clerk submitted a quote for regular strimming of the allotment fence, play area fence and new boundary fence all at Graig Hall/open space which was accepted by Council. Clerk to check on insurance before offering the work.
- f. Tree survey at Wentworth Lane - Clerk sought permission from Council to engage a Tree Consultant to carry out a survey and for the trimming of trees due on Council owned land alongside Wentworth Lane. This was approved, Clerk to action.

10. Correspondence for Information:

Noted but not discussed.

11. Accounts for Payment: Accepted. Proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Stokes.

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| Clerk salary & office allowance July 2014 | £1551.64 |
| July miscellaneous expenses | £290.69 |
| C Ricci – bin cleaning, litter picking & maintenance July 2014 | £250.00 |
| Newport City Homes - grass cutting at Fort View play area June | £212.04 |
| Garran Lockers Ltd - Supply of lockers to Graig Hall | £398.83 |
| BPU Chartered Accountants | £1080.00 |
| Mr M Yearsley - Architect fees for Rhiwderin CC upgrade (2 invoices) | £1538.70 |
| Keoghs LLP - Solicitor's VAT element of costs for Rhiwderin CC insurance claim | £50.00 |

Total to date: £5371.90

Receipts: None to date

12. Dates of next meetings:

Planning Meeting – Wednesday 13th August 2014 at 7pm
Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 27th August 2014 at 7pm

13. Urgent Business not on discussed above.

Cllr Evans submitted quotes for a traditional Chairman's board which totalled approximately £1300. This was thought to be costly, it was agreed that it would be desirable to have a board, but that cheaper options should be explored and having a modern version option for comparison would be useful. Cllr Evans and Clerk to explore and bring costs and suggestions to the 13th August meeting.

Cllr Caston gave apologies for the 13th August meeting in advance.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.00pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 27th August 2014

Posted to notice boards 05.09.14

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