



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 27th January 2016.**

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs A Whitfield, M Smart, M Cornelious  
**Present:** Cllrs P Gregory (Chair), R Caston, D Evans, P Stokes, K Sayer, K Harries, P John, N Mountain, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, V Cox-Wall, P Appleton, D Williams
- 2. Public Representation:** None
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 6th January 2016, previously circulated were read and subject to a small amendment were approved - proposed Cllr John, seconded Cllr Caston.
- 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 Harries, seconded Cllr Evans.
- 5. Projects:**
  - a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade – Cllr Gregory reported that there were still problems with leaks in the roof and that a permanent solution would need to be found. Only the external pointing and internal and external decoration remain to be completed from the original upgrade list. It is still hoped that some form of external funding can be found for the pointing as lime mortar pointing of a stone building would be very expensive. The Centre has a new Secretary and Treasurer, and bookings are doing well. It had been agreed by the Centre Committee that the rates of hire should be raised to £10.00 per hour for frequent users although some discretion could be given to certain voluntary groups. There were some issues with the ladies old toilet block.
- 6. Reports:**
  - a. City Councillors – Cllr Williams reported that potholes are a big problem at present and are being repaired by the City Council. A resident at Court Crescent is still having parking issues during school hours and at school arrival and leaving times, motorists are blocking the carriageways. Residents in the area are considering asking for designated parking for the area. Cllr Williams had decided that he would donate his neighbourhood fund of £500 to the Best Kept Villages group along with Cllr Cornelious. The reply from the Member for Streetscene and City Services Cllr Deb Davies was discussed. Council were dismayed by the recent response to an email sent to the Member requesting an update on the issues discussed when they met in November, following what was initially believed to be a very productive meeting. Council felt no-one seems to have accountability for ensuring issues are dealt with adequately. Clerk to reply, stating Council's views for each item as applicable.
  - b. Graig Community Hall – Cllr Evans thanked all who attended to help take down the Christmas decorations at the Hall. He advised that bookings for the Hall were looking good. Cllr Harris confirmed that the Rural Market was to become a regular feature and that the organisers had been advised that there should be no parking on the village green.  
Cllr Williams left the meeting at 7.45pm.  
Council were aware that some customers booking the Hall were unhappy as they were experiencing double bookings or no-one opening up the Hall for them to use. This was discussed and a the Management Committee agreed to review it's procedures.
  - c. Rhiwderin Community Centre – Discussed above.
  - d. Best Kept Villages Group – It was acknowledged the group will be donated the City Cllr's neighbourhood funds.
  - e. Allotments - Cllr Caston reported that the allotment agreements were to be revised to take in recently agreed changes, and a meeting was to be arranged to action this.
  - f. Play Areas – Cllr Gregory reported that there had been no movement on the issues still to be resolved following the creation of the new play areas. The land at Rhiwderin which was the site of the previous play area had still not been secured.
  - g. Burial Board – A meeting had been arranged for 2 weeks time. It was noted that Rogerstone Community Council were again not happy about paying their portion of the precept to enable the burial ground to be maintained. Council believed there would be no choice in the matter as it was a legal obligation that could not be ignored.

## 7. Items for Next Agenda:

- Dilapidation schedule (KS) - 10th February Planning Meeting.
- Graig Community Council calendar proposal (NM) - 10th February Planning Meeting.

## 8. Items for Discussion/Action:

- d. Council finances - Council looked again at the projected figures on a new table which highlighted costs of items agreed to be funded as projects in the near future.
- a. Proposal to upgrade Graig Hall toilet facilities (LF) - Cllr Fry put forward a proposal to upgrade the men's, ladies and disabled toilet facilities for Graig Hall as they did not meet modern requirements. Total costs for the project were estimated to be around £16K in total. This was considered to be a worthwhile project and it was proposed by Cllr Stokes to carry out the work, this was seconded by Cllr Haigh and passed unanimously. Cllr Fry agreed to oversee the project, and it was added to the list of projects to be carried out in the near future.
- b. Council flower planter locations & St Basil's Shops improvement scheme - the cost of grass cutting and maintenance for the St Basil's Shops roundabout was discussed. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would look into the issue with a view to reducing costs moving forward. As Council were looking to make a contribution to the Lower Machen area of the ward, Cllr John put forward a design for a new wooden bench to replace the old bench outside St Michael's Church and to replace the old planters alongside with 2 of the new flower planters being discussed. This was accepted, Cllrs John and Stokes to progress the project. It was decided to decorate all the planters initially, then new locations for them all could be decided.
- c. Invitation to comment on the Welsh Government's Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill - It was decided that Council should comment, Chairman and Clerk to action.
- d. Council finances - discussed above.
- e. Vale of Usk Action Group update (JH) - Cllr Harris reported that the Group have funds to distribute and are looking for projects from businesses and community groups. Cllr Harris was asked to investigate the criteria for applying, and was thanked for representing Council as a member of the group.
- f. Bassaleg Post Office - invitation to comment on proposed changes - discussed briefly, it was decided that Cllrs should respond personally if they wished.
- g. Gwent Federation of Young Farmers' Club's request for donation - Council are not in a position to help financially at this time.
- h. NCC letter re Review of Ethical Standards - A letter was read to Council regarding training, the Member Code of Conduct and Council's website obligations. Questions raised in the letter were answered, Clerk to respond accordingly.
- i. Technologies Committee meeting update - Following a recent meeting of the group, a Social Media Policy had been written and presented to the Finance and Administration group to review along with all Council's other policies and procedures which are being reviewed at present. Responsibilities for updating pages on Council's website had also been shared out by the group.
- j. Finance & Administration Committee review of Council documents - A meeting to review all Councils policies and procedures has been set for 9th February 2016.

## 9. Planning:

- a. CONEX/15/1532 - Rear single storey extension and utility extension. Site: 7 Graig Close, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8PE. Application Type: Full - Comment: No objections.

## 10. Correspondence for Information:

Not discussed.

## 11. Accounts for Payment: Accepted. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Cox-Wall

Clerk salary and office allowance for January 2016	£1716.12
January miscellaneous expenses	£40.95
Mr C Ricci - bin cleaning & litter picking January 2016	£220.00
Staples - stationery	£169.15
TalkTalk - Graig Hall broadband - (by DD)	£24.60
M Yearsley - Architect services for Rhiwderin CC Upgrade (2 invoices)	£360.00
Rogerstone & Bassaleg Joint Burial Board - annual precept	£608.00
SSE/SWALEC - Graig Hall gas charges	£313.70
5quidhost - webmail hosting monthly charge (by DD)	£5.00
R Charles Plastics - RCC roof, Meithrin gate and notice board repairs (2 invoices)	£255.00
Calico UK - Graig CC domain name annual charge	£25.00

**Total to date: £3737.52**

**Receipts**

None to date

**12. Dates of next meetings:**

Planning Meeting - Wednesday 10th February 2016 at 7pm

Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 24th February 2016 at 7pm

**13. Urgent Business not on discussed above.**

None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed 9.25pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 24th day of February 2016

Posted to notice boards 04.03.16

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