



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs A Whitfield, D Evans, N Mountain, P John, K Harries, D Williams  
**Present:** Cllrs R Caston, P Stokes, M Smart, K Sayer, P Gregory, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, V Cox-Wall, P Appleton.
2. **Public Representation:** None
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016, previously circulated were read, briefly discussed and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Haigh.
4. **Clerk's Report:**

The Clerk's Report previously circulated was briefly discussed. The question of pursuing the loss of the hedgerow alongside the footpath at the top of the former Garthfield Cottage site was discussed, it was decided that the issue should remain on the report and pressure be stepped up for action to be taken. Council felt that the City Cllrs should be asked to take this and other outstanding issues forward and press for action as everyone felt important issues in the ward were being ignored. It was agreed that the Chair and Clerk should compile a list of issues and ask the City Cllrs to take them forward on Council's behalf. It was also noted that the appearance of the Coach House on Caerphilly Road is still an eyesore in the village. The Clerk reported that she has spoken to the owner on a number of occasions but no progress is being made. Council asked that NCC be informed and some action to improve the front of the building be requested. The report was accepted as a true reflection of matters to date. **Action: Chair and Clerk to compile a list of all outstanding issues and request City Cllrs take them forward on Council's behalf with NCC. Clerk to write to NCC and request some action is taken to make improvements to the front of the Coach House.**
5. **Projects:**
  - a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade – NTR.
  - b. Lower Machen replacement bench – Cllr John was unable to attend, but did send a report saying that things are progressing albeit slowly. Also mentioned was that as Council proposed spending some funds on picnic benches, now would be the best time to do so. **Action: Cllr Appleton agreed to look at options and bring suggestions to the next Full Council meeting.**
  - c. Flower planters – Cllr Smart reported that the 6 planters filled and located at St Basil's Shops, Lower Machen and alongside the Friendly Fox pub were doing poorly in comparison to those cared for by the Best Kept Villages group. It was thought that maybe the soil was to blame. It was decided that more planters should be decorated ready for distribution. Cllr Gregory offered to contact a local contractor to have the planters at Rhiwderin CC raised on blocks and positioned ready to paint. The St Basil's shops roundabout was also discussed, some Cllrs were unhappy with the service being used to maintain the area and another service provider will be considered when the contract ends. **Action: Cllr Smart to take advice from the BKV group to improve the planters for next year. Cllr Gregory to have the next set of planters made ready to decorate.**
  - d. Graig Community Council calendar – Cllr Mountain was unable to attend the meeting but it was noted that Cllr Harris had provided new photographs to be considered for the calendar. **Action: Sub-Committee to meet again to finalise the photographs and explore the possibility of gaining sponsorship.**
  - e. Queen's 90th Birthday - Cllr Stokes reported that he had obtained the necessary quotes for providing a Welsh Oak tree to be planted somewhere on the village green to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The quotes ranged between £245 and £295 for supply of the tree and planting costs. Council approved the quote of £295 (proposed Cllr Smart, seconded Cllr Sayer and approved by majority) **Action: Clerk to progress.**
- 8.d. (brought forward) – Cllr Stokes explained that he would not be taking forward the tree planting mentioned above as he had decided to retire from the Community Council. He told the group that he had been a Cllr for the past 17 years and had always enjoyed serving his community, but now feels that as he travels often and misses meetings, and Council is so industrious now in comparison to years ago, he feels it would be better served by someone who can devote more time and commitment than he is able to offer. He said that the Council in the past 6 years or so has improved and achieved

so much, completing many great projects which have improved the quality of life for all residents. He wished all Council Members the very best of luck and the Council much success in the future, but that this would be his last meeting. Cllr Gregory thanked him on behalf of Council for his dedicated service over the years and said how all Members enjoyed his company and working with him. This was echoed by the group.

## 6. Reports:

- a. City Councillors – Cllr Williams was unable to attend but forwarded information to Council on the issues he had been dealing with. He had been involved with dealing with some Himalayan Balsam at Afon Mead, and also with an overgrown garden in Grosvenor Road which had a rodent infestation. He had recently had a successful meeting with residents in Court Crescent regarding the parking issues being experienced during the past months and had also attempted to speak to the residents in Pentrepoeth Road regarding vehicles being stored at the roadside (as agreed at the previous meeting), but to date that had been unsuccessful. **Action: Cllr Williams to follow up the vehicles issue on Pentrepoeth Road.**
- b. Graig Community Hall – Cllr Fry informed Council that he had arranged for Graig Hall grounds maintenance to be carried out as hedges were overgrown and brambles were impeding the footpaths. More needed to be done in the Autumn such as bramble roots needing to be dug out of shrub beds. **Action: None required.**
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre – Cllr Gregory told the group the Centre's AGM had taken place some days earlier. There is currently a vacancy for a Committee Secretary, as the post had not been filled. The Centre's finances were healthy, making profits of £6.5K in the 2015/16 financial year. At the meeting following the AGM the Committee decided to erect some signage outside stating that no dogs and no smoking of any kind would be allowed in the grounds of the Centre (including the play area). **Action: None required.**
- d. Best Kept Villages Group – NTR except that Council again reiterated grateful thanks to the group for all their work which makes a huge difference to the appearance of the villages and is appreciated by everyone. It was noted that there was no Newport in Bloom competition held this year.. **Action: None required.**
- e. Allotments – Cllr Caston reported that more taster plots had been let recently. **Action: None required.**
- f. Play Areas – Cllr Gregory told the group that he had been trying to speak with the Officer in charge of the play areas installation, he had not received responses to emails and phone calls, but he would keep trying. **Action: Cllr Gregory to pursue.**
- g. Burial Board – Cllr Cox-Wall reported that at a recent meeting the proposed business plan put forward had been accepted with some amendments, and that the group were considering installing CCTV to deter further fly tipping incidents. The situation regarding the Burial Board Clerk's employment status was discussed. **Action: Cllrs Gregory & Fry to meet with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Rogerstone CC to discuss the BB Clerk's employment.**

## 7. Items for Next Agenda:

- a. Clerk's appraisal - 10th August 2016 meeting
- b. Julian Hayman of NHS Wales - 14th September 2016 meeting

## 8. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Litter issues in Afon Village – This item was requested by Cllr Williams who was unable to attend so the item has been deferred to the August 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. **Action: Clerk to add to the agenda.**
- b. CPRW - request for donation – Council agreed to donate £50 to the organisation, proposed Cllr Sayer, seconded Cllr Caston and agreed by all. **Action: Clerk to present a cheque for payment at the next meeting.**
- c. HGV's using Caerphilly Road – Following the recent accident involving a HGV and a car close to Laurel Drive, Cllr Harris asked if some action could be taken. It was recognised that Caerphilly Road is a main spine road to other villages and towns further up the valley but it was thought that maybe some signage could be useful. **Action: This issue to be added to the list to be compiled by the Chairman and Clerk.**
- d. Councillor Stokes – Discussed above. Action: **Clerk to advertise the vacancy.**
- e. Invitation to attend a Living Levels Landscape and Character Assessment workshop run by Natural Resources Wales – Noted. **Action: Councillors to contact the Clerk if interested in attending.**

## 9. Correspondence for Information:

Not discussed.

**10. Accounts for Payment:** Accepted. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Cox-Wall.

Clerk salary and office allowance for July 2016	£1682.72
July misc. expenses	£53.60
Mr C Ricci - bin cleaning & litter picking July 2016	£180.00
Newport City Homes - grass cutting costs for Fort View play area June '16	£212.04
Tsohost - monthly website admin cost (taken by DD)	£5.00
BPU Chartered Accountants - annual internal audit cost	£1176.00
Staples - office supplies	£46.94
<b>Total to date:</b>	<b>£3356.30</b>

**Receipts**

None to date

**11. Urgent Business not discussed above:**

- a. Cllr Cox-Wall reported that there had been talk on Council's Twitter account that the Graig Diamond Jubilee Walk was overgrown between Church Crescent and Russell Close. There were also damaged steps and missing way markers, or in some cases the markers had been turned to the incorrect position. **Action: Clerk to write to the NCC Officer in charge of footpaths and request for maintenance to be carried out.**
- b. Cllr Harris told the group he has been re-appointed to the Local Access Forum group. **Action: None required.**

**12. Planning:**

- a. App No: 16/0698 Type: Full Site: 35 Tredegar Street, Rhiwderin, Newport NP10 8RJ Proposal: ERECTION OF FIRST FLOOR REAR EXTENSION, SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND DETACHED GARAGE Response: Council felt the development could adversely affect the neighbouring residents but recognised there are similar extensions in the area.
- b. App No: 16/0680 Type: Full Site: Shahid House, Pentrepoeth Road, Newport NP10 8LN Proposal: EXCAVATION OF REAR GARDEN AND CONSTRUCTION OF RETAINING WALLS TO FORM A PATIO AREA. CONSTRUCTION OF PLANTERS AND RAISED PLATFORM TO FRONT (AMENDMENT TO PLANNING PERMISSION 13/0620) Response: No objections provided neighbours are consulted and agree.

**13. Dates of next meetings:**

Planning Meeting - Wednesday 10th August 2016 at 7pm  
Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 31st August 2016 at 7pm

Cllr Cox-Wall gave apologies for the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016 meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed 9.20pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 31st day of August 2016

Posted to notice boards 09.09.16

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