



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 28th November 2018.

1. Apologies for absence: K Sayer, K Harries.

Present: Cllrs R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, M Smart, P Gregory, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, P Appleton, J Bailey, K Thomas, N Tarr, D Williams. Chaired by P Gregory.

2. Public Representation: None

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held 31st October 2018 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Bailey. Arising from the minutes it was noted that all the action points had been dealt with. **Action: None necessary.**

4. Clerk's Report: The Clerk's Report previously circulated was briefly discussed and accepted as a true reflection of matters to date. Proposed Cllr Tarr, seconded Cllr Caston. The Clerk advised that no reply had been received from NetworkRail regarding the repair of the flagstones on one of the railway underpasses and agreed to write again to request its repair. **Action: Clerk to remove settled items on the report and contact NetworkRail again. Cllr Williams agreed to follow up progress on the bus stops issues with NCC Transport.**

5. Projects:

a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade: Cllr Whitfield reported that the first funding application had been unsuccessful, but that it was possible to reapply. The architect was completing more work for the tenders and it was being considered if becoming a charity would be helpful to opening up more funding streams. **Action: Cllr Whitfield to progress.**

6. Reports:

a. Police – Sergeant Giles did not attend as expected nor give apologies, and so the Police were not discussed. **Action: Clerk to discover why the Sergeant had not attended and arrange for his attendance at a future meeting.**

b. Newport City Councillors – Cllr Williams reported that he had been speaking with residents in Penylan Close regarding a recent planning application discussed at Council's last meeting, and that he would be asking NCC's Planning Department if they were minded to pass the application. Regarding NCC's decision to withdraw Concurrent funding to community councils, he had asked for the decision to be "called in" but this had been refused. The Clerk informed Council that some councils were looking to seek legal advice on the decision.

Cllr Bailey left the meeting at 7.36pm.

He also mentioned that he had received an email from a new company looking to site a crematorium next to Bassaleg School on Penylan Road. Council suggested he meet with NCC's Planning Officer and the Chair if possible, to investigate the plans.

Cllr Thomas joined the meeting at 7.45pm.

Cllr Williams also reported that there was no further news on the S106 money and Council briefly discussed the current spending plans, Cllr Williams believed there would not be enough funding to improve the Safe Routes to School as Council had hoped. He was asked that he and Cllr Cornelious lobby NCC on Council's behalf to attempt to get funding for the Safe Routes to improve the safety of schoolchildren travelling to and from schools in the area. Cllr Tarr asked to be involved and also agreed to join with the City Cllrs to lobby NCC. Cllr Fry asked Cllr Williams to attempt to have NCC carry out work to Caerphilly Rd opposite Garth Terrace as there was a pinch point at the location and the footpath was very narrow. This had also been identified and reported to the Senior Officer for Transport and Road Safety when he met with the Chair some weeks prior.

Action: Cllr Williams to progress the issues discussed above, and work with Cllrs Cornelious and Tarr to lobby NCC regarding the Safe Routes to School. Clerk to keep Council updated on any action suggested regarding the funding withdrawal.

Sub Committees

c. Graig Community Centre – Cllr Fry reported that the new handrails and extra outside lighting would be installed in the coming week, and the refurb of the foyer was set to begin in the third week of January. The Clerk was asked to obtain the codes for the defibrillator cabinets. **Action: Cllr Fry to progress refurb, Clerk to obtain codes.**

- d. Rhiwderin Community Centre - Covered in 5a above. Also, Cllr Gregory reported that the management committee was looking to purchase replacement chairs for the centre. There had also been 2 gas leaks which had been temporarily repaired and the Christmas tree had been erected with the lights to be added shortly. **Action: see 5a above. Cllr Gregory to progress the chairs purchase and oversee the Christmas lights installation.**
- e. Allotments - NTR. **Action: None necessary.**
- f. Burial Board - Cllr Thomas reported that he had been working in the cemetery and had trimmed back some problematic ivy and corrected the 30MPH speed sign nearby on Penylan Road. The issues of the current Board set-up were discussed, and Cllr Gregory agreed to write to the Head of Law and Monitoring to advise him of the latest developments. Council agreed to have its members submit a motion at the next meeting of the Board. **Action: Cllr Gregory to write to the Head of Law and he and Clerk to work on a motion to present to the Board.**

Working Groups

- g. Play Areas Group – NTR. **Action: None necessary.**
- h. Horticultural Group/ BKV Group – NTR, **None necessary.**
- i. Technology Group - Cllr Appleton reported that the group was to meet to progress. **Action: Cllr Appleton to progress.**
- j. Rhiwderin CC Fundraising Group - Discussed in 5a above. **Action: See 5a above.**
- k. Events & Social Group – The Christmas event to be discussed later in the meeting. **Action: none at this time.**
- l. Consultation Review Panel – Cllr Tarr expected the NCC budget consultation to take place soon. **Action: None required.**

7. Items for forthcoming agendas:

Cllr Fry asked that a future meeting agenda contain an item for discussing the root stock of the St Cecilia apple tree. Action: Clerk to agenda for a meeting when appropriate.

8. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Council budget, Precept consideration and Concurrent update – discussed later.
- b. Litter bins – Cllr Fry presented a quote for making a plinth for the replacement of a post mounted bin at Cwm Cwddy Drive to be replaced with a freestanding floor mounted large litter bin. The cost was £200. The spend was proposed by Cllr Fry, seconded Cllr Thomas and agreed by majority. **Action: Cllr Fry to progress.**
- c. Tree survey and remedial work at Wentworth Lane update – This was in hand and being overseen by the Clerk. Council agreed that to remove the problematic tree would be the best option. **Action: Clerk to progress.**
- d. Meeting dates for 2019 – It was agreed that Council should hold a full council meeting in place of a mid-month meeting on 9th January due to there being no full council meeting at the end of December because of the Christmas holiday. All other meetings for 2019 to be held as usual. Mid-month meetings on the second Wednesday of each month and full council meetings on the last Wednesday of each month. **Action: Clerk to arrange and publicise a list of meetings for the year.**
- e. Footbridge over A467 update – It was confirmed that the footbridge had been repaired to a reasonable standard. **Action: To be removed from the Clerk's Report.**
- f. Christmas event update – The Christmas event final arrangements were discussed and agreed. **Action: All available Cllrs were asked to attend to help administer the event.**

9. Correspondence for Information:

Not discussed

8. Deferred from earlier in the meeting:

- a. Council budget, Precept consideration and Concurrent update – Following a meeting of the Finance & Admin team, a recommendation was put to Council that in order to satisfy its responsibilities and commitments the current Precept would need to be raised. On considering the withdrawal of NCC's concurrent contribution, Council's income would be reduced by over £14k in the 2019/20 financial year, and it was agreed that unfortunately and reluctantly, Council would need to make an increase in the Precept requested in order to cover the loss. There were a number of proposals for differing amounts suggested but supported by the majority of Council was Cllr Caston's proposal that the precept be raised by £5.00 per year for each Band D household increasing the annual contribution from £20.00 to £25.00. This was seconded by Cllr Thomas and agreed by majority. Cllrs Appleton and Tarr wished it to be logged in the minutes that they were against this proposal. Council asked for it to be recorded that the decision was not taken lightly, but was an unfortunate and unavoidable decision in light of the

loss of the NCC contribution to present a balanced 2019/20 budget. Cllr Appleton wished it to be recorded that she felt administration costs were far too high and should be cut.

10. Accounts for Payment: Proposed Cllr Thomas seconded Cllr Evans and accepted.

Direct debit authorisation for payment of allotment site water costs for approval and signatures

Clerk salary and office allowance for November 18	£2027.38
Misc expenses for November 18	£316.53
TSOhost – Council webmail monthly charge (taken by DD)	£5.00
Wales Audit Office – annual external audit costs	£298.95
PWLB – 6 monthly loan repayment (taken by DD)	£5472.30
Complete Business Solutions – office supplies	£139.49
Welsh Water – underpayment of water charges to Graig Hall (taken by DD)	£666.77
1 st Bassaleg Guides/Rainbows – agreed donation	£150.00
R Charles Plastics – amendments to notice board in Afon Village	£450.00

Total to date: £9526.42

Receipts:

None

11. Urgent Business not discussed above:

- a. Cllr Thomas asked that Cllrs contribute towards the cost of refreshments served at council meetings. The Clerk stated that she has always personally supplied the refreshments and was happy to continue to do so. Council discussed and agreed that a 50p contribution per person each month into a kitty to cover costs would be appropriate and should begin in the new year despite the Clerk's protests.

12. Planning:

- a. 18/0989 – Proposal: Single storey side and rear extension. Site: 60 Camelia Avenue, Rogerstone, Newport. NP10 9JA. Application Type: **Full Comment: Council commented that the development would be very close to the boundary of the property and that it was evident that the rainwater goods overshot the neighbouring property. It had no objections provided these issues were not of concern to the planners and that neighbours were consulted and agreed.**
- b. 18/1080 – Proposal: Variation of condition 01 (plans) of planning permission 17/0635 for replacement dwelling along with detached garage. Amendments relating to design and size of dwelling. Site: 18 Forge Lane, Bassaleg, Newport. Application Type: Renewals and Variation of conditions. **Comment: No objections provided neighbours were consulted and agreed.**
- c. 18/1094 – Proposal: Shortening of lateral branches of T1 (oak) and felling of T3 (rowan) T4 (sycamore) and T15 (ash) protected by TPO G725. Site: Land adjacent to and North West of Bryn Deri, Caerphilly Road, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8LS Application Type: Tree Preservation Orders **Comment: Council supported the decision of the tree officer.**

13. Dates of next meetings:

Mid-Month Meeting – Wednesday 12th December 2018 at 6pm

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 9th January 2019 at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 10.20 pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 30th January 2019

Posted to notice boards 08.02.19

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