



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 9th January 2019.

1. Apologies for absence: A Whitfield, D Williams.

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

2. Public Representation: None

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held 12th December 2018 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Harries. Arising from the minutes it was noted that all the action points had been dealt with. **Action: None necessary.**

4. Clerk's Report: A Clerk's Report was not generated as there had been no movement on any of the items due to the Christmas break. **Action: None Necessary.**

5. Projects:

a. Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade: Thanks were expressed to Cllrs Smart and Bailey for covering Cllr Whitfield's absence from the project. It was noted that the architect engaged to gain tenders for any necessary works was making some progress in chasing additional tenders. It was also noted that the previous group running Rhiwderin Village Hall had retired, the intention is that the village hall will continue to be used and a new team will take over the management, but that some remedial work to the building would be needed. Some members of Rhiwderin Community Centre Management Committee were assisting with this. **Action: None at this time.**

6. Reports:

a. Police - The Police were unable to attend but sent a report for December. Cllr Gregory read out the report to Council. The report contained the following information: During December there had been 62 calls to the Police, 21 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Public Order - 3, Violence Without Injury - 7, Miscellaneous Crime - 0, Shoplifting - 0, All Theft Other - 2, Criminal Damage & Arson - 2, Burglary Dwelling - 2, Drug Offences - 0, Theft from Person - 0, Other Sexual Offences - 0, Violence with Injury - 3, Vehicle Crime - 2, Burglary Non-Dwelling - 0 Other Notifiable Offences - 0, Violence Against a Person - 0, Possession of Weapons - 0.

The ward priority for Graig is currently Anti-Social Behaviour in the Morrisons and McDonalds area.

Actions and activities by the local teams included the following: Police are continuing to monitor the Anti-Social behaviour levels around Morrisons and McDonalds as this is the set priority, however. there had been no issues whilst patrolling the area.

There were no new trends to report. Council discussed a number of incidents in the local area and noted there was a Police warning to be vigilant due to a number of recent house break-ins.

Council noted that as Sergeant Giles had been unable to attend Council's 28th November meeting, a new date had been arranged and he was due to attend the 13th February 2019 meeting. **Action: None necessary.**

b. Newport City Councillors – No City Cllrs were in attendance. **Action: None necessary.**

Sub Committees

c. Graig Community Centre – Cllr Evans asked for volunteers to help remove the Christmas decorations at the Hall. Cllr Fry reported that the refurb of the foyer was set to begin in the third week of January and asked that Council change the end of month meeting venue to Rhiwderin Community Centre as the Hall would be unavailable to be used. It was thought that a large step ladder belonging to the Hall was missing and had possibly been stolen. **Action: Cllr Fry to progress refurb, Clerk to arrange for the next meeting to be held at Rhiwderin Community Centre.**

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 recently but a full repair had not yet been carried out. This would be done in due course, but the supply was checked and safe to use in the meantime. **Action:**

see 5a above. Cllr Gregory to progress the chairs purchase and oversee the repair of the gas pipes.

- e. Allotments – Cllr Caston reported that the date for rent collections had been returned to the original April collection date as requested by the Allotment Association, and they were in the process of collecting 6 months rent to bring payments in line with the agreed date. Most payments had been collected with only a few outstanding. Once all collected a lump sum payment will be forwarded to the Council's bank account. **Action: Clerk to work with the association regarding the transfer of rent money collected.**
- f. Burial Board - Cllr Sayer reported that he had spoken with residents who had loved ones interred in the cemetery who had requested that a water supply be reinstated. He asked Council to note that many attending the cemetery do so on either public transport or on foot. Many were themselves elderly and could not be expected to carry bottled water to the site for cleaning or nourishing flowers and a supply would be very much appreciated. Council agreed this would be for the Burial Committee to decide and asked that this be put to the Committee by Graig Committee Members. The current proceedings regarding equal representation were discussed, and all agreed that the Chair should take the next step of requesting NCC to step in as the Principle Authority to review and make decisions on the Committee's future as is allowed under Paragraph 4 of Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1972. **Action: Cllr Gregory to write to the Head of Law to move progress and Committee Members to submit the suggestion to reinstate the water supply when practicable.**

Working Groups

- g. Play Areas Group – NTR. **Action: None necessary.**
- h. Horticultural Group/ BKV Group – Cllr Fry asked the group to consider solutions for the replacement of the flower beds on Bassaleg shop's roundabout. The Group agreed to look at this during the Spring. Cllr Sayer submitted a dilapidations schedule previously submitted by Cllr Fry and stated that many of the small jobs on the list had been completed. He felt that the remaining grounds maintenance works could be administered by the group. It was noted that the Best Kept Villages Group would be unable to take on any other duties as their numbers were so small and they were struggling to cope with the responsibilities they had. **Action: Group to arrange a meeting to discuss, date and time to be set to accommodate Cllr Sayer's availability to attend.**
- i. Technology Group - Cllr Appleton reported that progress would be made as she would be working on the website this week. **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 was briefly reviewed. It was agreed that the new layout for the event inside the Hall worked well, and that although not as many attended, the event was very successful. It was again noted that not many turned up to help out and it was difficult to manage with so few people to administer. Council discussed whether or not to downsize the event to make it more manageable but it was thought that it was the best opportunity to bring the community together and allowed local groups to raise funds for themselves so it should be held in the normal format. It was noted that the carolling event at Rhiwderin Community Centre was also very successful. Cllr Appleton passed on cash of £251.60 raised from donated raffle prizes. **Action: Clerk to bank as soon as practicable.**
- l. Consultation Review Panel – Cllr Tarr asked for volunteers to help review the NCC Budget 2019/20 Consultation. The volunteers were Cllrs Sayer, Gregory, Appleton & Smart. The meeting was set for 16th January 2019 at 7pm at Graig Community Centre. He would be asking for volunteers for the next consultation on Improving Public Transport at the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Tarr to administer.**

7. Items for forthcoming agendas:

Attendance of Sergeant Giles – 13th February 2019 meeting
Pentrepoeth School Polytunnel Project – 30th January 2019 meeting

8. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. NCC Concurrent contribution withdrawal – the Clerk informed Council she had received correspondence stating that some community councils were keen to engage professional help to assist in challenging NCC's decision to withdraw Concurrent funding. Graig was asked to make a financial contribution towards the cost of an initial investigation. Council agreed that any action should be representative of a majority of the councils and agreed on the sum of £200 being offered provided at least 10 community councils agreed to be involved. Proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Smart and agreed by majority. **Action: Clerk to put the offer to the group together with the stipulation and return to Council with further updates when applicable.**
Cllr Harris left the meeting at 8.35pm.

- b. Wildflower verges at Lower Machen – Cllr Caston asked that Council consider placing wildflower verges on A468 at Lower Machen to improve the area visually. He had seen examples of this in other areas of the city and when the correct seeds were used it looked and kept very well. Council debated the matter, but felt that to be long lasting, the groundworks needed for the seeds to be successful would be too costly at this time. **Action: None at this time.**
- c. Road safety in Lower Machen – Cllr Tarr brought to Council a request from a local resident of Lower Machen following his flyer drop in the area. The resident requested a number of improvements including a pedestrian crossing on the A468 at Lower Machen, speed restrictions along the A468 and traffic calming measures through Lower Machen Village. This was discussed by Council, but unfortunately none of the issues raised were within the powers of the Community Council to resolve. Cllr Tarr was asked to write back to the resident to advise her of the best way to effectively lobby NCC for improvements as Council would be unable to progress the requests themselves. **Action: Cllr Tarr to advise the resident of Council's suggestions.**
- d. Noticeboards review – The Clerk asked Council if, in light of the recent issues with some noticeboards, and the fact that now many people use online facilities, should Council review the current amount of noticeboard locations to see if some might be relocated and/or removed. Added to this was the fact that most community councils have only 3-4 noticeboards throughout their wards and Graig has 11. It was agreed that a review should be carried out and discussed. **Action: Clerk to perform a review and return to Council with suggestions for discussion at the next meeting.**
- e. New NALC Clerk's Salary Scales from 1st April 2019 & employer pension contribution percentage change by The Pension Regulator – The Clerk advised Council of the new scales and the new pension responsibilities. **Action: Information to be considered during the forthcoming Clerk's annual appraisal.**
- f. Request for suggestions for textile recycling bank locations in the ward – The Clerk submitted a request from a charity to be given suggestions for the location of recycling textile bins in the ward. This was discussed and the group agreed there was not any suitable locations for bins to be sited and did have concerns around the management of such bins as it was the groups experience that bins such as these are often seen overflowing and causing issues. It was also felt that the area is well served by recycling facilities and by charity shops who could lose custom. **Action: Clerk to advise accordingly.**

9. Correspondence for Information:

Not discussed

10. Accounts for Payment: Proposed Cllr Haigh seconded Cllr Caston and accepted.

Cllr Appleton queried the differences between the utility costs for the 2 centres. The bills for Rhiwderin CC were estimated and the Clerk agreed to compare the estimates to current meter readings, but Cllr Gregory stated that it should be remembered that Graig and Rhiwderin Halls were very different buildings with differing needs, and utilities were always more expensive at Rhiwderin due to the age and condition of the building and equipment etc.

Cllr N Tarr – 3 rd quarterly IRPW Payment	£37.50
Cllr P Appleton – reimbursement of expenses for Christmas Event	£14.46
SSE – electricity charges to Graig Hall (Sep-Dec 18)	£489.07
SSE – gas charges to Graig Hall (Sep-Nov 18)	£223.61
SSE – electricity charges to Rhiwderin CC (Oct – Dec 18 – taken by DD)	£687.75
SSE – gas charges to Rhiwderin CC (Sep – Dec 18 – taken by DD)	£706.54
Celtic Fire Protection – fire extinguisher servicing	£61.44
TSO Host – Monthly webmail charge	£5.00

Total to date: £2225.37

Receipts:

None

11. Urgent Business not discussed above:

- a. Cllr Fry informed Council that the previous quote submitted for providing a plinth for a freestanding large litter bin on Cwm Cwddy Drive had not been complete as further work would be needed to ensure its safe use. The new quote submitted was for a total of £425. This was discussed but not authorised. **Action: To ensure that prior to any installation the current quote needed to be approved by Council.**
- b. Cllr Gregory reported that he had emailed a NCC Officer for an update on the ward issues discussed with NCC Officers some months earlier. He had received a reply stating the officer would be replying with a written report updating him by the end of the week. **Action: Cllr Gregory to advise Council one the report had been received.**

- c. Cllr Gregory reported that the company exploring the submission of a planning application to build a crematorium on Penylan Rd had been in contact with him. A meeting had been set for the following week with Cllr Gregory, and the company was also due to meet with the Head of Bassaleg School later the same day. **Action: Cllr Gregory to update Council at the next Council meeting.**

12. Planning:

- a. 18/0980 – Added Information to Previous Planning Application
Proposal: Demolition of existing garage and construction of 2No. dwellings and associated parking. Site: 27 Penylan Close, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8NW. Application Type: Full **Comment: Council still has grave concerns and feels that the additional information does not satisfactorily address the issues pointed out in Council’s former submission. Council reiterates its former objections and strongly opposes this proposal.**
- b. 18/1178 – Proposal: Proposed erection of detached dwelling including removal of part boundary wall and associated creation of new access and works. Site: Land adjacent and west forming part of Old Road, Lower Machen, Newport. Application Type: Full. **Comment: Council objects to this proposal on the grounds of overdevelopment of this site in a conservation area.**
- c. 18/0955/FULL Caerphilly CBC – Proposal: Relocate existing road planings recycling operation to new location within the confines of Machen Quarry Site: Machen Quarry Commercial Road Machen Caerphilly CF83 8YP. Application Type: Full **Comment: No objections provided the current curtilage is respected and that it does not increase traffic on the A468.**
- d. 18/1087 – Proposal: Change of use of land to garden. Site: 1 Farrier’s Gate, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8FX. Application Type: Full. **Comment: Council has no objections provided legal issues over ownership of the ground have been settled.**

13. Dates of next meetings:

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 30th January 2019 at 7pm.

Mid-Month meeting – Wednesday 13th February 2019 at 7pm.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.55 pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 13th February 2019

Posted to notice boards 22.02.19

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