



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Graig Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 24th April 2019.

1. **Public Representation:** None

2. **Apologies for absence:** K Sayer, J Bailey.

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

Cllr Gregory informed Council that Mr John Sanders of Afon Village, a longstanding Bassaleg Allotment holder and Chairman of the Allotment Association for the past few years had sadly died quite suddenly. Council were shocked and upset to hear such sad news. A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect. Council wished to pass on their condolences to his family.

3. **To receive declarations of interest:** None

4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 27th March 2019 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Harries. Arising from the minutes, it was noted that all the action points had been dealt with. Regarding Item 10a, Cllr Tarr had found an alternative and better bus timetable and it was agreed that this would be advertised instead. The bus stops had not been updated yet but would be attended to shortly. **Action: Cllrs Appleton and Tarr to progress.**

5. **Clerk's Report:** A Clerk's Report previously circulated was briefly discussed and accepted as a true reflection of matters to date. Proposed Cllr Harries, seconded Cllr Caston. It was noted that following an advertisement in the local paper, the adoption of the footpaths was finally progressing. **Action: None necessary.**

6. **Accounts for Payment:** Proposed Cllr Tarr seconded Cllr Harris and accepted.

Clerk salary and office allowance for April 2019	£2068.77
Misc expenses for March 2019	£99.70
TSO Host – Monthly webmail charge	£5.00
HMRC – PAYE & NI Jan-Mar 2019	£2553.30
Came & Company – annual insurance premium	£2211.62
Newport City Council – annual charge for play area maintenance	£7800.00
Total to date:	£14738.39

Receipts:

Newport City Council – 1 st 2019/20 Precept payment	£36489.63
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7. **Planning:**

- 18/1178 – *Additional Information* - 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 reiterated its former comments and still felt this would be an inappropriate overdevelopment of a site in a conservation area. It noted the number of objections from both neighbours and statutory consultees and felt it could not support this application.**
- 19/0350 – Proposal: Erection of demountable classroom unit on existing hard standing Site: Bassaleg School, Forge Road, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8NF. Application Type: Full **Comment: Council fully supports this application.**
- 19/0397 – Proposal: Construction of detached two-storey dwelling and single storey double-bay detached garage. Site: Land at Springfield Lane, Rhiwderin, Newport. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections provided neighbours agree and planners are not concerned that the proposed dwelling would have a detrimental impact on the street scene, as the surrounding area is made up of much larger homes in large plots.**

8. **Items for Discussion/Action:**

- Fort View play area & Penylan Close steps – Cllr Fry suggested to the group that now the garages had been removed from the end of Fort View, the entrance to the play area was much improved and open. There were maintenance issues that needed to be addressed and a picnic bench to be located in the park. There were also issues with maintenance in the Penylan Close steps area where they meet Caerphilly Road. Although the steps were in reasonable order, the area of banking to the right of the

steps when viewed from Caerphilly Rd was overgrown and beginning to encroach onto the pavement. It is believed that the area was previously part of a garden which had been fenced off in recent times and not been attended to. Cllr Gregory reported that this area was on the list of things that had been addressed with NCC Officers and action was to be taken by NCC. However, this had not been addressed to date and will be discussed when the Chair again meets the officers to hopefully move progress. **Action: Cllr Gregory to bring up again with NCC Officers at the arranged 8th May meeting.**

- b. Finance & Administration Committee meeting date change – the previously arranged meeting needed to be re-arranged due to the meeting room being unavailable. **Action: A new date was set for 30th April 2019 at 6pm.**

9. Reports:

- a. Newport City Councillors – Cllr Williams reported he was involved with a number of issues in the ward including encouraging the Police to monitor traffic at Lower Machen and the off-road bike initiative on Machen Mountain, helping residents in Farrier's Gate and Birch Trees and working with Penylan Close residents regarding the proposed planning application to build 2 new dwellings. Cllrs Whitfield and Appleton complained about the state of the verges and roundabouts on the A467. It was thought that red clover may be being used to condition the soil. **Action: Cllr Williams to discuss the verges with NCC and Costain.**

Sub Committees

- b. Graig Community Centre – Cllr Fry suggested there would be further refurbishment needed to Graig Hall. The committee was also reminded that it should discuss the unauthorised use of the car park by those not using the hall or the play facilities and not holding a permit. **Action: Hall committee to discuss.**
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre & Fundraising Group Cllr Gregory suggested that a meeting would be needed to progress the funding application. **Action: Cllrs Whitfield, Smart and Gregory to arrange a meeting.**
- d. Allotments – The sad death of Mr Sanders was discussed. All involved with Council's Allotment Committee expressed great sadness at the loss of such a kind and community minded man who had done much to help in recent years. He was an inspiration to old and new allotment holders alike and would be very sadly missed. It was agreed to put a short message of condolence in the local paper and a card should be sent from Council to Mr Sander's family. An inspection date was set for 5th May at 10.30 am. **Action: Cllr Harris to put condolences in local paper, Clerk to send bereavement card on behalf of Council, all on the allotment committee to attend the allotment inspection.**
- e. Burial Board – Following more disappointing news from NCC's Head of Law, it was suggested that the Council asks for any decision-making process be made via the Democratic Services Committee. Cllr Williams agreed to support this method of decision making. It was noted by Cllr Sayer, and relayed in his absence by the Clerk, that the walls of the cemetery were becoming damaged by the amount of ivy growing on them. The committee members were asked to bring this to the attention of the board at the next available meeting. **Action: Cllr Gregory to request decisions go to the Democratic Services Committee. Cllrs on the committee to mention the ivy on the walls at the next available opportunity.**

Working Groups

- f. Play Areas Group – Following frustrating conversations with NCC Officers when trying to find out the grass cutting schedules for the ward, Cllr Appleton managed to discover that grass cutting was scheduled to take place in Bassaleg on 16th April. That was some 8 days previously, but it had not yet taken place. It was agreed that arranging for any interim grass cuts would be difficult when NCC did not stick to their schedules, but Cllr Appleton had arranged to meet with Morris's of Usk to work out costings for extra cuts. **Action: Cllr Appleton to progress with grass cutting quotes.**
- g. Horticultural Group/ BKV Group – It was agreed by members of the group that a meeting was needed. There had been no reply from Machen Quarry about supplying rocks for the central display at St Basil's shops roundabout. Cllr Grey agreed to have an engineer to check out the BKV sign for structural integrity and bring any costs for repairs to the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Grey to have the sign checked and obtain an answer for Machen Quarry if possible. Group to hold a meeting asap.**
- h. Technology Group – Cllr Appleton reported that the new site was almost ready to launch, but needed populating with more up to date information. She was asked to send the link to the new site to all on email. **Action: Cllr Appleton to forward the link for the site to all Cllrs with email.**
- i. Events & Social Group – NTR. **Action: None at this time.**
- j. Consultation Review Panel – NTR. **Action: None at this time.**

10. Items for forthcoming agendas: None

11. Urgent Business not discussed above:

- a. Cllr Grey reported that he had complaints from a resident of Pentrepoeth Road, saying that loads of pallets had been tipped in a field nearby which was blocking the public footpath and looked very unsightly. **Action: Cllr Williams agreed to talk to the tenant renting the field and ask for things to be improved.**
- b. Cllr Caston mentioned for information that the Coach House on Caerphilly Road in Bassaleg had been put up for sale. It was understood that the owner had much difficulty in agreeing with NCC about how the building could best be used, and the frustration and costs had led to his decision to sell. **Action: None necessary.**
- c. The HWG checked what the forthcoming budget was to enable plants to be purchased. **Action: The Group to be informed that £1200.00 had been set aside as an annual budget for the group to make improvements in the ward.**

12. Correspondence for Information:

Not discussed

13. Dates of next meetings:

AGM & Mid-Month meeting – Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 7pm.

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 29th May 2019 at 7pm.

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

Signed..... (Chair) – 29th May 2019

Posted to notice boards 07.06.19

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