



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Graig, Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.**

**1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs K Sayer, J Bailey

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

**2. Public Representation:** None

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

**4. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Tarr, seconded Cllr Thomas. Arising from the minutes, it was noted that all the action points had been dealt with save for Item 9a. Cllr Williams reported that he had not yet sent details of the Llanfrechfa Grange presentation for the Clerk to forward to Cllrs nor followed up on the maintenance issues at Bassaleg Roundabout and surrounding areas. He agreed to address these items as soon as he was able. **Action: Cllr Williams to email the Clerk with details of the Llanfrechfa Grange presentation and address the maintenance issues on Bassaleg Roundabout and surrounding areas with NCC.**

Council discussed the distribution of meeting minutes. This had been changed by request some months previously, as some felt that the previous method did not allow enough time for minutes to be studied sufficiently. It was suggested that the new distribution method was confusing, resulting in some bringing the wrong set of minutes to the meetings. Following discussion, it was decided that the current method should continue.

**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 Harris, seconded Cllr Harries. Regarding Item 8, Cllr Fry had instructed a local contractor to reinstate the bollards on Laurel Road. The work would be carried out the following week. Cllr Tarr pointed out the misspelling of Ffos-y-Fran. **Action: Clerk to amend the misspelling on future reports.**

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

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Clerk salary and office allowance for July 2019 | £2068.77        |
| Misc expenses for July 2019                     | £37.10          |
| Cllr P Gregory – annual Chairman's Allowance    | £450.00         |
| TSO Host – Monthly webmail charge               | £5.00           |
| <b>Total to date:</b>                           | <b>£2560.87</b> |

**Receipts:** None to date

**7. Planning:**

- a. a. 19/0713 – Proposal: Formation of Staff Car Park Site: Unit 6 Afon Ebbw Rd, Rogerstone, Newport NP10 9HZ. Application Type: Full **Comment: No objections.**

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

- a. Bassaleg & Rhiwderin Directory submission – The Clerk submitted a suggested advert for the Directory which was accepted following an amendment to the wording. **Action: Clerk to forward to the Directory producers to be included in the next available edition.**
- b. Grass cutting in the ward – Grass cutting in general was discussed and following debate, it was decided to monitor the grass cutting in all areas carried out by NCC. If necessary, Council would pay for additional cuts if needed. **Action: All to monitor grass cutting with regard to the length of time between cuts and overall condition of work when completed.**

**9. Reports:**

**Sub Committees**

- a. Newport City Councillors – Cllr Williams advised that he had been dealing with a stray deer at Bassaleg School which he believed had been captured and taken to Cefn Mably Farm Park. That residents in Garth Terrace were looking into whether they were allowed to make planting changes to the banking on the lane as bushes planted there years ago had reached the age and size where they needed to be removed. He had been helping with planning issues in Lower Machen, and that residents

on Laurel Road had asked for the road markings to be repainted. He also advised Council that the current Newport City Council Chief Executive was to leave for another post in October 2019. He had no further update on the recent issues with fires being set in the villages.

Cllr Appleton asked if Cllr Williams had spoken with NCC regarding the maintenance of Bassaleg Roundabout and surrounding areas which he confirmed he had done and had been advised it was resolved. However, he would check on the outcome and confirm details to Council asap. He was also asked for an update on the Bassaleg School's drugs issue discussed in June. He advised Council that the school has excluded 4 year 9 pupils and were taking a no tolerance approach. It was hoped that the issue was resolved but that the school would remain vigilant. Cllr Thomas reported that he had seen cars in the car park of Graig Hall who he suspected could have been parked up to deal drugs, Cllr Williams agreed to report this issue to the Police. **Action: Cllr Williams to email the Clerk with details of the Llanfrechfa Grange presentation, discuss and confirm the outcome of the maintenance issues on Bassaleg Roundabout and surrounding areas with NCC and report to the Police the possible drug dealing in Graig Hall car park.**

- b. Graig Community Centre – Cllr Harris reported that the Conference Room in the Hall was now being used by designated groups for meetings only, and that Cllr Fry was arranging for extra fire doors to be fitted. **Action: Cllr Harris to forward timetable list to Cllr Smart.**
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre & Fundraising Group - Cllr Gregory reported that the heating timings in the Centre had been reviewed and adjusted appropriately, and that he and Cllr Whitfield had met with the new owners of the Sorting Rooms in Rhiwderin who had been looking to gain a fuller alcohol license. One of the issues being faced was that the Sorting Rooms had no dedicated parking. It was agreed that the Sorting Rooms patrons would be allowed to park in the community centre car park, but on the understanding that if there was a function being held at the centre which required the parking spaces, that would always take priority. The owner offered to assist with catering and any organising of community events in return for patrons being allowed to park. **Action: None necessary.**
- d. Allotments – Cllr Caston reported that the Allotment Association had carried out an interim inspection following the issue of warning letters after the last Council inspection. It was intended that the next Council inspection be carried out during September. **Action: None necessary.**
- e. Burial Board – Cllr Caston reported that a committee meeting had been held and that it was agreed that a finance sub-group be formed who would meet to look solely at finances. This sub-group had also met and discussed setting new charges. RCC members wanted to set reduced rates for NCC residents as currently the NCC municipal rates were cheaper than the Community Council's rates. It was agreed that rather than reduce rates at this time, they should be frozen until the costs came into line with NCC rates. Cllr Gregory advised Council that he had written again to the Head of Law and Regulation requesting that action be taken with regard to the issues raised with him in recent months. **Action: None at this time.**

#### **Working Groups**

- f. Play Areas Group – Cllr Gregory advised that he had contacted the officer now in charge of play areas to ask if the spare equipment purchased for the Harlech Drive open space (which was never installed) was to be allocated to another part of the City as agreed with by her predecessor. The cost of the equipment (at a reduced rate) would then be given over to the Council to spend on other play area maintenance/equipment. The officer said she knew nothing of this arrangement but would look into the issue. **Action: Cllr Gregory to progress.**
- g. Horticultural Group/ BKV Group – It was noted that the planters looked great. Cllr Appleton expressed her disappointment that no-one other than a few members of the HWG had assisted with watering and deadheading the plants as requested. 2 quotes had been obtained for completing work to upgrade the St Basil's shops roundabout which came in at £2100 and £1500. **Action: Group to progress.**
- h. Technology Group – Cllr Appleton reported that the new website was ready to be launched but some updating was still needed as some Cllr profiles were incomplete. The Clerk agreed to update this information asap. It was agreed that Council would meet early at the August Mid-Month meeting to look at the site and discuss how to progress. In the meantime, Cllr Appleton was asked to send the link to the new site to all on email. She also agreed to contact other community councils to explore how their sites are run and updated. **Action: Cllr Appleton to send out link to new site and investigate how other Councils administer their websites. Clerk to update any missing or incorrect Cllr profile information and remind Cllrs to attend at 6pm on 14<sup>th</sup> August to discuss prior to the August Mid-Month meeting.**
- i. Events & Social Group – A meeting was set for 7<sup>th</sup> August at 6pm. **Action: Cllrs on the sub-group to attend if possible.**

- j. Consultation Review Panel – Cllr Tarr reported that he had formed a group to consult on the draft Transport Plan and comments had been submitted. He expressed disappointment that the same Cllrs were attending the group and support by others was not being given. **Action: None at this time.**

**10. Items for forthcoming agendas:**

- a. Graig Hall Car parking – 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019 meeting

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

- a. It was reported that the signage used by the Ruperra was being placed too close to the junction of Caerphilly Rd and Pentrepoeth Rd and was obstructing the visual splay for motorists exiting the junction onto Caerphilly Rd. The Clerk was asked to report the issue to NCC to have the signage moved back to a more appropriate place. **Action: Clerk to report to NCC.**
- b. The Clerk advised of an issue with brambles growing into a resident's garden from Fort View play area. Cllr Fry offered to investigate. **Action: Cllr Fry to progress.**
- c. Cllr Gregory advised Council that the company recently looking to gain planning permission for a crematorium on Penylan Rd had decided to withdraw from the proposal. The Clerk advised that Cllr Gregory had been very instrumental in their decision, and Council thanked him for his efforts. **Action: None necessary.**

**12. Correspondence for Information:**

Not discussed

**13. Dates of next meetings:**

Mid-Month meeting – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 7pm.

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 7pm.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.10pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019


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