



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Graig, Community Centre Bassaleg 7pm on 30th October 2019.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs A Whitfield, M Cornelious, D Williams

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

2. **Public Representation:** None

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

4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 25th September 2019 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 save the following: Item 4, Cllr Smart had not had the opportunity to contact NCC with her safety concerns at Tredegar Park. Also, regarding item 8b, Cllr Gregory reported that only a few volunteers had turned out to help erected the lamp post poppies and he was disappointed that more Cllrs had not helped with the task. A number of lamp post poppies ordered had not been delivered in time for them to be put out, so Cllr Sayer offered to put out the remainder when they arrived as he had been unable to join the group on the day. Regarding Item 8d, on the matter of the Griffin Hedge needing a further cut, Cllr Appleton had arranged this with NCC and it was being performed the following week. Regarding Item 8e, the funeral of Mr Jones, Cllr Appleton expressed disappointment that few Cllrs had attended, but it was noted that Mr Jones's Son asked for thanks to be passed on to Council for attending. Regarding Item 9c, funding application for assisting with the upgrade of Rhiwderin Centre, Cllr Gregory informed the group confirmation had been received that the application had been successful.

Regarding Item 9e, Cllr Tarr disagreed with the Clerk's recording that he had abstained from the deciding vote on whether or not to write to Rogerstone Community Council with Graig's suggestion that it take over the running of the Burial Board Committee. He believed he had voted against this proposal. The Clerk felt sure she had recorded the vote correctly, the Chair agreed. Some Cllrs agreed with the Clerk and Chair whilst some felt Cllr Tarr must be sure of what he had voted. The Chair asked that the recording not be altered and Cllr Tarr said he would be satisfied if this note to the minutes was added, recording his belief that he objected to the decision. **Action: Cllr Smart to follow up safety concerns with NCC. Clerk to add the note on Cllr Tarr's objection to the minutes of this meeting. Clerk to advise Cllr Sayer when poppies arrived, Cllr Sayer to erect on remaining lamp posts to complete the scheme.**

5. **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 Sayer. The report was briefly discussed and the Clerk informed Council that regarding Item 7 – Maintenance at Grosvenor Rd Underpass. The Clerk contacted NetworkRail again advising them of NCC's response that NetworkRail owned the flagstones, the response was that NetworkRail was sure it was not responsible for replacing the flagstones so the Clerk had contacted NCC again to request advice but had not received a response to date. Cllr Appleton reported that regarding Item 8 – Bassaleg Roundabout Maintenance, she had spoken to a NCC officer who advised her that NCC would be taking on the maintenance of the roundabout from Spring 2020 and had also agreed to cut areas around bus stops in the near future. **Action: Clerk to chase NCC for an update on Item 7 if necessary.**

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

Clerk salary and office allowance for October 2019	£2068.77
Misc expenses for October 2019 (mileage, postage, Office 365 subscription (mistakenly thought to be taken from Council's account), Remembrance flags & cable ties)	£224.94
TSO Host – monthly webmail charge	£5.00
One Voice Wales – training costs for Cllr Appleton	£40.00
Gardening Solutions – St Cecelia apple tree propagation	£66.06
SSE - Electricity costs for Graig Hall Jul-Sep 19	£249.49
Complete Business Solutions – Office supplies	£15.59
Newport City Council – Plants for planters	£116.00
Welsh Water – Graig Hall monthly charge (taken by DD)	£78.00

Total to date: £2785.85

Receipts:

SSE – Gas costs to Rhiwderin CC overpayment put on account £10.25

7. Planning:

- a. CONEX 19/0910 – Proposal: Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey side extension, single storey front extension and single storey rear extension. Site: 6 Forge Lane. Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8NF. Application Type: Full. **Council were unable to discuss as the Clerk was unable to find the details of the application on the planning portal. Clerk & Chair to locate, look at the plans if able and if uncontentious, to forward a comment. If unsure, to bring to the next meeting for Council to review.**
- b. Conex 19/0983 Proposal: First floor extension over existing garage, single storey rear extension and general remodelling of existing house. Site: Honeywood, Highfield Lane, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8LQ. Application Type: Full. **Council were unable to discuss as the Clerk was unable to find the details of the application on the planning portal. Clerk & Chair to locate, look at the plans if able and if uncontentious, to forward a comment. If unsure, to bring to the next meeting for Council to review.**
- c. Planning Inspectorate decision on APP/G6935/A/19/3235763 – Land adjacent to The Old Post Office, Old Road, Lower Machen, Newport. **Action: None necessary, for information only. The application had been dismissed with comments similar to Council's original objections.**

8. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. 2020/21 Precept and acceptance of 2 revised policies & 1 new policy/statement – The updated Code of Conduct for Members and Co-Opted Members and for Financial Regulations were approved by Council as was the newly created Council Political Neutrality Statement. Council also discussed its financial position and decided that for financial year 2020/21 the Precept needed to be increased. A number of options were considered and the final decision was that the increase should be 4% which would raise approximately an extra £2900, meaning a £1 per year increase for Band D homeowners in the ward. This was proposed by Cllr Caston, seconded by Cllr Smart and agreed by majority, the vote being 10 for, 1 against and 1 abstention. **Action: Clerk to advise NCC when the Precept request for 2020/21 is received. Clerk to add/replace the approved created/amended policies to Council's suite of documents.**
- b. Remembrance Day celebrations – Details for attending the Remembrance Day Service at St Basil's was discussed which takes place at 10am on Sunday 10th November. All Cllrs who were able were asked to attend. **Action: Cllrs to meet at the Lychgate at 9.45pm.**
- c. Hedge cutting around Graig Hall and allotments/Graig Hall car park & open space maintenance – Cllr Fry produced a schedule of works needing to be carried out and asked for volunteers to action the items on the list. Cllrs Smart, Sayer and Bailey volunteered. **Action: Cllrs to progress, Clerk to add to the next agenda for an update.**

9. Reports:

Sub Committees

- a. Newport City Councillors – None in attendance. Cllr Williams update emails were read to Council. Cllr Sayer asked that hedge alongside the footpath from Penylan Close to Caerphilly Road which desperately needs cutting back be added to the outstanding items list. Cllr Williams had agreed to speak with the homeowner at the beginning of the year, but no action had been taken. Also, the condition of the retaining wall at Pye Corner which needs overgrowth growing from it cut back. Cllr Williams had agreed some time ago to follow this up with NetworkRail but little had been done. The Clerk was asked to add these items and send an updated outstanding list for action. **Action: Clerk to send an updated list to the City Cllrs.**
- b. Police: No officers present but a report for September had been received. The report was read out to Council. The report contained the following information: There had been 137 calls to the Police in July, 44 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Public Order – 8, Violence Without Injury – 7, Miscellaneous Crime – 0, Shoplifting – 3, All Theft Other – 4, Criminal Damage & Arson – 12, Burglary Dwelling – 0, Drug Offences – 0, Theft from Person – 0, Other Sexual Offences – 0, Violence with Injury – 4, Vehicle Crime – 1, Vehicle Crime – 1, Possession of Weapons – 0, Burglary Non-Dwelling – 3, Burglary Dwelling – 1, Bicycle Theft – 0, Other Notifiable Offences – 0, Violence Against a Person – 0, Misc Crimes Against Society – 0, Rape - 0.

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

Actions and activities by the local teams included the following: Police were continuing to monitor anti-social behaviour levels around Morrisons and McDonalds. Multiple calls had been received in relation to anti-social behaviour in the area throughout the month. Officers continue to attend the store and patrol when they are able.

The team are working extremely hard to identify and engage with vulnerable adults living in the ward. They receive regular visits from the team to check their welfare, wellbeing and to discuss any issues they may have.

2 males were arrested in the Rhiwderin area on suspicion of arson. One male had been arrested and charged with a public order offence and a vehicle had been seized from the Park View area for having no insurance.

Ward surgeries are to be held at the following venues:

Thursday 21st November 3pm – 4pm at McDonalds in Afon Village

Wednesday 11th December 3pm – 4pm at McDonalds in Afon Village

Council commented on the figures and noted an upward trend in offences. **Action: None at this time.**

- c. Graig Community Centre – Cllr Fry reported that the Hall Management Committee had agreed to upgrade some electrics and detectors at the Hall, and that it would be closed for painting to take place. **Action: Cllr Fry to progress.**
- d. Rhiwderin Community Centre & Fundraising Group - Cllr Gregory reported that Cllr Whitfield's application for funding assistance to upgrade the Centre had been approved. Thanks were given for all her hard work, it was much appreciated. It was also noted that the Caretaker/Booking's Manager for the Centre had resigned, and that the post needed to be filled. **Action: Cllrs able to help cover the Caretaker's responsibilities and duties to speak with Cllr Gregory.**
- e. Allotments – NTR. **Action: None required.**
- f. Burial Board – The letter agreed to be sent to Rogerstone Community Council from Graig had been forwarded as planned, a copy of the letter was read to Council. There had been a complaint from a RCC member who is the current Chair of the committee against the Clerk to the Burial Board which was being investigated. Cllrs Gregory and Grey had met with the Clerk to the Burial Board and issues were discussed. **Action: Cllrs Gregory and Grey to progress. Clerk to advise when a response to Council's letter from RCC has been received.**

Working Groups

- g. Play Areas Group – NTR **Action: None required.**
- h. Horticultural Group/ BKV Group – The planters had been planted up for Winter, it was commented that more help to carry this out would have been appreciated. It was also reported that the stone feature for the centre of St Basil's shops roundabout had been placed and work was progressing well. **Action: Group to progress.**
- i. Technology Group – The Clerk advised that she would be obtaining the final piece of information following the meeting to complete the items she agreed to administer and update the website providers with, and it would be forwarded to them the following day. Cllr Appleton agreed to complete the items she was tasked with by the following week at the latest. **Action: Clerk to send her information the next day, Cllr Appleton to progress items as agreed.**
- j. Events & Social Group – Cllr Gregory told the group the date for the Christmas event would be Friday 6th December 2019 at 5.30pm. Group to meet again on 5th November to progress. **Action: Cllrs to attend if possible.**
- k. Consultation Review Panel – Cllr Tarr had postponed the previously arranged meeting which would now be held on Wednesday 6th November at 7.15pm **Action: Cllrs who agreed to assist in the consultation to attend the meeting and form a response.**

10. Items for forthcoming agendas:

NCC Officer re pollution – Prior to 13th November 2019 meeting

11. Urgent Business not discussed above:

- a. Cllr Harris informed the group he had been appointed as a full member of the ABCHC. **Action: For information, none required.**
- b. Cllr Bailey advised she had been made aware that there was a website available on which anyone could check if a computer or email address had been compromised or an attempt had been made at hacking. It was agreed that the details should be published in these minutes to publicise, so everyone reading would have the information to check if any device had been compromised or if there had been

any breaches of data. The website address to check is haveibeenpwned.com to check. **Action: For information, none necessary.**

- c. Cllr Appleton asked Members if anyone on the Centre Committees had checked that defibrillators are in working order and items enclosed were in date. This was duly noted and checks would to be carried out. **Action: Centre Management Committee Members to action.**
- d. Cllr Appleton reminded Council that the hanging baskets in the Centres needed removing. **Action: Cllr Sayer agreed to remove.**
- e. Cllr Gregory reported that he had attended to Cllr Harris's report at the previous meeting that homes in Clearwell Court were still awaiting bins being replaced following the recent arson attacks in the area. He had contacted Melin Homes who stated that there were more than enough bins at the site, but they agreed to deliver 2 extra 40L bins as soon as possible. **Action: To be monitored to ensure the bins arrive.**

12. Correspondence for Information: Not discussed

13. Dates of next meetings:

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

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 27th November 2019 at 7pm.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.30pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 27.11.2019

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