



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Graig, Community Centre Bassaleg at 7pm on 27th November 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 Grey, 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 30th October 2019 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Bailey, seconded Cllr Thomas. Arising from the minutes, it was noted that all the action points had been dealt with save the following: Item 9d, Cllrs Sayer and Thomas offered help with duties carried out by the previous caretaker at Rhiwderin Community Centre. **Action: Cllr Gregory to liaise with Cllrs Sayer and Thomas regarding the caretaker's duties.**

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 Haigh, seconded Cllr Caston. **Action: Clerk to chase NCC for an update on Item 6 (Maintenance at Grosvenor Road underpass) if necessary.**

6. **Accounts for Payment:** Proposed Cllr Fry seconded Cllr Thomas and accepted.

Clerk salary and office allowance for November 2019	£2068.77
Misc expenses for November 2019 (mileage, cable ties, Bluetack, selection boxes)	£245.82
TSO Host – monthly webmail charge	£5.00
Cllr N Tarr (2 nd Cllr allowance payment)	£75.00
Anderson & Co – re-issue of cheque approved 13.11.19 which has been cancelled	£165.00
Total to date:	£2559.59

Receipts:

None

7. **Planning:**

a. a. CONEX 19/01163 – Proposal: First Floor extension to existing double garage. Site: 4 Viaduct Close, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8FT. Application Type: Full. **Comment: Council felt the submitted drawings were not detailed enough, but had no objections provided neighbours were consulted and agreed.**

b. CONEX 19/1173 – Proposal: Demolition of outbuilding and garage, construction of single storey extension to provide additional area for retail and dispensary. Site: 5 St Basil's Stores, Laurel Road, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8NN **Comment: Council supports this application.**
Cllr Harris joined the meeting at 7.20

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

a. Planning Training opportunity - the Clerk advised of a training event to assist with responding to planning applications. Cllr Smart wished to be booked on the event and the Clerk advised other Cllrs that if they wished to attend to advise her within the following week for her to book places for them. **Action: Clerk to wait for others to respond, then book Cllr Smart and any other interested Cllrs onto the course.**

b. Christmas event update – Cllr Gregory thanked Cllrs Smart, Thomas and Harris who joined him in trimming the indoor Christmas tree at Graig Hall. He advised everyone that a final Events Meeting was scheduled for 4th December, just prior to the event and asked for everyone to attend if possible, whether or not they were members of the events committee. **Action: All to attend the 4th December meeting if able.**

9. **Reports:**

Sub Committees

a. Newport City Councillors – None in attendance. It was noted that in recent correspondence received from a NCC Officer, the use of £40k of Section 106 monies from the Carnegie Court development had not been explained. Council agreed that City Cllrs should press NCC Officers for reassurance and should be knocking on the doors of the Officers to keep pressure on, ensuring the funding goes to the allocated streams. Additionally, to press for some of the funding to be diverted to the Safe Routes to

Schools, as work was needed to increase the safety of pupils travelling by foot. Council were concerned that unless NCC were pressured effectively, opportunities to ensure good use of the money will be lost. **Action: Clerk to add to list sent to City Cllrs.**

- b. Graig Community Centre – Cllr Fry reported that the Hall Management Committee were evaluating fire strategies and escape procedures. He had obtained 2 quotes for Graig and Rhiwderin Halls for new annual checks on extinguishers and safety which were just under £100 and £150 respectively. These quotes were accepted by Council. It was noted there had been some issues at the Hall over the previous weekend caused by hirers, these were discussed briefly, and Cllr Appleton assured Council procedures were being put in place to prevent similar issues in the future. **Action: Cllr Fry to progress fire extinguisher check arrangements and Management Team to address other issues.**
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre & Fundraising Group - Cllr Gregory reported that he was over-run with responsibilities since he was forced to cover the caretaker duties at RCC in addition to all the other responsibilities he has as Chair to the centre's Management Committee and Chair of the Council. This needed to be urgently addressed as he would be unable to keep up alone in the long term. **Action: Cllrs to offer assistance where possible.**
- d. Allotments – Cllr Harris told Council his apiary is situated on the orchard section of the allotment site and asked if it were possible for it to be allowed to stay. Cllr Caston believed it would be an issue to allow this since he had been given notice to quit his allotment tenancy for reasons stated previously, and he would need to remove it from the site by Christmas 2019 as requested because he would no longer be a plot holder on the site to house it. **Action: Cllr Harris to remove the apiary as set out in the termination letter previously received.**
- e. Burial Board – A BB meeting had been planned for December, but no notification had been received. Cllrs Gregory and Grey had met with the BB Clerk and was waiting for a response to a request by them for information from her. No response had been received from the NCC Head of Law & Regulation as expected, despite follow up emails requesting a response being sent. Cllr Gregory agreed to contact the BB Clerk to ensure all was well, and to ring the Head of Law to discover the delay in his responding to move matters forward. **Action: Cllrs Gregory to progress.**

Working Groups

- f. Play Areas Group – NTR **Action: None required.**
- g. Horticultural Group/ BKV Group – A local garden landscaper had been contacted who suggested a split stemmed white birch would be an appropriate tree to plant in the middle of the stone section on the roundabout at St Basil's shops. Thanks were given to Cllr Grey for arranging the donation of the stones from Hanson's Quarry in Machen. Cllrs Bailey, Smart and Sayer were still working on the schedule of works produced by Cllr Fry. **Action: Clerk to send thank you letter to Hanson's Quarry manager for the donation of the stones.**
- h. Technology Group – Cllr Appleton advised Council that the site was progressing. **Action: Cllr Appleton to progress.**
- i. Events & Social Group – Cllr Gregory told the group a final meeting would be held prior to the event and everyone was asked to attend on 4th December. **Action: Cllrs to attend if possible.**
- j. Consultation Review Panel – Cllr Tarr had postponed the previously arranged meeting which was rescheduled, but on the second occasion only 2 Cllrs attended. He cancelled the meeting as he was not prepared to hold it with so few attendees. Cllr Tarr expressed dismay that so few Cllrs were willing to attend. **Action: None required.**

10. Items for forthcoming agendas:

- a. Councillor vacancy – 8th January 2020 meeting

11. Urgent Business not discussed above:

- a. Cllr Thomas reported that one of the kissing gates into Bassaleg open space had come off its hinge. **Action: Cllrs Thomas and Fry to attend to.**
- b. Cllr Appleton proposed Council consider placing a Christmas Tree on the triangular green by the BKV sign, as she had someone prepared to donate a tree and had explored the possibility of having battery operated Christmas tree lights put on it. This was seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed by majority. Cllr Appleton was given permission to explore with a budget of up to £250 for erecting and lighting the tree. **Action: Cllr Appleton to progress.**
- c. Cllrs Gregory and Appleton reported that they had attended a meeting at Court Crescent with local residents, Bassaleg School representatives and the Police regarding the issues in the area with pupils and parents parking. The Police agreed to attend and enforce illegal parking that was not enforceable by NCC parking wardens. **Action: None necessary, for information only.**
- d. Cllr Gregory read out an email from Cllr Williams stating that the management group from Rhiwderin Village Hall had asked for assistance with obtaining funding for refurbishing the Hall from the same

stream Rhiwderin Community Centre had managed to access. **Action: Wait until after Cllr Williams was able to report back on proceedings at the next Rhiwderin Village Hall meeting, as he had stated he would be attending.**

12. Correspondence for Information: Not discussed

13. Dates of next meetings:

Mid-Month meeting – Wednesday 11th December 2019 at 6pm.

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 7pm.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.40pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 08.01.20

Posted to notice boards 24.01.20

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