



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting & AGM held remotely via Zoom Video Conferencing on 25th November 2020 at 7pm

1. **To receive apologies for absence:** Cllrs D Evans, W Haigh, L Fry, D Williams.

Present: Cllrs R Caston (via phone), A Whitfield, M Smart, K Sayer, P Gregory, J Harris, P Appleton, J Bailey, K Thomas, N Tarr (via audio), S Grey, J Taylor, S Davies (Clerk). Chaired by Cllr Gregory.

This meeting was held remotely via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions. Those unable to join due to lack of technology received the agenda for the meeting as normal, were aware that the meeting was taking place and did not object to it being held. Each were given the opportunity to make comments which were logged by the Clerk, relayed if requested and considered by the participants of the meeting.

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

3. **To hold internal election and appoint members to sub-committees:** The vote for Chairman saw 2 candidates. Cllr Gregory was unanimously voted to retain the Chairmanship following nomination by Cllr Smart, seconded by Cllr Grey. Cllr Gregory accepted the post but stressed that he would need the support and commitment from all Council Members, not just the few. There were two proposals for Vice Chair, Cllr Sayer was voted to the post by majority following nomination by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Appleton. Council appointed Members to the various Sub-Committees and Working Groups as were necessary. Discussion on whether it would be desirable to reinstate the former Planning Committee took place, but it was not felt necessary to add this committee at this time. Cllr Gregory reported that he would be standing down from the Chairmanship and being a member of the Rhiwderin Committee as he felt it was time for a management change. He had held the post for 20 years. **Action: Clerk to use the information gathered to update the committee lists and advertise as appropriate.**

4. **To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th October 2020:** The minutes of the meeting held 28th October 2020 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Bailey, seconded Cllr Caston. There were no issues arising from the minutes to discuss. **Action: None necessary.**

5. **Accounts for Payment:** Proposed Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Sayer.

Clerk salary and office allowance for November 2020	£2102.52
Expenses November 2020 – Zoom mthly cost (£14.39) & Land Registry searches (£6.00)	£20.39
Clerk salary and office allowance for December 2020 (in advance)	£2102.32
Newport City Homes – Grass cutting at Fort View Oct 2020	£212.04
TSOHOST – Webmail charge Dec 2020 (taken by DD)	£5.00
SSE – Gas costs for Graig Hall Oct 2020 (taken by DD)	£26.59
SSE – Gas costs for Rhiwderin CC Sep 2020 (taken by DD)	£118.50
SSE – Gas costs for Rhiwderin CC Oct 2020 (taken by DD)	£201.13
PWLB – Bi-annual loan repayment (taken by DD)	£5231.10
Mark Wallace Electrical Ltd – Distribution board and testing to Rhiwderin CC	£720.00
Mark Wallace Electrical Ltd – Indoor & outdoor LED light replacements	£2631.60
Cllr Whitfield – reimbursement of expenses re RCC funding App costs & searches	£75.93
1 st Bassaleg Guides – Donation	£50.00
Best Kept Villages – Donation to assist with running costs	£166.13
Cllr M Smart – reimbursement for plant costs	£96.30
Total to date:	£13759.55

Receipts:

None to date

6. **Planning:** Discussed later

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

- a. The Clerk – The Clerk read a statement to Council. This was of a personal nature and therefore the statement and ensuing conversation is withheld from the press and public under current GDPR rules. **Action: Clerk to place details of the statement and discussion in her personnel file for future reference.**
- b. Finance & Administration meeting update and Precept authorisation – The committee updated Council on the recent meeting which was primarily to set the Council's budget for 2021/22. Following discussion, it was agreed that as these have been extraordinary times with many struggling financially, Council agreed by majority it would not impose an increase in its Precept request for 2021/22. The figure will remain at £26.00 per annum for Band D homeowners in the ward. A meeting of the Finance Committee was set for 13th January 2021. **Action: Clerk to advise NCC when requested to submit Council's Precept request for 2021/22 financial year.**
- c. Footpath through Bassaleg open space – Cllr Caston reminded Council that the path through the open space required some attention. The path is breaking up in some well used sections. Cllr Grey agreed to investigate and bring a proposal to Council for consideration at the 27th January 2021 meeting. **Action: Cllr Grey to investigate the path, Clerk to add to the 27th Jan meeting agenda.**
- d. Ffos-y-Fran signage update – It was noted that Cllr Taylor had kindly repaired and replaced one sign at the entrance to the estate, and that the Clerk had responded to the resident who made the initial enquiry. **Action: Nothing further required at this time.**
- e. Kerbside bins update – Cllr Williams who is attending to the matter was unable to join the meeting. **Action: Clerk to re-agenda the item for the 6th January meeting agenda.**
- f. Chapel at Pentre-Tai Road update – Cllr Whitfield updated Council. Letters had been sent to individuals named on the lease found via a Land Registry search and searches completed by Cllr Whitfield. It was not known if any responses would be received as the information gained was old, but it was hoped a reply may arrive. Cllr Sayer had tried the avenue he thought may bear fruit, but it unfortunately turned out to be of no use. **Action: Clerk to report any responses received to Council.**
- g. The Paddock update – Cllr Harris reported he was trying to get in touch with the Chairman of the Paddock Committee. The Clerk was also trying to find a contact in Court Crescent who may have some knowledge. **Action: Cllr Harris and the Clerk to report back any progress to Council.**
- h. Christmas lights at Graig Hall – Cllr Appleton was keen to progress trying to get a tree and some lights for the area on which the Best Kept Villages sign sits and was trying to find out costs. It was agreed that if she were to be able to have a tree erected and lit, the Clerk and Chair were given delegated authority to make payment for this prior to Council's meeting in January. **Action: Cllr Appleton to progress.**

8. Reports:

- a. Newport City Councillors – Cllr Appleton had spoken with Cllr Williams and reported the following: There had been an issue with a dog being attacked whilst out on a lead with its owner. Cllr Bailey also reported a dog being attacked and it was known the owner lived in Clearwell Court. It was noted that the area had some problem tenants, and it was hoped that discussions with the group that owned most of the homes in the area could take place to resolve the issues. There were issues with underage drinking and an assault at Tredegar Street and the same at the Friendly Fox. **Action: None at this time.**

Sub Committees:

- b. Graig Community Centre – Cllr Whitfield reported she was looking into the request received for a pop-up shop van to be allowed to use the car park to sell from. News from NCC was that an enterprise such as this would not be in accordance with the lease Council held and was therefore not allowed. **Action: Clerk to inform the lady who made the enquiry.**
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre & Fundraising Group – Cllr Whitfield reported she also had news about what kind of business NCC would allow in place of the Meithrin which ends in July 2021. NCC said it would allow a café, but only if it was for community purposes and any profits went directly to community/community centre use. A post office would not be allowed, but another nursery set-up would be acceptable. Cllr Gregory also reported that despite his call for a meeting to discuss whether the community centres should open or remain closed, and he was very disappointed that only a few had responded. A review needed to be carried out. It was decided at the meeting that as the Covid-19 situation was worsening again in the area, the centres should remain closed to the public save for Meithrin responsibilities and would be reviewed in the new year. Cllr Gregory also reported that he had the 5-year electrical test carried out on all the lights at the centre, they failed as they were too old and all needed replacing. **Action: Cllr Gregory to progress the replacement lights for the time being and also inform those interested in either taking over the nursery or having some other**

business operating out of the centre but giving regard to NCC's decision about what is allowable under Council's lease for the building and grounds. Both centre's committees to meet in the new year to discuss whether opening the of community centre facilities should be considered in the short term.

- d. Allotments – Cllr Caston reported that the plot holder discussed recently appeared to have abandoned her plot ahead of the planned re-inspection scheduled to take place at the end of November. The re-inspection would take place as planned and if no significant improvements were found that the plot holder be issued with a termination notice. There were 12 people on the waiting list for a plot, so it had been agreed with the Allotment Association that until the list reduced considerably, only Graig Ward residents would be eligible to apply to be added to the list. He also reported that the pest issue on the site was in hand and appeared to be improving. **Action: Clerk to work with the Association regarding the plot holder issue and terminate the plot agreements if necessary.**
- e. Burial Board – Cllr Gregory reported that Council's legal team had until 12th December to submit an amended response to counter any additional claims made by the Claimant. He and the Clerk were progressing the claim and would keep Council appraised. **Action: Chairman and Clerk to progress.**

Working Groups:

- f. Play Areas Group – The Clerk submitted a quote for the cost of replacing the missing swing from the arm of some play equipment at Cowshed Lane's older children's play area for £625. This was thought by some to be expensive and it was queried if a chair was needed in particular or if some other more cost-effective piece of equipment could be used. Cllr Taylor had explored the replacement of the artificial grass (sword turf) in front of the rebound wall and was in discussions with a company with much experience in this field. The wet-pour issue was again discussed. **Action: Cllr Appleton agreed to progress the wet pour repair and the replacement seat, Cllr Taylor to obtain a quote for the replacement sword turf. Clerk to hold payment until a satisfactory repair of the wet pour is carried out.**
- g. Horticultural Group/Best Kept Villages Group – Cllr Smart & Whitfield planted spring bulbs at the St Basil's roundabout, Cllr Taylor planted bulbs between the Friendly Fox and the Rhiwderin Inn. Cllr Smart bought bark which Cllr Taylor laid. Cllr Smart informed Council that some tulip bulbs would need planting soon and if anyone could spare some time the group would be grateful. Cllr Gregory thanked everyone who helped for all their hard work. **Action: Group to progress.**
- h. Technology Group – Cllr Appleton reported earlier that the new website would go live soon. **Action: Cllr Appleton to progress.**
- i. Events and Social Group – NTR. **Action: None necessary.**
- j. Consultation Group – NTR **Action: None necessary.**

Cllr Tarr left the meeting at 9.27pm.

6. Planning: From earlier in the agenda

- a. 20/0705 – Proposal: demolition of former mortuary and change of use from mortuary to additional vehicle parking and ancillary use by existing ambulance station. Site: Lyndon Bassett Funeral Directors Park View, Bassaleg, Newport. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections.**
- b. 20/0954 – Proposal: Two storey rear extension and single storey front extension. Site: 29 Park View Gardens, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8JZ. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections.**
- c. 20/0998 – Proposal: Proposed detached garage to front of property. Site: 9 Highfield Gardens, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8LR. Application Type: Full. **Comment: It was felt that there was limited information, but there was some concern regarding breaching the building line.**
- d. 20/1003 – Proposal: Proposed single storey extension to side of existing domestic dwelling. Site: 54 Caerphilly Close, Rhiwderin, Newport, NP10 8RF. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections.**
- e. 20/1027 Proposal: Side extension to garage and alterations to approved sunroom. Site: Oakvale House, I Harlech Drive, Rhiwderin, Newport, NP10 8QS. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No real objections, but slight concern regarding the proximity of the extension to the garage being too close to the perimeter wall.**
- f. 20/1038 – Proposal: Demolition works associated with existing frontage/side annex, rear conservatory and rear/side roof over cinema room. Construction of new 2 storey frontage extension, single storey rear extension, first floor rear/side extension and two storey rear/side extension with associated flue for a log burner. Site: The Beeches. 25 Court Crescent, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8NH **Comment: No objections.**
- g. 20/1079 – Proposal: Construction of driveway. Site: 162 Laurel Road, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8PT. **Comment: Council suggest there may well be an issue and that a site visit is advisable due to the topography of the land.**

9. Items for forthcoming agendas:

- a. Kerbside bins update – 6th January 2021 Full Council Meeting
- b. Footpath through open space repair/refurbishment – 27th January 2021 Full Council Meeting

10. Urgent Business not discussed above:

- a. Cllr Thomas reported that the Griffin side of the allotment site hedge was overgrown and impeding the footpath. Maintenance was needed. Cllr Appleton said she had a good relationship with the NCC officer responsible for maintenance and would contact him to ask for it to be cut back. **Action: Cllr Appleton to progress.**
- b. Cllr Sayer mentioned about the hedge of a home overgrowing onto the area at the top of the steps on Garth Hill from Caerphilly Road to Penylan Close. Cllr Taylor agreed to speak with the homeowner to ask if they would please cut back the hedge. **Action: Cllr Taylor to progress.**
- c. Cllr Smart reminded everyone of the sad death of a pedestrian recently who was involved in a traffic incident on the A468 at Lower Machen. Council offered its condolences to the family and it was again noted that for many years Council has been trying to persuade authorities to place a fixed speed camera at that accident blackspot location. Unfortunately to date, this has been unsuccessful but as the accident toll rises it is hoped that the need will be recognised. **Action: Council to continue to lobby for a camera at the site.**

11. Dates of next meetings:

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 6th January 2021 at 7pm remotely via Zoom

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.45pm

Signed (Chair) – 06.01.21

Compiled 21.12.20

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