



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Graig, Community Centre Bassaleg at 7pm on 29th January 2020

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs W Haigh, D Williams.
Present: Cllrs R Caston, A Whitfield, D Evans, M Smart, K Sayer, P Gregory, J Harris, L Fry, P Appleton, J Bailey, K Thomas, N Tarr, M Cornelious, S Davies (Clerk). Chaired by P Gregory.
2. **Public Representation:** None
3. **To receive declarations of interest:** None
4. **Minutes:** There were no minutes to ratify. **Action: None required.**
5. **Clerk's Report:** No report submitted as no movement during the period. **Action: None required.**
6. **Accounts for Payment:** Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Bailey and accepted.
Council were informed that the previously approved donation towards Rhiwderin Community Centre upgrade costs of £10,000 be added for payment to the next meeting agenda, which was agreed by all.
Action: Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

Clerk salary and office allowance for January 2019	£2068.77
Misc expenses for December & January	£59.53
TSO Host – monthly webmail charge (taken by DD)	£5.00
Calico – annual charge for Council domain name	£36.00
SSE – electricity charges for Rhiwderin CC Oct – Dec 19	£374.04
Complete Business Solutions – Data sticks x 3	£34.20
Total to date:	£2577.54

Receipts:

None

Cllr Smart joined the meeting at 7.10pm

7. Planning:

None, but Cllr Gregory updated Council on some planning training both he and Cllr Smart had recently attended. **Action: None necessary.**

8. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Councillor vacancy – The Clerk advised that the post had been advertised and the closing date was 6th February, after which time she would check to see if an election would be needed or if Council would be free to co-op the position. To date, 3 candidates had contacted the Clerk to register their interest in the post should co-option be the method, with possibly more coming forward in due course. **Action: Clerk to check the method of appointment and advise Council at the next meeting on 12th February. If co-option is the method, a date could then be set for informal interviews to take place.**
- b. Events Committee meeting date – It was agreed that in due course a meeting would be set for March. **Action: None at this time.**
- c. Groundworks list for Graig Hall and surrounding area – The list was discussed. It was agreed that some items could be crossed off the list as they had been completed, but some would require ongoing maintenance. The use of community volunteers was discussed. **Action: Cllrs Fry, Bailey, Smart to review the list and update it. Cllr Bailey to explore the use of community volunteers.**
- d. Scouts Hut extension update – Progress with the new Scout Hut extension was discussed. Graig Hall management had also agreed that whilst work was being performed on the Scout Hut's toilets, the Scouts were welcome to take advantage of Graig Hall's facilities for as long as necessary. Also discussed was the collaboration between the Scouts and Bassaleg Allotment Association to allow the Scouts to gain awards for overnight camping by using the allotment site. **Action: None at this time.**
- e. Boundary Commission proposals – It was noted in the Commissions proposal report that in order to bring parity between City Cllrs for the number of electorate they represent, the Commission proposed removing part of Afon Village from the Graig ward and inserting it into the Rogerstone ward. Council were pragmatic about this, as it has long since been recognised that the area is set well outside the other villages, and as Council has not been able to recruit a Cllr living in the area, felt the residents

would be better served by Rogerstone Community Council. Unfortunately, this would mean a drop in precept. **Action: None required.**

- f. Memorial garden – Council considered a new project to create a memorial garden on the small triangular space on the junction of Caerphilly Road with The Griffin. It was thought it would enhance the area, be a good visible spot in the village and be an appropriate time to do it as this year is the 75th anniversary of the end of WW2. It was also hoped to incorporate a special mention for Mr Ron Jones of Bassaleg (the village's well-known prisoner of war -The Auschwitz Goalkeeper, who sadly passed away last year at the age of 102). Council agreed to explore the possibilities, Council also agreed that it would be appropriate to plant a suitable small tree on the roundabout at St Basil's Stores to complete the scheme. **Action: Cllrs Bailey, Whitfield, Smart, Appleton and Tarr to explore.**

9. Reports:

Sub Committees

- a. Newport City Councillors – None in attendance. Council were disappointed that there was no representation (at that point, although Cllr Cornelious did attend later in the meeting) and felt that they should attend more often. It was agreed that the City Cllrs were a link between the Community and City Councils. Cllr Williams sent a report on the issues he had been dealing with and this was read to Council. Council were grateful to receive the report but felt it was not detailed enough and needed further explanation. **Action: None requested.**
- b. Graig Community Centre – A booking issue was discussed and booking procedures discussed briefly. **Action: Management Committee to discuss bookings at its next meeting.**

Cllr Cornelious joined the meeting at 8.15pm

- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre & Fundraising Group – Cllr Whitfield reported that the upgrade was continuing well and a meeting with the construction company was set for the following week. The grant money was being paid to the management committee as expected by the Welsh Government, and as mentioned in 6a above, Council were due to pay their promised contribution at the next Council meeting. **Action: Cllrs Gregory and Whitfield to progress.**
- d. Allotments – NTR. **Action: None necessary.**
- e. Burial Board – Cllr Gregory reported that a Burial Board meeting had been set for 3rd February to discuss the Board's preferred option for the future of the cemetery. Board members were asked to attend, and it would also be attended by Cllrs Gregory, Grey and the Clerk. Following that meeting it was expected that a meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of both Graig & Rogerstone meet to discuss options for moving forward. **Action: Those mentioned above to attend the meeting and report back to Council.**

Working Groups

- f. Play Areas Group – NTR **Action: None required.**
- g. Horticultural Group/ BKV Group – NTR. **Action: None required.**
- h. Technology Group – Cllrs Appleton and Gregory to meet. **Action: Cllrs Appleton and Gregory to progress.**
- i. Events & Social Group – It was agreed that a meeting should be held to review the Christmas Event, but it would not be necessary to arrange it until March. **Action: Meeting date to be set as agreed.**
- j. Consultation Review Panel – NTR. **Action: None required.**

10. Items for forthcoming agendas:

None

11. Urgent Business not discussed above:

- a. Cllr Thomas informed Council he was concerned that youths were using Graig Hall car park as a place to deal/take drugs. He often observed suspicious activities involving groups of cars in the car park. **Action: All Cllrs to monitor and report suspicious activities to the Police 101 telephone line.**
- b. The Clerk reported that she had been made aware that litter bins in the villages have been disappearing. It is known that the post mounted bin at the bus stop on Laurel Road is gone, as is the bin at the bus stop on Caerphilly Road close to the Rhiwderin Inn and opposite the Friendly Fox. She intends reporting this to NCC but asked Cllrs if they were aware of any others missing so they can all be reported at the same time. **Action: Cllrs to inform the Clerk of any other missing bins noticed within the following week or so.**
- c. Cllr Gregory told Council of the Clerk's struggle to get the annual £9000 payment of S106 money, which is normally paid in June/July but has not yet been submitted. **Action: The Clerk to progress.**
- d. Cllr Cornelious asked that the Clerk advise her of any issues Council wished her to take up. The Clerk asked for assistance with resolving the £9000 payment mentioned in Item 11c above and to lobby NCC

regarding the S106 money for the Carnegie Court development. **Action: Clerk to confirm this request via email to Cllr Cornelious.**

12. Correspondence for Information: Not discussed

13. Dates of next meetings:

Mid-Month meeting – Wednesday 12th February 2020 at 7pm.

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 26th February 2020 at 7pm.

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

Signed..... (Chair) – 26.02.20

Posted to notice boards 06.03.20

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