



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Graig, Community Centre Bassaleg at 7pm on 26th February 2020

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs J Bailey, M Cornelious.

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

2. **Public Representation:** Attending to observe, 2 candidates for the vacant Councillor position by invitation.

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

4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held 29th January 2020 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Haigh, seconded Cllr Sayer. Arising from the minutes, it was noted in Item 11a (issues in Graig Hall car park) that complaints from residents had been received and that there were broken bottles in the car park. **Action: Issues had been reported to the Police.**

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 Caston, seconded Cllr Harris. Regarding Item 7 (Bassaleg roundabout maintenance) Cllr Appleton reported that she had recently spoken to an NCC officer who told her the roundabouts had been handed over to NCC from the Welsh Government and maintenance for this year is being arranged. He agreed that they were in a poor state. Regarding Item 8 (overgrowth opposite Garth Terrace), Cllr Williams confirmed this had been reported a number of times to NCC enforcement. Regarding Item 9 (overgrowth of hedge alongside steps from Caerphilly Rd to Penylan Close), Cllr Williams reported he had spoken to the homeowner, but would do so again. **Action: Cllr Williams to follow up on items 8 & 9. Cllr Appleton agreed to follow up on Item 7.**

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

Clerk salary and office allowance for February 2020	£2068.77
Misc expenses for February 2020 (fuel £37.80 & internet security annual charge £39.99)	£77.79
TSO Host – monthly webmail charge (taken by DD)	£5.00
SSE – Graig Hall gas charges Dec19 – Feb20	£278.06
One Voice Wales – annual subscription	£895.00
TR33 – removal of fallen tree at Wentworth Lane Bassaleg	£486.00
R Charles Plastics – Repairs to damaged residential roof from fallen tree	£400.00
SSE – Rhiwderin CC gas charges Dec19-Feb20 (taken by DD)	£700.20
Total to date:	£4989.03

Receipts: None

7. **Planning:** None

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

a. Councillor vacancy update – The Clerk advised Council that there were 4 candidates interested in the vacancy. All had been invited to a casual interview, and also to attend this meeting if they were able, to give them an insight into the business Council deals with. 2 candidates were on holiday, and 2 were in attendance. **Action: The interview panel to attend as arranged and to make a determination on behalf of Council as previously agreed.**

b. Fallen tree and associated damage – The Clerk & Chair reported on an incident where a recent storm had caused a large tree on Council owned property to fall and cause damage to a neighbouring property and block a footpath. This had been dealt with, the tree had been removed and the damage repaired quickly. The homeowner was very grateful for the swift action. The Clerk suggested that as this exposed further trees that could be at risk, a full tree survey should be carried out. She suggested a contractor to use and this was accepted. **Action: Clerk to engage a contractor to supply a report which would be used as a basis for any work recommended on the area.**

c. Scouts Hut extension update – The Clerk updated Council on the work being carried out on the Hut and reported that the Scout's administrators had requested Council supports a soakaway being dug at the open space side of the Hut to help with drainage. Council were in favour of the idea in principle but asked for more detail on the proposal before permission could be granted. **Action: Clerk to request more detail such as rough drawings in order to agree for the work to be carried out.**

- d. Memorial garden update – The project is in its infancy and the group taking this forward agreed a meeting needed to be held to firm up a proposal. **Action: Group to meet.**

9. Reports:

Sub Committees

- a. Newport City Councillors – Cllr Williams told the group he had been dealing with procurement issues at Bassaleg School and that the Local Education Department had been looking to place an extra 30 pupils there too. He had been helping with the issue of an overgrown hedge at Cwm Cwddy Drive and was involved with the homeowners in the new Carnegie Court development that had experienced the River Ebbw's bank collapsing taking with it the garden of the property and undermining its foundations during recent storms. He also informed Council that he had been chosen as Mayor of the City of Newport for this coming term. Council were very pleased for him and offered congratulations. **Action: Cllr Williams to keep Council updated on the issues mentioned.**
- b. Graig Community Centre – Cllr Evans reported that the scheduled meeting that was to take place had been cancelled. **Action: None necessary.**
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre & Fundraising Group – Cllr Whitfield reported that the upgrade work was not yet complete. Things had not progressed as well as expected and concerns were expressed about the amount and quality of the lime mortar pointing that was being carried out. Progress was slow, management was not good, no individual part of the overall work was complete and little was to the standard expected. Council were disappointed at the speed and quality of the work so far by the contractor, although it was recognised that there had been delays due to adverse weather conditions. It was agreed a delegation from Council would meet with the architect and contractors on site, discuss the issues and seek a solution. **Action: Cllrs Gregory, Whitfield, Sayer and Appleton to meet as discussed.**
- d. Allotments – NTR. **Action: None necessary.**
- e. Burial Board – Cllr Harris reported that a meeting had been scheduled for the following week. At the previous meeting it was agreed that a new Clerk should be employed to administer the dealings of the Board and take over from the Rogerstone Clerk who was currently doing the job on a temporary basis. Improvements suggested at the last meeting were being implemented. Cllr Sayer mentioned that the ivy on the perimeter walls of the cemetery were in danger of causing damage to the walls and asked if this could be attended to as part of the planned maintenance for the site. Cllr Williams told the group he had been lobbying the Head of Law and Regulations to support Graig cc's preferred option to run the cemetery themselves and not as a joint board and would also lobby the Councillor who would be making the determination on this or for equal representation. **Action: Delegated Cllrs and the Clerk to attend the meeting, Cllr Williams to continue to lobby NCC officers as agreed.**

Working Groups

- f. Play Areas Group – The Clerk advised that she had been trying to get payment due from Section 106 funds to cover the costs of play area maintenance from NCC. Council had paid invoices to NCC in April 2019, but not yet been reimbursed as expected. This amounted to a payment due to Council of £9k which NCC had not yet forwarded. The Clerk asked Cllr Williams to assist in any way possible to speed up the process. **Action: Clerk and Cllr Williams to keep pressing until the payment is received.**
- g. Horticultural Group/ BKV Group – The group were in the process of planning the planting of a suitably small multi-stemmed tree on the raised area on St Basil's Shops roundabout. And were to discuss the proposed memorial garden project. **Action: Group to progress.**
- h. Technology Group – Cllrs Appleton reported that the associated Council email address allocated to her was problematic and she was attempting to resolve the issue, and that a meeting had been held to discuss what needed to be completed in order to launch the new website. **Action: Cllrs Appleton to progress.**
- i. Events & Social Group – It was agreed that a meeting should be held to review the Christmas Event This would take place prior to the scheduled Finance meeting on 17th March at 6.30pm. **Action: All involved to attend.**
- j. Consultation Review Panel – NTR. **Action: None required.**

10. Items for forthcoming agendas:

Event's Committee meeting – 17th March 2020 at 6.30pm
Finance meeting – 17th March 2020 at 7pm

11. Urgent Business not discussed above:

- a. Cllr Thomas reported that water was pooling on the path through the open space by the Kissing Gate nearest The Griffin. It was also in a poor state as the surface was broken up and in need of attention.

Cllr Fry said it was on his schedule to be attended to, but it was agreed that this should be done asap so he agreed to look at what was needed asap. **Action: Cllr Fry to progress.**

- b. Cllr Appleton was concerned about a truck being parked regularly on Caerphilly Road that usually blocked a footpath. **Action: Cllr Williams agreed to email NCC traffic Wardens to advise.**

Cllr Gregory asked the attending Cllr vacancy applicants for their thoughts following the meeting. One had attended a number of times previously and so knew what to expect. The other commented that he hadn't realised the diversity of the business discussed and felt it was covered comprehensively. They both were thanked for their attendance.

12. Correspondence for Information: Not discussed

13. Dates of next meetings:

Mid-Month meeting – Wednesday 11th March 2020 at 7pm.
Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 25th March 2020 at 7pm.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.48pm

Signed..... (Chair) – 26.02.20

Posted online only due to Covid-19 restrictions

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