



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held remotely via Zoom Video Conferencing on 29th July 2020 at 7pm

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 and relayed and considered by the participants of the meeting.

1. **To receive apologies for absence:** Cllrs J Bailey, K Thomas, D Williams.
Unable to join due to lack of technology: Cllrs R Caston, D Evans, W Haigh, L Fry.
Present: Cllrs A Whitfield, M Smart, K Sayer, P Gregory, J Harris, P Appleton, N Tarr (via sound only), J Taylor, S Davies (Clerk). Chaired by Cllr Gregory.
2. **To receive declarations of interest:** Cllrs M Smart and A Whitfield declared an interest in Item 5d and agreed to not participate in discussions on this topic.
3. **To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24th June 2020:**
The minutes of the meeting held 24th June 2020 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Taylor, seconded Cllr Smart. Arising from the minutes, it was noted by Cllr Appleton that there had been an omission to the minutes regarding the Clerk agreeing to contact the Ombudsman in relation to NCC's extraordinary delay in dealing with Council's request to determine on a change to the make-up of the Burial Board/Committee. The Clerk apologised and explained that she had missed it due to her video conferencing connection being intermittent, consequently she did miss the point. She offered to have it added retrospectively to the June minutes, but it was deemed sufficient to include it in these minutes. **Action: Clerk to contact the Ombudsman as requested.**

4. **Accounts for Payment:**

Clerk salary and office allowance for August 2020 (post-dated cheque to 26.08.20)	£2077.53
Misc expenses for July 2020 (postage) (post-dated cheque to 26.08.20)	£2.18
SSE - Graig Hall gas charges May – Jun 20 (taken by DD)	£12.67
SSE – Graig Hall electricity charges Apr – Jun 20	£129.38
SSE – Rhiwderin CC gas charges Jun – Jul 20 (taken by DD)	£81.73
SSE – Rhiwderin CC electricity charges Jun – Jul 20 (taken by DD)	£145.79
Total to date:	£2449.28

Cheque payments made since last reported (cheque dates 08.07.20):

HMRC – PAYE & NI Apr – Jun 20	£2655.23
Spanglefish – Gold status for old website for 12mths	£29.95
Newport City Homes – Grass cutting at Fort View Jun 20	£212.04
St Basil's Church – Annual donation for skips	£520.00
Total	£3417.22

5. **Planning:**

- a. 20/0596 – Proposal: Proposed felling of Pine and Weeping Willow trees Site: Parkfield House, Church Road, Lower Machen, Newport. Application Type: Trees in Conservation. **Comment: Council is content to support the decision of the tree officer.**
- b. 20/0571 – Proposal: Rear single storey extension. Site: 50 Tredegar Street, Rhiwderin, Newport NP10 8RY Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections.**
- c. 20/0413 – Proposal: Demolition of conservatory and rear dormer, construction of single storey rear extension, first floor rear extension, and two storey infill extension to front. Installation of entrance gates and alterations to garage and boundary wall. Site: Oaklands House, 184 Laurel Road, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8QA. Application type: Full. **Comment: No objections, but Council notes plans will involve the relocation of the post-box and ask this be carefully considered.**
- d. 20/0575 – Proposal: Construction of ground floor shop (A1) to a two bedroom flat with associated enabling development including relocation of the front door, installation of bathroom and refurbished kitchen. Site: 2 Pentre Tai Road, Rhiwderin, Newport, NP10 8RL. Application Type: Full. Cllrs Smart

and Whitfield did not contribute to Council's comment. **Comment: No objections provided neighbours are consulted and agree.**

- e. Proposal: Felling of Cherry tree Preservation order 3 of 1979. Site: 10 Pensiden View, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8LJ. Application Type: Tree Preservation Orders. **Comment: Council is content to support the decision of the tree officer but would comment that it would be a shame if healthy trees are felled.**

6. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Employment Tribunal – Council were updated on the latest developments in the case and were content with the approach suggested by the Chair and Clerk. Members were happy for the issue to continue to be handled by the Chair and Clerk. **Action: Chair and Clerk to progress and provide regular updates.**
- b. Posts and barrier at Tredegar Street, Rhiwderin – Deferred to the next meeting as Cllr Williams was unable to attend this meeting. **Action: Clerk to add to the 26th August 2020 agenda.**
- c. Opening of Community Centres – A meeting had been held between members of both Centre's committees and they planned to meet again shortly to discuss how best to open up the Centres when practicable. The Clerk relayed comments from Cllr Fry who suggested both Centre's should undertake a full electrical inspection prior to opening. It was suggested that the notice on the door of Graig Hall needed replacing. **Action: Committees to meet as planned. Centres to remain closed until September at least. Cllr Gregory to contact Cllr Fry regarding his suggestion. Graig Hall Committee to arrange for renewal of the notice on the door at the Hall. Facebook and Council's website to be updated that the Centres are to stay closed for the time being.**

7. Reports:

- a. Newport City Councillors – None in attendance, but it was noted that Cllr Williams had relinquished the opportunity to become Mayor of Newport for the time being. **Action: None necessary.**

Sub Committees:

- b. Graig Community Centre – Discussed above, nothing further reported. **Action: None necessary.**
- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre & Fundraising Group – Cllr Whitfield reported that things were progressing with the contractor for the continued upgrade works of the Centre. It was noted that the broken window had not yet been addressed. **Action: Committee to progress.**
- d. Allotments – The Clerk advised that an inspection was being carried out on 2nd August by members of the Allotment Association. Due to social distancing and shielding, it had been agreed that the inspection would consist of the Association members conducting the inspection and submitting a report and photographs to Council's Allotment Committee Members who would have the opportunity to comment on suggestions made. The Clerk to work with the Association and distribute the information to members of Council's committee. **Action: Clerk to liaise on the task between Council members and Association Members.**
- e. Burial Board – The Clerk reported that the temporary Clerk to the Board intended setting a meeting for September which would include a site visit to the cemetery with the meeting to follow. He proposed the meeting be held at Graig Hall but had been advised that the Hall may not be open at that time. **Action: None at this time.**

Working Groups:

- f. Play Areas Group – Cllr Gregory informed the group that signage for the play areas suggested by NCC as they opened up had been ordered and erected. The Clerk was made aware that a piece of equipment at both Cowshed Lane and Rhiwderin play areas were missing and she agreed to investigate. **Action: Clerk to contact NCC regarding the missing equipment, and as the piece in Rhiwderin was especially installed for a disabled child in the area, that it be reinstated asap even if that meant a neighbouring piece of equipment would have to be removed.**
- g. Horticultural Group/Best Kept Villages Group – Cllr Smart reported that the group was to meet the following week to discuss what work needed doing. It was suggested that Cllr Taylor should join the group as his contribution to the maintenance of St Basil's Shops roundabout had been very welcome and much appreciated. Cllr Taylor agreed to join the group. **Action: Group to meet as discussed and Clerk to update her spreadsheet adding Cllr Taylor's name to the group members.**
- h. Technology Group – Cllr Appleton reported that progress was being made with the new website. **Action: Cllr Appleton to progress.**
- i. Events and Social Group – It was agreed that unfortunately a Christmas event should not be held this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. **Action: None necessary.**
- j. Consultation Group – NTR **Action: None necessary.**

8. Items for forthcoming agendas:

- a. Posts and barrier at Tredegar Street, Rhiwderin – 26th August 2020 meeting

9 Urgent Business not discussed above:

- a. Cllr Gregory notified the group that both Community Centre Management Committees had been successful in applying for a WG hardship grant for business interruption of £10k for each centre. **Action: None necessary, for notification only.**
- b. Cllr Appleton advised Council that one of the name plate signs at Ffoss-y-Fran had disappeared some years ago and the other was looking tatty. Residents had approached her asking if Council would consider donating towards the costs for replacing both signs. Cllr Appleton was asked to relay the message from Council that the request should be put in writing to the Clerk who would then add it to an agenda for discussion. **Action: Cllr Appleton to advise the resident.**
- c. Cllr Appleton also informed the group she was aware that work to amend and improve the course of the River Ebbw running through Carnegie Court was underway. **Action: None required, for notification only.**

10. Dates of next meetings:

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 30th September 2020 at 7pm (venue to be advised at a later date)

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.05pm

Signed (Chair) – 26.08.20

Compiled 20.08.20

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