



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mid-Month Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg at 7pm on 13th February 2019

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1. Apologies for absence: A Whitfield.

Present: Cllrs R Caston, D Evans, M Smart, K Sayer, K Harries, P Gregory, J Harris, W Haigh, P Appleton, J Bailey, K Thomas, N Tarr, D Williams. Also present, Sergeant Giles from Gwent Police and 2 residents of Lower Machen. Chaired by P Gregory.

4. Reports:

- a. Police – This item was brought forward to allow Sgt Giles to continue his duties. Cllr Gregory introduced him and read to Council the report received for January. The report contained the following information: During January there had been 99 calls to the Police, 20 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Public Order - 4, Violence Without Injury - 3, Miscellaneous Crime - 0, Shoplifting - 0, All Theft Other - 2, Criminal Damage & Arson - 2, Burglary Dwelling - 3, Drug Offences - 2, Theft from Person - 0, Other Sexual Offences - 0, Violence with Injury - 1, Vehicle Crime - 3, Burglary Non-Dwelling – 0 Other Notifiable Offences – 0, Violence Against a Person – 0, Possession of Weapons - 0.

The ward priority for Graig is currently Anti-Social Behaviour in the Morrisons and McDonalds area.

Actions and activities by the local teams included the following: Police are continuing to monitor anti-social behaviour levels around Morrisons and McDonalds. A call had been received regarding speeding through the Bassaleg School roundabout and the caller had been given information about Community Speed Watch. A large leaflet drop had been made warning residents to ensure their properties and vehicles were safe as there had been a number of incidents in the local area.

A ward surgery was set for Sunday 24th February at McDonalds in Afon Village, and PCSO Mandy Dean had been welcomed back to the Rogerstone Neighbourhood Team.

Sgt Giles spoke at length with Council and advised them of the issues being faced by the Police at present. These included the recent spate of local burglaries, the difficulties of dealing with stretched resources and the hope that new PCSOs were being recruited to replace those PCSOs that stepped up to become PCs. He mentioned he hoped to start a new Crime Prevention Panel in the area and would report back to Council once details were known. He confirmed that Graig is a low crime area and that is the main reason why Police presence is lower, but assured Council that should there be a need, resources would be directed when necessary. He told Council of the drugs issues in the city centre areas and agreed to look into speeding issues on Pentrepoeth Road that Council reported to him. He also agreed to look again at speeding issues on the A468 in the Lower Machen area and at Camelia Drive in Afon Village. He asked for assistance getting messages out to residents over social media and was told that Cllr William's Graig News page would be the best vehicle to do so. Sgt Giles agreed that a close working relationship with Council would be desirable and agreed to attend a council meeting every quarter if he was able. **Action: Sgt Giles to attend meetings quarterly, Clerk to send contact details for officers to all Cllrs.**

2. **To receive public representations:** The 2 residents of Lower Machen asked him to remain at the meeting whilst they spoke to both him and Council regarding speeding at Lower Machen both through the village and on the A468. They had real concerns that despite many accidents and multiple deaths, no action was being taken to reduce speed limits in the area. Speeding through the village was a constant issue, and they feared for the safety of pedestrians as there were very few pavements in the village. They also reported that of the houses backing onto a A468 noise was an issue, as from 3am the volume of traffic increases, and the speed vehicles travelled directly impacted on the noise levels being experienced by residents. Additionally, there are many issues with off-road bikes travelling through the village up to the lanes and Machen Mountain. Sgt Giles and Council sympathised. Council suggested that contacting Graig's City Cllrs to lobby NCC for traffic calming measures on behalf of all Lower Machen Residents would be the best way forward. Cllr Williams agreed to assist with the problems. Cllr Gregory told the residents that Graig Community Council had been lobbying for many years to have a static speed camera placed on the A468 at Lower Machen and had put forward concerns for pedestrian safety through the village. All to no avail to date. **Action: Sgt Giles to support any request for a speed camera, residents to speak with Cllr Williams.**

Both Sgt Giles and the 2 Lower Machen residents were thanked and left the meeting at 7.55pm.

- 3. Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2019, previously circulated were read and subject to a small amendment were approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Harries. The action points of the minutes were briefly discussed. **Action: None required.**

4. Reports:

- a. Police – please see above.
- b. City Councillors – Cllr Williams discussed the issues of the Burial Board with Council and made some suggestions that could help with resolving them. Cllr Gregory read to Council the latest email conversations between the concerned parties. Council debated, and a decision on the best way to move forward was decided.
Cllr Sayer left the meeting at 8.35pm.
Cllr Bailey asked that a vote of confidence and thanks to the Chair be recorded which was agreed by all. A number of avenues were to be explored by the Chair and the Clerk.

Cllr Williams reported that he was assisting on a number of issues, including advising a resident in Lower Machen regarding a planning application, and he suggested that as the Post Office was under threat of closure at Rhiwderin, Council consider housing it in Rhiwderin Community Centre and have the Management Committee run the business. Cllr Gregory said this would not be feasible.

Action: Chair and Clerk to carry out instructions and progress the Burial Board issues.

5. Items for discussion:

- a. Concurrent expenditure update – The Clerk advised Council there was no further news to report at present. **Action: Clerk to keep Council appraised as and when necessary.**
- b. Burial Board update – Discussed in Item 4b above.
- c. Litter bin at Bethel Baptist Church – The Clerk advised Council of an email received requesting a litter bin at the entrance to Bethel Church on Penylan Road. It was agreed that NCC would not add this to their emptying schedules, but Council could provide a bin if someone would take responsibility for emptying it on a regular basis. Also discussed was the fact that the large litter bin opposite the Friendly Fox was constantly being filled with household rubbish and overflowing bags were also often left alongside. Cllr Williams advised that NCC could place a covert camera in the area to discover who the culprit was which may help. **Action: Clerk to advise resident of Councils thoughts regarding the bin at Bethel Chapel Cllr Williams to pursue NCC installing a covert camera at the location opposite the Friendly Fox.**

6. Items for next agenda if agreed: None

7. Urgent other business not on the agenda:

- a. Cllr Gregory asked Cllr Williams to pursue the idea of having new community meetings involving the Police as discussed above. Cllr Williams agreed to try to set this up with all concerned. **Action: Cllr Williams to progress.**

8. Accounts for payment: Proposed Cllr Harries, seconded Cllr Evans and approved.

For signature only – previously paid invoice to Advanced Moulds Ltd (invoice unavailable when payment authorised on 30.01.19) – 120 chairs for Rhiwderin Community Centre	£2170.56
Griffiths Signs – Noticeboards for Graig Hall foyer upgrade	£138.82
K Jones Heating Services Ltd- alterations to Graig Hall heating resulting from foyer upgrade	£762.00
Newport City Homes Ltd – grass cutting at Fort View play area October 18	£212.04
Total	£1112.86

Receipts

SSE – solar panels FIT payment Sep-Dec 18	£246.24
Cash deposit – raffle prize funds from Christmas Lighting Event at Graig Hall 2018	£251.60
Total	£497.84

9. Planning - Applications to be considered:

- a. 19/0094 – Proposal: Conversion of existing integral garage into reception room with new external car parking space. Site: 8 Fairway Road, Carnegie Court, Bassaleg, Newport. NP10 8BW. Application Type: Full Comment: No objections provided neighbours are consulted and agree.
- b. 18/0980 – Additional Information Proposal: Demolition of existing garage and construct 2 no. dwellings and associated parking. Site: 27 Penylan Close, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8NW. Application Type: Full. **Comment: Council reiterated its previous comments and felt that issues highlighted in the original application had not been properly addressed.**

- c. 19/0088 – Proposal: Felling of Ash tree and removal of lower limb of 1 no. sycamore tree protected by group TPO 18/MON (G1). Site: 8 Orchard Close, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8RA. Application Type Tree Preservation Order. **Comment: Council fully supports this application.**

10. Correspondence for information: Not discussed

11. Dates of next meetings:

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 27th February 2019 at 7pm

Mid-Month Meeting - Wednesday 13th March 2019 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45 pm. Confirmed, this 13th day of March 2019.

Signed..... (Chair) – March 2019

Posted to notice boards & on website 22.03.19

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