



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mid-Month Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg at 7pm on 10th April 2019

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1. Apologies for absence: A Whitfield. K Sayer, J Harris, J Bailey.

Present: Cllrs R Caston, D Evans, M Smart, K Harries, P Gregory, W Haigh, L Fry, P Appleton, K Thomas, N Tarr. Chaired by P Gregory.

2. To receive public representations: None

3. Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2019, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Tarr. The action points of the minutes were briefly discussed. Regarding Item 5f, it was noted that although the National Development Plan had been requested to be added to the agenda for the Liaison meeting, NCC had deferred the item to the next Liaison meeting.
Action: None necessary.

4. Accounts for payment: Proposed Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Smart and approved.

ICCM – annual subscription cost	£95.00
TR33 Ltd – work carried out on trees on Wentworth Lane, Bassaleg	£648.00
Cllr N Tarr – 4 th quarterly IRPW payment	£37.50
St Basil's Church – churchyard skips donation	£500.00
Pentrepoeth School – donation towards school polytunnel	£1000.00
Newport City Homes Ltd – grass cutting at Fort View play area March 2019	£212.04
	Total £2492.54

Receipts:

SSE – FIT refund for Graig Hall solar panels £161.24

5. Planning - Applications to be considered:

None to date

6. Items for discussion:

a. Concurrent expenditure update – Council were updated on the latest developments and were invited by Bishton Community Council to be involved in looking at the option of involving the Ombudsman for Wales. Council felt that if the legal investigation into challenging the decision had been unsuccessful, involving the Ombudsman was unlikely to be successful either and so questioned what benefit it would bring.

Action: The Clerk was asked to wait before responding, as a meeting to discuss options had been held by members of other councils the evening before, and a decision would be made once the outcome of that meeting was known.

b. Burial Board update – There had been no further news regarding the issues of the board. A BB meeting had been held and attended by Graig representatives and Cllr Gregory. At that meeting it had been proposed that a step in the right direction would be to rename the board as a committee and that the name should reflect the ward of Graig rather than just Bassaleg. The proposal to rename the board the Graig and Rogerstone Burial Management Committee was put forward at the meeting and RCC were to discuss this option and comment back to Graig once discussed. It was noted that a reply had been received and the suggestion was dismissed by RCC. Cllr Gregory proposed a vote on the name change detailed above which was seconded by Cllr Evans and agreed unanimously. **Action: Cllr Gregory to reply to RCC stating that Graig had unanimously voted for the change and asking RCC to reconsider.**

c. Grassed area at junction of Caerphilly Rd and The Griffin – The area was discussed, a suggestion that amalgamating a village sign and the Best Kept Villages information into one sign was agreeably received. Cllr Fry submitted a quote for the cost of creating a memorial garden at the location, initial costs were £17k, but costs could be negotiated if taken up. It was agreed that any decisions would be deferred until next year, and in the meantime that some marketing to raise interest and volunteers should be carried out and the community should be engaged. Placing an article in the Bassaleg & Rhiwderin Directory, using Facebook and other methods were briefly discussed. It was agreed to call a HWG meeting, to work with the BKV group and investigate costs of a Directory submission. **Action: HWG to meet, Cllr Smart to speak with the BKV group and look into an article for the Directory.**

- d. Quotation for external works schedule – Cllr Fry submitted a maintenance schedule for the ward which included some grounds maintenance, installation of litter bins and relocation of some noticeboards. It was agreed that the noticeboards and litter bins work should be carried out, with the other items held in abeyance for the time being. **Action: Cllr Fry to move forward on the items agreed.**
- e. Member's Code of Conduct/Declaration of Interests – Cllr Tarr expressed concern that Council did not have a heading on meeting agendas for expressing declarations of interest and questioned Council's procedures for making written declarations. It was agreed to add an item for declaring interests to the agenda for future meetings. **Action: Cllr Tarr to compile declaration of interests forms to submit for discussion at the next Finance and Administration meeting. Clerk to add an item to future meeting agendas to allow for declaring interests at the beginning of the meeting.**
- f. Third Sector Partnership and Community Engagement Group – Council were made aware of the opportunity to take part in the groups, but the offer was not taken up. **Action: None necessary.**
- g. Invitation to Cllr Wilcox to attend a Council meeting – The Clerk submitted the reply from the office of Cllr Wilcox which stated that her diary was full and that she would not be able to attend any meetings nor meet Council. Council were surprised and disappointed that she was unable to find time to attend a meeting. **Action: None at this time.**
- h. Finance & Administration meeting (review of annual accounts prior to submission to Internal Auditor) – The Clerk asked for a Finance & Administration meeting to be scheduled so the completed accounts could be viewed prior to submission to the internal audit. The date was set for 1st May at 6pm. **Action: Cllrs on the committee and any other interested Cllrs to attend. Clerk to send out all relevant information prior to the meeting.**

7. Reports:

- a. Police – No officers present. The report for March was read out to Council. The report contained the following information: During March there had been 74 calls to the Police, 19 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Public Order - 1, Violence Without Injury - 5, Miscellaneous Crime - 1, Shoplifting - 0, All Theft Other - 2, Criminal Damage & Arson - 4, Burglary Dwelling - 2, Drug Offences - 1, Theft from Person - 0, Other Sexual Offences - 0, Violence with Injury - 0, Vehicle Crime - 2, Burglary Non-Dwelling – 1, 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 were continuing to monitor anti-social behaviour levels around Morrisons and McDonalds. There had been only 2 calls to Police in relation to anti-social behaviour throughout the month which was very positive compared to previous months.

The team are working extremely hard to identify and engage with vulnerable adults living in the ward. They receive regular visits from the team to check their welfare, wellbeing and to discuss any issues they may have.

There are public events held throughout the year to offer free advice on home and property security as well as personal safety.

A ward surgery was set for Thursday 25th April at McDonalds in Afon Village. **Action: None necessary.**

- b. City Councillors – None present. **Action: None necessary.**

8. Items for next agenda if agreed:

- a. Fort View play area & Penylan Close steps – 24th April 2019 meeting

9. Urgent other business not on the agenda:

- a. Cllr Thomas informed Council there had been an accident on Caerphilly Road where a lorry had shed its load. **Action: For information only, none necessary.**
- b. Cllr Gregory informed Council that NCC Officers wanted to meet with Council again regarding all the outstanding issues that had not been dealt with since the previous meeting. **Action: Cllr Gregory to arrange a meeting.**
- c. Following enquiries by the BKV group to see if they could be covered under Council's insurance, the Clerk was asked to check again if this would be possible. **Action: Clerk to investigate.**
- d. It was noted that a resident had complained that Graig Hall car park was extremely busy and was being used by unauthorised vehicle owners. The Clerk confirmed this as on arrival for this meeting, she had counted 21 cars besides her own in the car park, yet no-one was using the Hall at the time. **Action: The Hall Management Committee was asked to look into the issue again at the earliest opportunity.**

- e. Cllr Gregory asked that Cllrs consider their positions and contributions to Council in the lead up to the AGM set for 8th May and whether they should continue to stand as Cllrs. **Action: Cllrs to reflect on their positions.**
- f. Council were made aware of the opportunity to attend a OVV event. Cllrs Smart, Appleton and Tarr were interested in attending. **Action: Clerk to forward details for a decision to be made.**

10. Correspondence for information: Not discussed

11. Dates of next meetings:

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 24th April 2019 at 7pm
Mid-Month Meeting & AGM - Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10 pm. Confirmed, this 8th day of May 2019.

Signed..... (Chair) – May 2019

Posted to notice boards & on website 24.05.19

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