



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mid-Month Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg at 7pm on 14th August 2019

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1. To receive apologies for absence Cllr A Whitfield, K Harries, S Grey, D Williams.

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

2. To receive public representations: None

3. To receive declarations of interest: None.

4. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 17th July, previously circulated were read and subject to a small amendment were approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Tarr. The action points of the minutes were briefly discussed. All action points had been/were in the process of being actioned. **Action: None necessary.**

5. Accounts for payment: Proposed Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Evans and approved.

Cllr P Appleton – fuel expenses for attendance at OVW event	£46.80
Newport City Council – annual lease for Rhiwderin Community Centre	£50.00
Cllr Tarr – 1 st staged payment of Cllr allowance	£37.50
Total	£134.30

Receipts

None

6. Planning - Applications to be considered:

- a. 19/0728 – Proposal: Temporary use of vacant farmhouse to B1 (research and development studios and laboratories). Site: Graig-y-saeson Farm, Forge Road, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8AT. Application Type: Full. **Comment: Council had no objections provided all activities undertaken on the site complied with current legislation.**

7. Items for discussion:

- a. Graig Hall Car parking – Cllr Fry submitted a schedule addressing the parking issues at the Hall and it was discussed briefly. It was agreed the schedule should be distributed to each Cllr and the item be added to the September Mid Month agenda for further discussion. In the meantime, Cllrs were asked to consider the issues and bring any views/proposed solutions back to the Mid Month September meeting for discussion. **Action: Clerk to circulate the schedule and add to the September Mid Month meeting. Cllrs to consider the issues and bring any suggestions/solutions.**
- b. Draft National Development Framework consultation – Cllr Tarr reported that he had looked at the information forwarded by the Clerk and that a Consultation Group needed to be formed to review. **Action: Clerk to agenda again for 28th August meeting so a group can be formed to review, and also to forward to Cllr Tarr any further information on the subject.**
- c. Fort View play area – Cllr Fry advised council that following a complaint, he had visited Fort View play area and thought the previously submitted suggestion that Council address the overgrown brambles patches in the park should be considered again. The only way to eradicate the issue was to remove them completely and grass over. A quote submitted in 2017 suggested it would cost £775. Council agreed by majority that this would be the best solution and authorised Cllr Fry to proceed provided maximum cost would be £800. It was also suggested that homes in Penylan Close backing onto the area to be treated should be informed via letter drop. **Action: Cllr Fry to proceed. Clerk to draft letters to be delivered to residents.**
- d. St Cecelia apple trees – Cllr Fry brought to the meeting a young especially propagated apple tree. He advised that a number of trees had been propagated by a local resident and could be handed out to ensure the continuance of the species which was introduced to the area in the early 1900's. Cllr Caston suggested that one sapling could be given to the Bassaleg Allotment Association to plant it their communal area on the site if they so wished. Council asked for thanks to be recorded to the resident for propagating the species to ensure its continuance in the area. **Action: Clerk to ask BAA if they wished to receive some saplings.**

- e. Best Kept Village sign – Cllr Fry asked if any progress had been made regarding the Best Kept Villages sign. It was noted that Cllr Grey was dealing with checking on its stability, and he was unable to attend the meeting. An update to be requested. **Action: Clerk to enquire of Cllr Grey if there is any news.**
- f. Picnic benches – Cllr Fry enquired if there was any progress on installing the picnic bench for Fort View Play Area. The merits of placing the bench on a plinth of some kind was discussed, but it was decided that the bench be set on the grass. Cllr Appleton agreed to arrange for the bench to be installed. **Action: Cllr Appleton to progress.**
- g. Finance & Administration meeting date – The Clerk asked for a meeting date to be arranged for the committee and suggested two meetings would be necessary, one to review and amend some of Councils policies and procedures, and another to review the accounts to date and set the 2020/2021 budget. Dates were set at 21st August for the paperwork review and 4th September for the accounts review. **Action: Clerk to provide all on the Committee with the relevant paperwork. Committee members to attend the arranged meetings.**
- h. Allotment inspection date – The Clerk had hoped to set a date for the inspection but was unable to at the time. It was agreed that the Clerk liaised with the Chair of the committee (Cllr Caston) and the Allotment Association outside the meeting and set a date. **Action: Clerk to make the arrangements.**
- i. Events meeting update – Cllr Gregory updated Council on the meeting and advised that the group agreed that it would want to continue with Council's Christmas Lighting Event. A date was set for 6th December. However, the event should only take place provided enough Cllrs attend to help on the day. If less than 90% of Council were able to assist, the event would not take place, as in the past few years Cllr attendance had waned, and the event was very difficult to administer due to the reduced numbers of people helping on the day. He also advised that the event's regular guest to switch on the Christmas lights had deteriorated in health and was now in a home, so would be unable to attend. Council were saddened to hear this and wished him well. **Action: Cllrs to consider if they were willing to commit to assisting at the event.**

8. Reports:

- a. Police – No officers present but a report for July had been received.
The report for July was read out to Council. The report contained the following information: There had been 109 calls to the Police in July, 30 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Public Order – 7, Violence Without Injury – 6, Miscellaneous Crime – 0, Shoplifting – 2, All Theft Other – 1, Criminal Damage & Arson – 8, Burglary Dwelling – 0, Drug Offences – 0, Theft from Person – 0, Other Sexual Offences – 0, Violence with Injury – 2, Vehicle Crime – 1, Possession of Weapons – 0, Burglary Non-Dwelling – 1, Burglary Dwelling – 1, Bicycle Theft – 0, Other Notifiable Offences – 0, Violence Against a Person – 0, Misc Crimes Against Society - 1.

The ward priority for Graig is still 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. Multiple calls had been received in relation to anti-social behaviour in the area throughout the month. Officers continue to patrol the store when they are able.

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.

Due to recent fires an action plan had been put in place and was now a priority. A joint patrol had been carried out between the Police and the Fire Service and a fire crime leaflet delivered in the area. Patrol plans had been put in place. Police ask that anyone with information should pass it on to them, quoting the reference number of 1900262434.

2 members of the neighbourhood team had left the area but have been replaced.

Emerging Trends – Fires being started in the area.

Council discussed the reports but were disappointed with the figures and lack of useful information. Cllr Gregory informed the group that the Police website showed 19 new officers were now in the Newport West area and that should ensure more of a Police presence. Cllr Tarr had taken the statistics from each report during the year and collated the information which made interesting reading. Cllr Tarr was thanked for his efforts and asked to keep the spreadsheet updated. The Clerk advised that the Sergeant and Inspector had confirmed their intended attendance at the 28th August meeting. **Action: Cllr Tarr to bring his statistical report to the 28th August meeting for discussion with the Officers attending.**

- b. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious reported that patching and resurfacing work was being carried out on Pentrepoeth Road. She was asked by Cllr Gregory if she could use her influence to have a small team go to Rhiwderin CC and repair a pothole in the car park whilst this work was being carried out. **Action: Cllr Cornelious to ask contractors/NCC if the above request was possible.**
Cllr Harris left the meeting at 8.55pm.

9. Items for next agenda if agreed:

- a. National Development Framework consultation – 28th August 2019 meeting
b. Graig Hall Car parking – 11th September 2019 meeting

10. Urgent other business not on the agenda:

- a. Cllr Bailey commented on the statistics given in the recently circulated 2019 Wellbeing Community Profiles. In particular she noted the air quality hotspots and the adverse health implications. As a section of Caerphilly Road had been highlighted recently as a high pollution area but was not included in the profiles, was there anything Council could do to ensure its inclusion? Cllr Appleton advised that a NCC officer had highlighted this issue and was willing to meet with Council to discuss. She was asked to invite him to a future Mid Month meeting to see if any action could be taken. **Action: Cllr Appleton to invite the officer to a meeting and advise the Chair and Clerk when he would be available to ensure it is added to the appropriate agenda.**
- b. Cllr Thomas mentioned that the fire extinguishers had been checked at Graig Hall. He also expressed concern that lights in the building are sometimes being left switched on overnight. He also mentioned that the Pyracantha hedge against the Bassaleg allotment site was now encroaching on the area people walk and needed to be cut back. **Action: Security and lighting issues to be addressed at a Graig Hall Management Committee meeting. Clerk to enquire if the Allotment Association intended cutting back the Pyracantha.**
- c. Cllr Appleton queried the accuracy of information the Clerk had given indicating the cost of energy bills for both Halls over the past number of years. **Action: Clerk to check that the information given was correct.**

11. Correspondence for information: Not discussed

12. Dates of next meetings:

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 28th August 2019 at 7pm
Mid-Month Meeting – Wednesday 11th September 2019 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10pm. Confirmed, this 11th day of September 2019.

Signed..... (Chair) – September 2019

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