



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mid-Month Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg at 7pm on 11th September 2019

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1. To receive apologies for absence Cllr A Whitfield, K Sayer, J Bailey, D Williams.

Present: Cllrs R Caston, D Evans, M Smart, K Harries, P Gregory, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, P Appleton, K Thomas, N Tarr. M Cornelious, S Davies (Clerk). Chaired by P Gregory Also in attendance a local resident of Rhiwderin Heights

Council held a one-minute silence in memory of local resident and war veteran Mr Ron Jones, friend of the Council and local celebrity who died on 8th September aged 102, he will be sadly missed.

2. To receive public representations: A resident of Rhiwderin Heights wished to address Council to speak of the most recent developments with fires being set in the Rhiwderin area, and to ask what steps were being taken to catch the perpetrator/s. The Chair explained that the Police Sergeant had attended Council's end of August meeting and this was the main topic of conversation. At that point the Sergeant confirmed he had met with local residents and some Cllrs, that a leaflet drop had been performed in the areas where fires had been lit and also letters were put through the doors in the area that the perpetrator/s were thought to live. A Police action plan had also been drawn up and was in force to try to catch the perpetrator/s. Council were unable to do more than spread the word and ask residents to be vigilant as this was a criminal matter. Any information given to Council was passed on to the Police and residents were being encouraged to report every unusual occurrence that could be connected. The Clerk confirmed that she would pass on all the information gathered at the meeting to the Police in case there were things that had not been reported. It was agreed that despite the Police thinking they had arrested the perpetrator a week or two earlier, it was evident that fires are continuing to be set, meaning the issue had not been resolved and the situation was worsening and becoming more dangerous as time goes by. The resident was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at 7.25pm. **Action: Clerk to contact the Sergeant and local PCSO to advise of the latest incidents discussed and request temporary cctv coverage for the affected area.**

3. To receive declarations of interest: None.

4. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 14th August, previously circulated were read and subject to a small amendment were approved. Proposed Cllr Harries seconded Cllr Harris. The action points of the minutes were briefly discussed. Regarding Item 7f (placement of the picnic bench at Fort View play area) Cllr Appleton reported that it should be in place in the next few days. Regarding Item 10a (Invitation to NCC Officer to discuss pollution levels on Caerphilly Rd) Cllr Appleton had made the invitation but had no response to date. Regarding Item 10c (the accuracy of information given for community centre's utilities) The Clerk confirmed that the information was correct and provided a further breakdown of the figures to assist with clarity. Apart from the above, all other action points had been/were in the process of being actioned. **Action: None necessary.**

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

Complete Business Solutions Group Ltd – Inks and paper	£184.49
SW Directories – ¼ page advert in Directory for 1 year	£40.00
Broxap – Litter bin for footbridge over A467	£272.40
Andrew Richley Carpentry – repair and replacement of doors at Rhiwderin CC	£3492.00
	Total £3988.89

Receipts

Newport City Council – 2 nd Precept payment	£36489.63
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6. Planning - Applications to be considered:

- a. 19/0876 – Proposal: Felling of Cypress tree protected by Lower Machen conservation area. Site: Land adjacent and West forming part of Old Road, Lower Machen, Newport. Application Type: Trees in conservation areas. **Comment: Council agreed by majority that it should support the advice of the tree officer but had real concerns that the application was linked to the planning appeal of 18/1178 below. It seems these trees would need to be felled to allow space for a new opening to be created**

in the boundary wall to allow access for the site if the appeal is successful and so questions if this would be the main reason for the application.

- b. Planning appeal 18/1178. Appeal Site: Land adjacent to the Old Post Office, Lower Machen, Newport. Appeal Subject: Proposed erection of detached dwelling including removal of part boundary wall and associated creation of new access and works. **Comment: Council asked for its former objections to be relayed to the Planning Inspectorate. The Clerk to administer.**

7. Items for discussion:

- a. Litter bin at bridge over A467 update – The Clerk advised Council that the new litter bin had been delivered and could be installed. **Action: Cllr Fry to arrange the installation in due course.**
- b. Remembrance Day – Celebration of the event was discussed. It was agreed to use the poppies on lampposts throughout the village again. Cllrs were asked to come up with ideas for other items to include and the event would be discussed again at the 25th September meeting. **Action: Cllrs to bring ideas to the next meeting, Clerk to add to the next agenda, source cable ties needed to erect the lamppost poppies and enquire if silhouettes were available to purchase and their cost.**
- c. Fort View play area brambles – The Clerk advised that letters had been posted to Penylan Close residents affected by the bramble clumps in the park and had received 2 responses. The first was a complaint against taking them away as the resident felt they were a help to wildlife and security to the rear of the Close as this resident had previously had her home burgled and goods were taken through the rear to a waiting car in the play area. The Clerk confirmed she had spoken to a NCH officer who agreed to tighten up procedures on locking the gates to the park to prevent vehicular access at any time other than for maintenance such as grass cutting. The second was from another resident who was thrilled to know that brambles were being cut down and thanked the Council for doing so. The merits of removing the brambles or leaving them was discussed and it was agreed by majority that the work should go ahead as it was the most cost effective option and seemed to be the most supported as no other residents felt it necessary to complain at their removal. **Action Cllr Smart to progress.**
- d. Finance & Administration meeting date – A date was agreed for the next committee meeting to be 23rd October 2019 at 6pm. Only committee members needed to attend. **Action: Committee members to attend.**
- e. Graig Hall car park – Cllr Gregory reported he had spoken with a NCC Officer who confirmed that NCC would refuse any parking restrictions or charges to be enforced at any community centre car park. It was agreed that the committee should look at alternative solutions and consider letters being sent to the Ruperra Pub and local residents. **Action: Hall committee to discuss and return to Council with suggestions.**
- f. Website Projects page – A list of past, present and future projects compiled by the Clerk and Chair with input from Cllrs was shown to Council. It was agreed that this should be displayed on the new website. **Action: Clerk to submit to website providers.**
- g. Afon Village representative – The Clerk submitted a request from an Afon Village resident who wished to speak on a number of concerns in the village. A small Council delegation agreed to meet with a delegation from the village. The group to include Cllrs Gregory, Harris, Appleton & Tarr. **Action: Clerk to arrange the meeting.**

8. Reports:

- a. Police – No officers present but a report for August had been received. The report for August was read out to Council. The report contained the following information: There had been 107 calls to the Police in July, 21 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Public Order – 1, Violence Without Injury – 3, Miscellaneous Crime – 0, Shoplifting – 1, All Theft Other – 3, Criminal Damage & Arson – 3, Burglary Dwelling – 0, Drug Offences – 1, Theft from Person – 0, Other Sexual Offences – 0, Violence with Injury – 1, Vehicle Crime – 0, Possession of Weapons – 1, Burglary Non-Dwelling – 2, Burglary Dwelling – 3, Bicycle Theft – 0, Other Notifiable Offences – 0, Violence Against a Person – 0, Misc Crimes Against Society – 1, Rape - 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 attend the store and patrol 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.

A person had been arrested in the Afon Village area for drink driving. 2 vehicles had been seized for having no insurance in Park View and Caerphilly Close, a burglary had taken place at Pentrepoeth School and windows had also been smashed. This was being investigated. There had been no more fires reported in the Rhiwderin area.

Ward surgeries are to be held at the following venues:

Sunday 22nd September 3pm - 4pm at McDonalds in Afon Village.

Tuesday 22nd October 3pm – 4pm at McDonalds in Afon Village

Thursday 21st November 3pm – 4pm at McDonalds in Afon Village

Wednesday 11th December 3pm – 4pm at McDonalds in Afon Village

Council commented on the figures and were disappointed not to see more detail following discussions with the Sergeant but understood there may not yet have been time for any changes to show in the August report. **Action: None at this time.**

- b. City Councillors – Cllr Cornelious confirmed things were quiet and there was nothing to report save to say that NCC were looking to bring more derelict housing in Newport back into use. **Action: None necessary.**

9. Items for next agenda if agreed:

- a. Audited Accounts – 25th September 2019 meeting

10. Urgent other business not on the agenda:

- a. Cllr Tarr asked that Bus Passes be added to the next agenda and advised that he would be setting a consultation date for review of the National Development Framework consultation. **Action: Clerk to add to the next agenda.**
- b. Cllr Fry reminded everyone that Graig Hall would be closed for maintenance for week commencing 16th September 2019. **Action: Cllrs to note.**
- c. Cllr Appleton informed Council she had obtained the quotes required for work to upgrade St Basil's Stores roundabout. The cheapest came in at £1950 inc. VAT from Council's regularly used contractor. This was unanimously accepted by Council and Cllr Appleton was asked to progress. **Action: Cllr Appleton and HWG to progress.**
- d. Cllr Smart advised she had been given all the paperwork collected by the BKV since its inception. Having read through some she was reminded just how much hard work the group carried out. She asked for a safe storage option to keep the paperwork and the Clerk offered to store it with Council paperwork for safekeeping. She also posed the question of how best to move forward with the group. **Action: Clerk to arrange the storage of documents with Cllr Smart, the HWG to arrange a meeting with BKV group to see how best to move forward.**
- e. Cllr Gregory advised that the caretaker/manager of Rhiwderin Community Centre had stood down and asked the group for volunteers to assist with the responsibilities now needing to be reallocated. He also mentioned about the recently discussed proposal from the Sorting Rooms owner regarding allowing patrons of the building to use the Rhiwderin Community Centre car park. Having taken advice from NCC he was told that NCC would refuse planning permission for a change of use application should the community centre be nominated for additional parking needs whether or not the Council supported the use. Council agreed that it could not offer the car park as a solution to the Sorting Rooms parking issues. It was also noted there had been some reports that cars parked in Graig Hall car park had been damaged. **Action: Cllr Gregory to inform the Sorting Rooms owner of the situation with the parking, all Cllrs to consider if they are able to assist with some of the duties at Rhiwderin CC now that the caretaker/manager had given up the post.**

11. Correspondence for information

Planning information if available, Clerks & Councils magazine, latest B&R Directory

12. Dates of next meetings

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 25th September 2019 at 7pm

Mid-Month Meeting – Wednesday 9th October 2019 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.25pm. Confirmed, this 9th day of October 2019.

Signed..... (Chair) – October 2019

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