



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Mid-Month Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg at 7.10pm on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Minutes of the meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg at 7.10pm on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019.  
(Start delayed by prior presentation over-run please see Addendum to these minutes after Item 12).

**1. To receive apologies for absence** Cllr D Williams.

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

**2. To receive public representations:** None at this time.

**3. To receive declarations of interest:** None.

**4. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Bailey. The action points of the minutes were briefly discussed. Regarding Item 7a (Remembrance Day), Cllrs Gregory and his Wife, Appleton and her Husband, Cllr Harris and Cllr Sayer (at a later date) erected the lamppost poppies, thanks were given for carrying out this task. Regarding Item 7b (Fort View play area brambles), Cllr Smart reported that there had been no movement to date but she would progress. Regarding Item 7e (Writing to the Ruperra Manager about Graig Hall car park issues), the Clerk confirmed this had not yet been done but was on her list to do. **Action: Cllr Smart to oversee the removal of the brambles, Clerk to write to the Ruperra Manager.**

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

B&H Cleaning Services – cleansing of Graig Hall following decoration	£265.00
Andrew Richley Carpentry – carpentry at Graig Hall	£516.00
S&K Curtains – curtains to replace blinds in Graig main hall	£1043.00
Island Fire Alarms – upgrade to fire systems at Graig Hall	£420.00
Anderson & Company – steelwork at Graig Hall	£165.00
Saldo Pipe & Construction Services – Location and repair of water leak in Pumphouse	£1122.00
Chris Arlett – painting & decorating to Graig Hall	£3480.00
Newport City Homes – grass cutting at Fort View Aug Sep & Oct 19 (3 invoices)	£636.12
PWLB – loan repayment	£5351.70
Royal British Legion – remembrance wreath payment & remainder donation to the legion	£100.00
Welsh Water – water costs to Bassaleg Allotments Apr-Oct 19	£77.74
M Wallace Electrical – electrical works to Graig Hall	£1138.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>14314.64</b>

**Receipts**

None to date

**6. Planning - Applications to be considered:**

- 19/1066 – Proposal: Two storey side extension. Site: 20 Berkley Close, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8PR  
Application Type: Full. **Comment: Council had concerns regarding adequate onsite parking due to the garage being utilised for living space and the creation of the extra bedroom.**
- 19/1070 – Proposal: Erection of detached dwelling. Site: The Burrows, Caerphilly Road, Bassaleg Newport, NP10 8LS. Application Type: Full **Comment: Council objects to this proposal and reiterates its comments from previous proposals for this site. Council feels this is overdevelopment of the site and in particular has concerns regarding access to and from Caerphilly Road and access to the other properties already existing.**
- 19/1071 – Proposal: Proposed two storey side and rear extensions. Site: 5 Vicarage Close, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8NB. Application Type: Full. **No objections provided adequate parking will be available and neighbours are consulted and agree.**
- 19/1110 – Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness for rear extension. Site: 105 Laurel Road, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8XS. Application Type: Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed). **Comment: No objections, but Council were concerned at the number of retrospective applications being proposed and believes that fines should be introduced to deter this behaviour.**

**7. Items for discussion:**

- a. Remembrance Day – Cllr Gregory told the group the Sunday Remembrance service was very good and thanked all those who attended, and also those who attended the service at Bassaleg School. **Action: None necessary.**
- b. Cllr resignation – The Clerk informed the group that Cllr Harries had formally resigned from service as a Graig Community Councillor, stating health issues and difficulties travelling to meetings. He did however wish to remain on the Graig Hall Management Committee in the capacity of a user of the Hall if that were possible. Council were sad to hear of his resignation but accepted and wished him well. It was agreed that as this news came so close to Christmas, it would be prudent to wait until after the Christmas holiday before setting in motion the process of advertising the post to find a replacement. **Action: Clerk to agenda for 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 meeting to progress.**
- c. Christmas Event (inc hatch in coffee room at Graig Hall) – The event was discussed as was the decoration of the internal Christmas tree. Also discussed was consideration for turning the current window in the coffee room into a hatch between the main hall and the coffee room, similar to the kitchen. This suggestion was voted against. **Action: Cllr Harris to inform everyone when the Hall was free to decorate the internal Christmas tree. All available Cllrs to attend if possible.**
- d. Best Kept Villages sign – The Clerk reported that NCC confirmed it had no responsibility for the sign, and Cllr Fry submitted a quote for the replacement of the structure for £2k. Cllr Smart felt that the sign should remain but be refurbished, Cllr Whitfield agreed to seek advice for its structural stability. **Action: Cllr Whitfield to progress.**
- e. Small Business Saturday event – For information. **Action: Clerk to ask social media representatives to advertise on Council's website and Facebook pages.**
- f. Hedge cutting around Graig Hall and allotments/Graig Hall car park & open space maintenance update – Cllrs Smart and Bailey worked hard to complete as much as they were able to carry out themselves from the list provided by Cllr Fry, and a local contractor had been asked to carry out other tasks on the list in order for Graig Hall outside area and car park to be tidied prior to the Christmas event. **Action: Cllrs Smart and Bailey agreed to progress.**

## 8. Reports:

- a. Police - No officers present but a report for October had been received.

The report was read out to Council. The report contained the following information: There had been 91 calls to the Police in October, 31 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Public Order – 6, Violence Without Injury – 6, Miscellaneous Crime – 0, Shoplifting – 5, All Theft Other – 0, Criminal Damage & Arson – 3, Burglary Dwelling – 6, Drug Offences – 0, Theft from Person – 0, Other Sexual Offences – 0, Violence with Injury – 1, Vehicle Crime – 2, Possession of Weapons – 0, Burglary Non-Dwelling – 0, Bicycle Theft – 0, Other Notifiable Offences – 0, Violence Against a Person – 0, Misc Crimes Against Society – 1, Rape – 0, Theft from a person – 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 vehicle had been seized on Forge Lane for no insurance, a male had been arrested for breach of the peace in the Bassaleg area and 3 males had been arrested in connection with a burglary in Afon Village for which enquiries were still ongoing. There had been 3 calls received on Halloween in connection with anti-social behaviour. 1 at Morrisons with youths buying eggs and 2 at McDonalds involving nuisance youths, 1 male was taken home to his parent.

Ward surgeries are to be held at the following venues:

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 3pm – 4pm at McDonalds in Afon Village

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

Cllr Appleton expressed concern that the number of dwelling burglaries had risen so swiftly. **Action: None at this time.**

- b. City Councillors – None in attendance. Cllr Williams had sent an update on Section 106 funding and Cllr Smart agreed to respond to him. **Action: Cllr Smart to respond.**

## 9. Items for next agenda if agreed:

None to date.

## 10. Urgent other business not on the agenda:

- a. Cllr Tarr reported that he had had someone give negative feedback following work commencing on upgrading St Basil's shops roundabout. Cllr Smart read out a number of Facebook messages giving a small number of negative remarks, but these were overshadowed by many positive remarks. It was noted that the work was not yet complete and once finished and the plants had time to settle, more positive feedback was expected. It was noted that some residents believed the work had cost Council a lot of money to complete but that it had cost very little. Plants were rescued and replanted and the stones were donated by Hanson's Quarry, with much of the work being carried out by Cllrs themselves. **Action: None necessary.**
- b. Cllr Thomas asked about the proposed bin on Penylan Road which was to be installed and emptied by himself and a kind neighbour when necessary. Cllr Fry said he had no idea what became of the post-mounted bin taken from Cwm Cwddy Drive bus stop when the new large bin was installed and the noticeboard moved. **Action: Clerk to investigate.**
- c. Cllr Gregory submitted Rogerstone CC's negative response to the latest proposal for Graig CC to take over the management of the Burial Board. Council were disappointed at RCC's reasoning for its stance. **Action: Cllr Gregory to progress.**
- d. Cllr Appleton passed around a list of possible Christmas Event raffle prize donators and asked each Cllr to mark against the list the possible donators they would approach. **Action: Cllrs to fill in the list and action.**

## 11. Correspondence for information

Planning information.

## 12. Dates of next meetings

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7pm

Mid-Month Meeting – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 7pm

## ADDENDUM:

Prior to this meeting, a presentation was given by a NCC Officer who was responsible for looking at contamination of land and air quality in the Newport City Council area. The presentation was also attended by 3 residents from the Court Crescent/Forge Lane area.

The officer told the group of the concern for the increase in traffic and therefore air pollution throughout Newport. He highlighted that in particular the area from the Bassaleg roundabout to the Ruperra pub had increased at the worst rate in the ward over recent years. He gave some insight into the statistics collected throughout Newport and what the City Council were trying to do to combat the issues. These things included bringing in electric buses and better cycling and walking routes to encourage less use of private vehicles and more reliance on cleaner travel arrangements such as public transport. More electric vehicle charging points are needed as the city currently only has 13 charging points. The City Council were also working with schools for schemes to transport pupils back and forth to discourage parents driving pupils to school and would also be working with taxi's and coach companies to encourage the move to electric vehicles. Encouraging car sharing and car clubs could also be promoted.

The City Council had considered creating a Clean Air Zone such as had been introduced in Bristol, but found it was not widely supported. Council discussed the local issues it had regarding transport, pollution and ways of assisting with promoting viable solutions. The officer said that it seemed building more roads would not be the answer, that joined up and improved public transport to encourage less personal use of cars and greener forms of transport would be the way forward, but the infrastructure of public transport would need much work to bring into line the many individual companies that operate differing modes of transport in the area. In general Council agreed that this would be the best solution, but routes would need to be looked at as in general, public transport routes do not reach places where people want to travel.

It was agreed that the presentation had been interesting and worthwhile, the officer was thanked for his time and the presentation closed at 7.05pm. He and the attending residents left the building.

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

Signed..... (Chair) – December 2019

Clerk to the Council: Sian Davies

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