



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mid-Month Meeting held at Graig Community Hall, Bassaleg at 7.10pm on 12th February 2020

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1. To receive apologies for absence Cllrs A Whitfield, J Bailey, S Grey, D Williams.

Present: Cllrs R Caston, D Evans, M Smart, K Sayer, P Gregory, J Harris, W Haigh, L Fry, P Appleton, K Thomas, N Tarr, 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 8th January 2020, previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Caston seconded Cllr Harris. The action points of the minutes were briefly discussed. Regarding Item 11c (meeting with Community Health Council), Cllr Harris had not had the opportunity to arrange a meeting to date. Regarding Item 11e (surplus Christmas selection boxes), Cllr Appleton donated the chocolate to the Sparkle Centre in Rogerstone who were very grateful and would be using it to raise funds for the Centre. Cllr Appleton was thanked for arranging this and transporting the selection boxes to the Centre, Council pleased they were being utilised for such a good cause. All other actions in the minutes had been settled. **Action: None necessary.**

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

Discussions regarding receiving invoices and gaining quotes for work took place. There was concern about the length of time between work carried out and some invoices being received, and also that on occasion, quoting procedures for engaging services were not followed. **Action: Clerk to write to contractors to advise that prompt invoicing must be made and any group or individual arranging work on behalf of Council must follow protocol and obtain the proper number of quotes and authorisation of Council to proceed prior to any work taking place except for in exceptional circumstances.**

Rob Williams Landscaping Ltd – landscaping of St Basil's Shops roundabout	£2350.00
Rhiwderin Community Centre – agreed contribution to Rhiwderin CC upgrade costs	£10000.00
	Total £12350.00

Receipts

None to date

6. Planning - Applications to be considered:

Deferred to later in the meeting.

7. Items for discussion:

- a. Councillor vacancy – The Clerk advised that no election had been requested and Council were free to co-opt a suitable candidate to the post. There were 4 candidates who expressed interest and a date to hold informal interviews was set for Wednesday 4th March from 6pm. It was agreed that a panel consisting of 7 Cllrs carry out the interviews and take recommendations back to the following Council meeting. **Action: Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.**
- b. BKV sign & memorial garden update – The Clerk advised that permission to construct a memorial garden at the triangular piece of land on which the BKV sign sits had been sought and a response was awaited. It was agreed the group would discuss how best to advertise the project, consult with residents and request volunteers/donations toward costs etc. Cllr Fry asked Cllrs to consider if the BKV sign should be refurbished as is or if any changes to it should be made and whether it should be incorporated into the scheme for the garden or remain a stand-alone feature. Cllr Smart agreed to explore. **Action: Group to take forward and return to Council with suggestions. Clerk to follow up permissions.**

8. Reports:

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

The report was read out to Council. The report contained the following information: There had been 63 calls to the Police in January, 23 of which were crimes. The breakdown was as follows: Public Order – 1, Violence Without Injury – 9, Miscellaneous Crime – 0, Shoplifting – 1, All Theft Other – 4, Criminal

Damage & Arson – 1, Burglary Dwelling – 0, Drug Offences – 0, Theft from Person – 0, Other Sexual Offences – 1, Violence with Injury – 2, Vehicle Crime – 3, Possession of Weapons – 0, Burglary Non-Dwelling – 0, Bicycle Theft – 0, Other Notifiable Offences – 0, Violence Against a Person – 0, Misc Crimes Against Society – 0, Rape – 1, Theft from a person – 0.

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.

Emerging trends, suspected drug dealing in Graig Hall car park.

Ward surgeries are to be held at the following venues:

Thursday 20th February 3pm – 4pm at McDonalds in Afon Village

Cllr Appleton mentioned a link on the PCC bulletin was not working, and Cllr Gregory informed the group that Sergeant Giles had moved on. Council expressed dismay that all senior staff continue to move on so quickly despite being told that they would not be. Council agreed that the monthly report was not detailed enough to be useful and noted that much of the information in it was reported month after month without any change as though just pasted into the document from the last report. **Action: Clerk to explore defective link and Cllr Gregory to contact the Police expressing Council's concerns. Cllr Tarr to forward his spreadsheet containing the breakdown of statistics for 2019 to the Clerk for filing.**

- b. City Councillors – None in attendance. Cllr Williams did report to the Clerk that he would be assisting Cllr Cornelious with the issues Council gave her at the previous meeting. **Action: None required.**

6. Planning - Applications to be considered: Deferred from earlier

- a. 20/0091 – Proposal: Variation of condition 01 (approved plans) of planning permission 19/0039 for construction of detached dwelling and garage Site: Springfields, Springfield Lane, Rhiwderin, Newport, NP10 8QZ Application Type: Renewals and variation of conditions. **Comment: No objections.**
- b. 20/0093 – Proposal: Variation of condition 01(Plans) of planning permission 19/0397 for the construction of detached two-storey dwelling and single storey double-bay detached garage, to include relocation of property, construction of front dormers and other alterations to dwelling and garage. Site: Land at Springfields, Springfield Lane, Rhiwderin, Newport, NP10 8QZ Application Type: Renewals and variation of conditions. **Comment: No objections.**
- c. 20/0113 – Proposal: Change of use of building from A1/C3 to A3 (café/restaurant). Site: Springfield Rd Post Office, Tredegar Street, Rhiwderin, Newport, NP10 8RJ. Application Type: Full. **Comment: The Design & Access statement is misleading. The Community Council have not given permission for patron's vehicles to be parked at Rhiwderin Community Centre car park, the Council's lease for the Centre forbids this. It is also of concern that the number of on-road parking spaces in the immediate area have been over-stated and additional parking is likely to cause congestion as the surrounding roads are quite narrow. Council does try to support all local businesses as much possible but has serious concerns regarding the proposed expansion of the business due to the potential parking issues mentioned with increased patronage, and the possible disturbance to residents during the evening if opening hours are extended. A site visit is recommended.**
- d. 20/0117 – Proposal: Single storey extension to rear. Site: 4 Burberry Close, Rogerstone, Newport, NP10 9JU. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections.**

9. Items for next agenda if agreed:

None to date.

10. Urgent other business not on the agenda:

- a. Cllr Sayer noted that the overgrown hedge alongside the steps opposite Garth Terrace had still not been cut back despite Cllr Williams agreeing to resolve this matter with the homeowner early in 2019. **Action: Clerk to ask Cllr Williams if there was any progress on the overgrown hedge.**
- b. Cllr Evans presented a cheque donation to the Council of £7000 from Graig Community Hall to assist with expenses borne by the Council. **Action: Clerk to bank.**
- c. Cllr Harris advised that the Cardiff Air Ambulance have extended operations to become a 24/7 service. **Action: For information only, none necessary.**

- d. Cllr Fry submitted a quote for consideration for the path through the open space in Bassaleg to be tarmaced. The quote was for £14000. **Action: Finance Committee to explore if funding could be made available.**
- e. Cllr Smart advised Council that there had been a spate of break-ins recently, at the Tea Rooms and Dentist Practice on Caerphilly Rd, and also a van on Caerphilly Close.
- f. The Clerk submitted an invoice to request authorisation to present at the next meeting for the One Voice Wales organisation annual subscription costing £895. Council agreed. **Action: Clerk to present for payment at the 26th February meeting.**
- g. Cllr Gregory told the group of the most recent developments with the Burial Board issues and these were discussed. Council agreed the following statement. Which was proposed by Cllr Caston, seconded by Cllr Thomas and agreed unanimously.

Following communication received on Friday 7th February from Rogerstone Community Council that its preferred options are either to hand over the management of the cemetery to Newport City Council or if not accepted, to continue with the Burial Committee in its current format. That being 7 Rogerstone Community Council Members with just 4 representing Graig Community Council. Graig Community Council have therefore agreed the following:

The role of the Burial Committee is to represent the best interests of the Rogerstone and Graig wards. It should not favour the interests of one ward above the other and this can only be achieved by each ward being represented in a partnership that has parity in both financial contributions and representation.

Graig Community Council believes the present Committee is unfairly balanced in favour of Rogerstone Community Council. The disparity in the current representative numbers and terms of Chairmanship mean that Graig Community Council Members are rendered completely ineffective when decisions are made, making the whole management process unfair and undemocratic. Because of this, Graig Community Council has moved forward and re-invoked its request to Newport City Council to adjudicate on this matter, as both Councils clearly cannot reach an agreement.

11. Correspondence for information

Planning information.

12. Dates of next meetings

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 26th February 2020 at 7pm

Mid-Month Meeting – Wednesday 11th March 2020 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.28pm. Confirmed, this 11th day of March 2020.

Signed..... (Chair) – March 2020

Clerk to the Council: Sian Davies

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