



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mid-Month Meeting held both at Graig Hall and remotely via Zoom Video Conferencing at 7pm on 9th June 2021

1. To receive apologies for absence: Cllrs A Whitfield, D Williams.

Present: Cllrs R Caston (at Graig Hall), M Smart (remotely), K Sayer (remotely), P Gregory (remotely), J Harris (remotely), W Haigh (at Graig Hall), L Fry (remotely), P Appleton (remotely), J Bailey (remotely), K Thomas (remotely), N Tarr (remotely), J Taylor (remotely), S Davies (Clerk (at Graig Hall)). Chaired by Cllr Gregory. Also present, were Cllr J Garland (remotely) and S Parks-Jones (remotely) from Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry Community Council (DWR)

This meeting was held both at Graig Hall and remotely via Zoom.

Prior to the start of the Mid-Month meeting, Cllrs Garland and Parks-Jones Councillors with Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry Community Council were welcomed. Cllr Garland had contacted the Clerk regarding maintenance issues with the road bridge into Draethen and at the same time expressed it would be desirable if both Councils could become more acquainted and possibly work together on some mutually beneficial projects in the future. As neighbours, the two Councils should form a close working relationship with each other. A delegation was invited to meet with council at this meeting so both parties could introduce themselves to each other and explore if they could collaborate in future. Council supported working closer together.

It was learned that DWR Council was made up of 8 Councillors who meet every other month. They had a small precept to work with, but Cllrs were very willing to pitch in with projects. The road bridge is of major concern at the moment, as it is in much need of repair. Cllr Garland had discovered both NCC and CCBC were responsible for its maintenance, but that CCBC were tasked with carrying out repairs with NCC sharing the cost. She was aware that the work had been quoted for and a plan of works had been put forward. She stressed the importance of ensuring momentum maintained so plans did not stall and that working collaboratively, both Community Councils could put pressure on their respective Principal Councils to move the project on. The Clerk agreed to contact NCC and do what she could to help.

Cllr Tarr agreed to meet with a DWR representative to inspect the bridge. Clerk to forward contact details for Cllr Tarr to Cllr Garland. Cllrs Garland and Parks-Jones left the meeting at 7.22pm. **Action: Clerk to forward Cllr Tarr's contact details to DWR and contact NCC regarding the bridge repairs.**

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held remotely on 12th May 2021: The minutes previously distributed were read and briefly discussed. It was agreed the content and the action points had all been recorded accurately and action points had been attended to. Proposed Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Harris. **Action: None necessary.**

4. Accounts for payment: Proposed Cllr Haigh, seconded Cllr Caston and agreed.

Macmillan Cancer Support Wales – agreed donation	£100.00
Newport & Gwent Samaritans – agreed donation	£100.00
Came & Company Insurance- annual insurance premium	£3311.66
Total	£3511.66

Receipts: None to date

5. Planning - Applications to be considered:

- 21/0503 – Proposal: Non-material amendment application to amend the orientation of plots 45,46 and 47 in respect of reserved matters 16/0632/MJR relating to the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the construction of 150 dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and public open space relating to planning permission 12/0254/MJR at land at the former Tredegar Park Golf Club. Site: 46 Deer Park Lane, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8ZU. Application Type: Non-material Amendment. **For information only, no comments required. Action: None Necessary.**
- 21/0547 Proposal: Retrospective application for extension of garden area, creation of new vehicle access to parking area and erection of fence. Site: 24 Garth Close, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8NX. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections.**

- c. 21/0564 – Proposal: Proposed conversion of garage to habitable room. Site: 19 Delphinium Road, Rogerstone, Newport NP10 9JF Application Type: Full. **Comment: Council were concerned that as the conversion was to create another bedroom, that there would be sufficient off-road parking to accommodate the number of bedrooms being proposed.**
- d. 21/590 – Proposal: Double storey extension. Site: 24 Springfield Lane, Rhiwderin, Newport NP10 8QZ Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections provided access to the lane is maintained.**
- e. Bassaleg Pharmacy – The Clerk informed Council there was some concern that there were changes being discussed concerning the Pharmacy and Hairdressers premises at St Basil's Shops in Bassaleg. As yet it was unclear what changes were proposed. The Clerk had written to NCC Planning to ask for details, but to date had not received a reply. **Action: Clerk to follow up and advise Council of any response at the next meeting.**

6. Items for discussion:

- a. SLA with NCC re play areas (consideration for renewal) – The Clerk advised Council she had received an email from NCC stating that as the SLA for the play areas was coming towards the end of its term, would Council wish to renew? The Clerk confirmed she did not have any detail at present. Council discussed this option, and the Clerk was asked to respond that subject to the SLA conditions remaining the same or very similar, Council would be interested in receiving a draft of the proposed updated SLA. A decision would be made once reviewed. **Action: Clerk to inform NCC Council were open to negotiating a new SLA.**
- b. Tommy Figurines/Remembrance celebrations/garden – Cllr Fry told Council the Memorial Garden Group recently formed had met and proposed not rushing into this project this year. That it would be prudent to get professional advice. The group are to look at it as a longer-term project so designs could be narrowed down, then a coherent proposal be presented to Council later in the process. Cllr Appleton advised that Risca Council were able to obtain a grant to help with costs when they did a similar project and that this could apply to this project too. She also mentioned that she thought Council should progress with placing a Christmas tree this year at the triangular patch where the BKV sign is located as was planned in the past and was very keen to ensure this is carried out. **Action: Memorial Garden Group to progress plans for the garden, Cllr Appleton to progress arrangements for the installation of a Christmas tree this year if possible.**
- c. Community Engagement – Council discussed this topic. There was agreement that when Council proposes any projects of substantial cost, engagement with residents should be carried out. It was also agreed that Council should improve communication with residents to let them know what has been achieved and what plans are for improvements in the ward. **Action: Cllrs to consider community engagement options.**
- d. Street & Village signage – Cllr Gregory suggested that some signage in the village should be replaced, especially the village sign by the Friendly Fox Pub on Caerphilly Road. He suggested that a moderate sum should be spent to replace this sign. It had also been noted previously that some road/street signs were very faded or in poor repair. These were the responsibility of NCC. The Clerk asked all Cllrs to look about in the ward, and if they noticed signage that needed replacing, to advise her via email in the next 2 weeks so she could compile a list to request replacements from NCC. **Action: Cllrs to email the Clerk with damaged street/road sign locations. Clerk to compile a list then forward a request for replacements to NCC.**
- e. Burial Board/Committee – Cllr Harris informed Council he was now the Chairman of the Burial Committee for this year. An inspection was carried out at the cemetery prior to the Committee's AGM. The meeting was discussed briefly. It was noted that the Committee's Clerk advised that GCC's request for a determination on equal representation had been put to the Cabinet Member to decide. It was agreed the Clerk to the Committee was doing a very good job and all were pleased with his performance. It had been agreed at the meeting that the Committee would work to RCC's standing orders and financial regulations as they now employed the Clerk. Cllr Haigh voiced concerns regarding the make-up of the Committee and wanted to take matters to a higher authority to get a proper resolution. **Action: Clerk to ask Cllr Williams to check on the status of the decision for equal representation and lobby the Cabinet Member making the decision if it has been handed to someone.**
- f. Bassaleg Community Woodland Trust – The Clerk advised the group that members of the Bassaleg Community Woodland Group had been in touch and had asked for Council's support for a grant application. They requested some Council members attend a meeting with them. Council suggested it would be much better if they attended a Council meeting. **Action: Clerk to ask the group to attend a Council meeting and supply the dates of the next few meetings to allow the group some choices.**

7. Reports:

- a. Police (May report received) – The Police report for May 2021 was read at the meeting. The report contained the following information: There had been 29 crimes during May, categorised as follows: Public Order 7,

Violence Without Injury 10, All Other Theft 5, Criminal Damage & Arson 1, Violence With Injury 3, Other Sexual Offences 1, Residential Burglary 1 and Vehicle Crime 1.

The new ward priority for Graig was drug taking/dealing.

Activities by the local NPT: Patrols were being carried out in all hot spot areas where drug activity has been reported. Police are continuing to make monthly visits to crime victims and vulnerable residents, and new members have been added to the scheme. A Section 59 had been issued to the rider of an e-scooter who was travelling between Bassaleg and Rogerstone. Nuisance behaviour had been reported in the Laurel Rd area, patrols were taking place to identify those involved. Cllr Tarr asked that it be recorded he was shocked and appalled at a sexual offence occurring in the ward. It was noted that drug dealing/taking is rife in local pubs and the school. Council agreed with the new Ward priority and would look to support the Police in any way it could. **Action: Clerk to try to get the Sergeant to attend Council's next meeting.**

Ward surgeries were to be held on 26th July between 3 & 4pm and on 13th August between 3 & 4pm both held in the area of McDonald's. **Action: None requested.**

- b. City Councillors (DW) – Cllr Williams was unable to join the meeting. Cllr Appleton told the group that when she spoke with the officer in charge of grass cutting at NCC he mentioned that the Bassaleg, Junction 28 and Pont Ebbw roundabouts were handed over to NCC in a bad state and that it was not possible to mow them as normal making them very difficult to maintain. He suggested Council ask Cllr Williams to lobby the Cabinet Member to have these issues ironed out. **Action: Clerk to ask Cllr Williams to lobby the Cabinet Member as suggested.**

8. Items for next agenda if agreed:

None to date

9. Urgent other business not on the agenda:

- a. Cllr Thomas reported that no maintenance had taken place of the hedge on The Griffin which backs onto the allotment site. That the weeds brambles and stinging nettles were now so bad it forces pedestrian into the road. When NCC Officers attended a recent meeting with Council they agreed to carry out the maintenance, but it had not been attended to. The Clerk agreed to contact them again and request the area been maintained as a matter of urgency. **Action: Clerk to contact NCC Officers as agreed.**
- b. It was noted that the lane at the rear of the Post Office in Bassaleg was becoming overgrown. **Action: None requested.**
- c. Community Centre usage was briefly discussed. It was agreed that only regular users were allowed at present and that no ad hoc family celebrations could be accommodated until regulations allow. **Action: No bookings for events such as Birthday parties to be allowed until further notice.**

10. Dates of next meetings

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 30th June 2021 at Graig Hall & via Zoom at 7pm

Mid-Month Meeting – Wednesday 14th July 2021 at Graig Hall & via Zoom at 7pm

Finance Review – Wednesday 21st July at Graig Hall & via Zoom at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9pm

Signed (Chair) – 14.07.21

Published 23.07.21

Clerk to the Council: Sian Davies

Email: clerk@graiGCC.co.uk Website: www.graiGCC.co.uk

Website: www.graiGCC.co.uk



www.facebook.com/GraigCommunityCouncil