



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held both at Graig Hall and remotely via Zoom Video Conferencing on 28th July 2021 at 7pm

1. To receive apologies for absence: Cllrs D Williams.

Present: Cllrs R Caston (at Graig Hall), A Whitfield (remotely), D Evans (remotely), M Smart (remotely) K Sayer (remotely), P Gregory (remotely), J Harris (remotely), W Haigh (at Graig Hall), L Fry (at Graig Hall), 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, Sergeant Paul Turner (at Graig Hall).

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

The Police Sgt had been available and joined the meeting. He was welcomed by the group and issues in the ward were discussed. The list included off-road bikes, youths in Carnegie Court, drug dealing and taking, the issues surrounding 'County Lines', car cruisers and anti-social behaviour. Sgt Turner confirmed extra Police were joining the force and he hoped more resources would help to tackle crime. He confirmed that Graig is a low crime area compared to other places in Newport. Council asked if a little more detail could be given on the report received monthly – but of course not specifics which could identify persons. The Sgt confirmed he would try but had very stringent rules to follow because of data protection laws. Sgt Turner was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7.40pm. Council felt the meeting was productive and were glad to have the opportunity to speak with him. He promised to attend Council meetings as often as possible. **Action Clerk agreed to copy in the Sgt on all meeting invitations. Cllr Gregory to forward information regarding youths in cars at Rhiwderin Centre car park at night.**

2. To receive declarations of interest: None.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 30th June 2021:

The minutes of the meeting held 30th June 2021 previously circulated were read and approved. Proposed Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Harris. Cllr Sayer asked that it be recorded he knew nothing of the planning application for Bassaleg Pharmacy. The sequence of events were discussed again and the Clerk confirmed a notice had been placed in each board and on the website stating why Council were not aware of it at the time. Regarding Item 5, Cllrs Gregory and Harris were to look at Rhiwderin Gas bill, it was confirmed this had not yet been completed. Regarding Item 7c – The Paddock, Cllr Gregory confirmed a delegation had met with the Paddock Committee reps and discussed plans the group wish to implement with Council's approval. They want to add to the biodiversity of the site and wish to plant an orchard and wildlife are. The group were asked to come up with a solid plan which could be brought to Council for approval. **Action: Cllrs Gregory and Harris to look at Rhiwderin CC's Gas bills.**

4. Clerk's Report: Council discussed the report items briefly and agreed it was a true reflection of the situation at the time. Proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Taylor. Cllr Appleton gave an update on roundabout maintenance telling the group that she had it confirmed that work was being started on upgrading the ground on the main roundabouts at Bassaleg, J28 and Pont Ebbw which should improve grounds maintenance once completed. Cllr Whitfield asked about the cutting of the banking at the top of Laurel Road, and it was confirmed that work had not been carried out yet but should be very soon. It was mentioned that although some brambles etc. had been cut under the hedge at The Griffin, more work was needed. The Clerk had reported this as complete but would contact NCC to say more work was needed. **Action: Clerk to advise NCC regarding The Griffin hedge maintenance.**

5. Accounts for Payment: Proposed Cllr Whitfield, seconded Cllr Harris.

Cllr Appleton asked for the electricity bills and credit notes to be explained. She also queried the Graig Hall broadband cost. The Clerk requested permission that as only one signatory was attending the meeting at Graig Hall, she could countersign the cheque payments again until more signatories attended the meeting in person. This was agreed.

Clerk salary and office allowance for July 21	£2126.87
Misc expenses (Zoom Jun-Jul 21 £14.39, mileage £29.70, Flowers & Card £17.00)	£61.09

TalkTalk – Graig Hall monthly broadband cost (taken by DD)	£35.94
TSOHOST – Webmail monthly hosting charge (taken by DD)	£5.00
SSE – Gas costs Graig Hall to Jun 21 underpayment (taken by DD)	£13.11
SSE – Electricity costs Rhiwderin CC Apr-Jun 21 (taken from credit note detailed below)	£116.36
Spanglefish – Annual Gold status payment	£29.95
Total to date:	£2388.32

Credit Notes:

SSE – Electricity costs Rhiwderin CC to Jun 21 overpayment carried forward on account £858.71cr

Receipts:

None to date

6. Planning:

- a. 21/0283 – Proposal: Replace existing hedge with fence over 1M in height next to highway. Site: 10 Harlech Drive, Rhiwderin, Newport, NP10 8QS. Application Type: Full. **Comment: Council is pleased to see extra parking being created but has concerns the fencing would be not in keeping with the street scene which is quite open with mostly lower boundary treatments. Council suggests if fencing is to be granted, it should be restricted in height to maintain this.**
- b. 21/0692 – Proposal: Retrospective application for the retention of a garden summer room. Site: 54/56 Tredegar Street, Rhiwderin, Newport, NP10 8RY. Application Type: Full. **Comment: Council has concerns, as this development is already in use and according to neighbour objections is being used as a cinema room. Council suggests sound insulation should be considered and that the windows facing neighbouring homes should be obscured to maintain privacy.**
- c. 21/0761 – Proposal: Proposed garage conversion to habitable room with larger driveway and access, pitched roof to side extension and alterations. Site: 38 Penylan Close, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8NW. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections.**

7. Items for Discussion/Action:

- a. Excess gym equipment – Cllr Taylor confirmed the excess gym equipment not installed at Caernarvon Drive was stored with a local contractor. Cllr Gregory reported that when the equipment was not used, the NCC Officer in charge of play areas at the time agreed to try to find somewhere it could be installed in another ward and would offer Council a reasonable sum in compensation. This never took place, and that officer had now retired. If it were to be installed by Council now it would cost for the installation and there was no site suitable to place it. It was agreed to ask the contractor if they would be able to offer Council a sum and use it elsewhere or Council could consider donating it. **Action: Cllr Taylor to follow up.**
- b. Community Councillor vacancy update – The Clerk confirmed Council would not need to hold an election to fill the post of Councillor representing the Lower Machen ward, and that they were free to co-opt a suitable candidate to the post. It was decided the vacancy deadline would be extended and this would be published on the website, Facebook and at Bassaleg Post Office and Bassaleg supermarket. Cllr Tarr asked that his disappointment that no election was to be held was recorded in these minutes. **Action: Clerk to arrange.**
- c. Opening of Community Centres – It was agreed that as regulations had not been relaxed sufficiently, the Centres would still only allow regular trusted users to use the Centres and no ad hoc bookings for family events would be taken for the time being. This would be reviewed after the change in restrictions on 7th August and discussed at the following Centre's AGM's. **Action: No change at this time.**
- d. BKV request for financial assistance – The group asked Council to consider making its annual donation to the group to cover insurance and additional planter costs. This was agreed. **Action: Clerk to present a cheque for payment to the next available meeting of £187.25.**

8. Reports:

- a. Newport City Councillors – Cllr Williams was not present but had spoken with Cllr Gregory who reported Cllr Williams had been involved in looking at better broadband for the villages and maintenance of the main roundabouts mentioned above. He also spoke of people using the gardens of the bungalows next to Bassaleg Post Office as a cut-through and that the residents of those bungalows wanted 4 disabled parking spaces allocated to them. **Action: None at this time.**

Sub Committees:

- b. Graig Community Centre – Cllr Harris agreed to forward the current timetable for Graig Hall users to Cllr Appleton for inclusion in the new Council website. The Graig Hall AGM was set for 9th August

2021. **Action: Hall Management group to attend the AGM, Cllr Harris to forward information to Cllr Appleton.**

- c. Rhiwderin Community Centre & Fundraising Group – Cllr Gregory told the group the new Meithrin, Little Oaks Nurseries would be taking over in September and that they had secured £10k to make the improvements to the hired areas that were needed. The Centre's AGM would be held approximately 2 weeks after the Graig Hall AGM. Cllr Whitfield reported that the repointing work was complete, but more work was needed in other areas. There was an issue with water penetration in the schoolroom kitchen which would be investigated. **Action: Cllr Gregory to progress arranging AGM, Cllr Whitfield to progress with the other work needed.**
- d. Allotments – Cllr Smart told the group that a meeting to finalise the communal area and shed was to be held on 29th July 2021. The group were making up a project plan and would discuss the cutting of the Pyracantha as previously agreed. The request to relocate a greenhouse was approved by Council. **Action: Cllr Smart to progress.**
- e. Burial Board – Cllr Harris told the group the next committee meeting would be held on 20th September 2021. Cllr Gregory and the Clerk reported to Council the recent developments with the Employment Tribunal. **Action: None at this time.**

Working Groups:

- f. Play Areas Group – Cllr Taylor reported that no progress had been made with the repair of the footpath through the open space as the contractor could not find the time to complete the task. He suggested that for the time being, the plan to change the Sward Turf be put on hold. He mentioned the access gate to Fort View play area was broken, the Clerk confirmed this was the responsibility of NCH to repair. The recent invoice with an extra charge for improvements to the slide mound at Fort View was approved for payment but that Council should be informed prior to any additional charges being added to invoices if extra work was needed. **Action: Clerk to report broken gate to NCH and arrange for payment of approved invoice.**
- g. Horticultural Group/Best Kept Villages Group – Cllr Appleton again asked Cllrs to assist with watering planters if possible. Cllr Sayer said he had seen no evidence of anyone helping out and if it continued, he would not be prepared to carry on. He felt that Cllrs not helping was unacceptable. Cllr Fry suggested Cllr Sayer be supplied with larger water jacks to enable him to water more efficiently. Cllr Sayer took exception to this remark and a heated debate took place. Cllr Fry suggested not all Cllrs were capable of watering plants or did not wish to carry out this task. Council agreed this was not a feasible solution. Cllr Smart asked why Council was not appealing for help from the residents. Cllr Appleton suggested Council should consider purchasing self-watering planters. **Action: Cllrs to assist with watering duties if they were able.**
- h. Technology Group – Cllr Appleton reported that both She and the Clerk had made good progress in reading the site for launch and asked that Centre Management Committees allocate someone from their groups to administer the pages for the relevant Centres. **Action: Cllr Appleton & Clerk to progress.**
- i. Events and Social Group – NTR. **Action: None at this time.**
- j. Consultation Group – Cllr Tarr mentioned the meeting for the consultation being held by the Welsh Government to consider Council Clerk training would be held in early September. Group members for this consultation to be Cllrs Tarr, Appleton, Harris, Sayer, Caston & the Clerk. **Action: Cllr Tarr to progress.**

Temporary Working Groups:

- k. Memorial Garden Group - Cllr Taylor reported he had attended a meeting held by OVW which suggested there would be funding available for this project. The Clerk was asked to contact the person who could help with this at OVW and arrange a meeting. Cllr Whitfield told the group she wished to step down as Chair. Group to meet to progress and to decide on a new Chair. Cllr Whitfield agreed to call a group meeting in 2 weeks' time. **Action: Group to progress.**

Cllr Sayer left the meeting at 9.37pm

9. Items for forthcoming agendas:

None requested.

10. Urgent Business not discussed above:

- a. Cllr Fry reported parking issues at St Basil's shops which were highlighted by the supermarket owner. It was noted there was a parking time restriction in force in the area, but this was being ignored and cars were being left there for long periods. HGVs were experiencing problems delivering to the shops and patrons had difficulty parking. It was agreed to contact Newport City Homes in the first instance as

they have leases on the shops and flats. **Action: Clerk to Contact NCH to advise them of the issues.**

- b. Cllr Caston was reviewing the Replacement LDP and reported that at this stage, the consultation was regarding Candidate Sites. He asked Council to confirm if it was still of the opinion that no large-scale development would be acceptable in the ward. Council confirmed this. **Action: Cllr Caston to progress.**

11. Dates of next meetings:

Mid-Month Meeting – Wednesday 11th August 2021 at Graig Hall & via Zoom at 7pm

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 25th August 2021 at Graig Hall & via Zoom at 7pm

Quarterly Finance & Admin meeting - 2022 precept – 20th October at Graig Hall & via Zoom at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.40pm

Signed (Chair) – 25.08.21

Compiled 11.08.21

Clerk to the Council: Sian Davies

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