



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mid-Month Meeting held both at Graig Hall and remotely via Zoom Video Conferencing at 7pm on 14th July 2021

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

Present: Cllrs R Caston (at Graig Hall), D Evans (at Graig Hall), 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), K Thomas (remotely), N Tarr (remotely), J Taylor (remotely), S Davies (Clerk (at Graig Hall)).
Chaired by Cllr Gregory.

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

2. To receive declarations of interest: None

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held remotely on 9th June 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 Taylor, seconded Cllr Caston. **Action: None necessary.**

4. Accounts for payment: Proposed Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Harris and agreed. The Clerk advised that the Mence & Clark payment was owed from a previous invoice where the VAT was mistakenly omitted. The payment below was to rectify that mistake.

Mence & Clark – rectification of underpayment for cheque no. 2908 (non-payment of VAT)	£264.00
Newport City Homes – Grass cutting at Fort View play area June 21	£212.04
Complete Business Solutions – Ink	£81.12
Mr Locks – Supply & fit of high security padlock to kissing gate	£151.08
Cllr P Appleton – Reimbursement of cost of compost for planters	£30.00
Total	£738.24

Receipts:

Newport City Council – Play areas annual grant from S106 money	£9000.00
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5. Planning - Applications to be considered:

- a. 21/0676 – Proposal: Proposed two storey side and single storey rear house extension. Site: 7 Beaumaris Close, Rhiwderin, Newport, NP10 8QW. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections**
- b. 21/0696 Proposal: Garage conversion and single storey rear extension. Site: 1 Viaduct View, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8FR. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections**
- c. Bassaleg Pharmacy planning application – to report recent events. Recent events which developed because trees at the rear of the current Hairdresser's building were being removed, were relayed to Council. Residents had turned up and attempted to have work postponed, to enable a request to NCC to have the application permission reviewed. The removal of the trees was authorised under the given planning permission provided they were replaced within 1 year by 2 Lime trees. NCC refused to delay the felling of the existing maple trees and they were felled the same day. The Clerk confirmed the events that took place that meant Council were not consulted on this application at the time and Council asked for this information to be relayed to residents via Council noticeboards boards, as there was concern those residents felt Council had not properly represented them in this case. **Action: Clerk to display a notice as requested.**
- d. Notification of NCC Replacement Local Development Plan – Council were informed NCC were consulting on the Replacement LDP. Information had been forwarded to Cllrs and Cllr Caston asked the Clerk to arrange for him to have hard copies of all the pertinent documents. He offered to review and bring suggested responses to Council for approval prior to the submission date for comments. **Action: Clerk to request documents from NCC as directed.**
- e. Council also noted NCC's approval of the planning application for new play pitches for Bassaleg School. This application was part of a larger scheme for the school but did not include a floodlighting proposal. This is expected to be included in a larger application of all other works associated with the upgrade of the school in due course. **Action: None at this time.**

6. Items for discussion:

- a. Essential maintenance at Graig Green (LF) – Council discussed a report previously circulated by Cllr Fry. In it he highlighted areas he had noted needed attention and told the group it was compiled with a view to asking Council to consider if they felt any of the items needed attending to urgently, or what they would suggest is done with the information. Following discussion Council agreed that it would be necessary to have the Pyracantha bushes growing along the allotment fence trimmed as a starting point. Other things on the list would be addressed over time. **Cllr Smart to speak with the Allotment Association regarding cutting back the bushes and return to Council with their comments.**
- b. Community Engagement – Cllr Gregory told the group that whilst speaking with residents about the trees mentioned in 5c above, some residents complained Council had carried out projects without consultation. It was suggested engaging residents via the Graig News Facebook page would be helpful provided Cllr Williams had no objections, but also that Council could write an article for the Bassaleg & Rhiwderin Directory. This was agreed, and Cllr Gregory asked that a Cllr volunteer to do so. It was also agreed that Council should try to mark the Jubilee next June, Cllrs were asked for ideas on how to celebrate this. Cllr Tarr also suggested that maybe an online event could be held around Christmas if an attended event is not possible. Cllr Smart said she was keen to reinstate something around Christmas of OAPs as Council had done in past years if that is possible at the time. **Action: Cllrs to volunteer to write an article for the B&R Directory if able and to consider an appropriate way to celebrate the Jubilee next June. Suggestions to be given to the Clerk/Chair so the item can be added to an appropriate agenda to discuss. Clerk to agenda again for the next Mid-Month meeting to discuss.**
- c. Street & Village signage – Cllr Appleton had kindly travelled around the Rhiwderin area and notified the Clerk of 3 signs that needed repainting/replacing at Ty Coch Close, and Caerphilly Close. Cllr Sayer offered to check the remaining areas in the ward and advise the Clerk of any that needed attention in that area too. The Clerk agreed to compile a list and report the street signage issues to NCC. **Action: Cllr Sayer to report defective street signage to the Clerk. Clerk to report to NCC.**
- d. Burial Board/Committee (update) – The Chair and Clerk updated Council on some recent events. The process with the Employment Tribunal is very slow and is likely to take some time to settle. Nothing can be done at present as it is all in the hands of Council's Solicitors who are trying to move things on. **Action: None at present. Chair and Clerk to progress and keep Council updated.**

7. Reports:

- a. Police (June report received) – The Police report for June 2021 was read at the meeting. The report contained the following information: There had been 18 crimes during June, categorised as follows: Public Order 5, Violence Without Injury 5, All Other Theft 2, Criminal Damage & Arson 4, Violence With Injury 0, Other Sexual Offences 0, Theft from a Person 1, Residential Burglary 0 and Vehicle Crime 1. The 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. Operation Senior had seen new members added and the Police's vulnerable residents were happy with their monthly visits. 2 Mopeds had been seized, 1 for being abandoned and 1 for no insurance. Both were linked to drug supply and riding recklessly. Patrols were being carried out in the areas of Delphinium Road, McDonalds & Morrisons and Laurel Road/Duffryn Close after reports of anti-social behaviour. There is an emerging trend for off-road bikes in the ward. 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: Clerk is to continue to try to get a Police representative to join a Council meeting**
- b. City Councillors (DW) – Cllr Williams was unable to join the meeting. Cllr Tarr advised the group he had complaints from residents in Lwynderi Close regarding vermin, rubbish and general unkempt state of the area. Cllr Gregory advised he had also had complaints made to him and had attended the site. He and Cllr Williams had been trying to assist residents and the Environmental Officer from NCC had been called. It was noted that this area has flats that are privately owned and let by a number of Landlords and getting to the bottom of who owns what and how responsibilities for maintenance are apportioned is complicated. However, the issues are being addressed. **Action: Cllrs Gregory and Williams to progress for the time being.**

8. Items for next agenda if agreed:

Decision on excess gym equipment stored – Full Council Meeting 28th July 2021

Future opening of Community Centres - Full Council Meeting 28th July 2021

Community Engagement (Christmas & 2022 Jubilee Events) – Mid-Month Meeting 11th August 2021

9. Urgent other business not on the agenda:

- a. Cllr Harris asked if Council would consider opening up the community centres fully. It was agreed that this should be discussed by both Centre Management Committees then a suggestion be brought to Council to approve. **Action: Committees to discuss then bring to Council for 28th July meeting.**
- b. Cllr Haigh requested a decision on whether his apartment management committee would be allowed to hold their AGM at Graig Hall as planned. It was agreed by majority that as this was a structured meeting with a limited amount of people and Cllr Haigh would be present to oversee that Council's Risk Assessment was being adhered to, that this would be acceptable in this case provided all risks were mitigated as per risk assessment guidance. **Action: Clerk to supply Council's risk assessment document to Cllr Haigh for him to follow.**
- c. Cllr Taylor asked who would be responsible if a private hedge was encroaching a public footpath. He was advised that the property owner would be responsible for keeping boundary treatments from obstructing footpaths themselves. Cllr Taylor offered to speak with the owners to ask that the hedge be trimmed back to prevent obstruction to pedestrians. **Action: Cllr Taylor to progress.**

10. Dates of next meetings

Finance Review – Wednesday 21st July at Graig Hall & via Zoom at 7pm
 Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 28th July 2021 at Graig Hall & via Zoom at 7pm
 Mid-Month Meeting – Wednesday 11th August 2021 at Graig Hall & via Zoom at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.05pm

Signed (Chair) – 11.08.21

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