



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mid-Month Meeting held both at Graig Hall and remotely via Zoom Video Conferencing at 7pm on 11th August 2021

1. To receive apologies for absence: None

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), D Williams (remotely), S Davies (Clerk (at Graig Hall)). Chaired by Cllr Gregory.

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

Prior to the meeting starting properly, Cllr Gregory addressed the group. He felt that the conduct at the last meeting held was somewhat unruly. He said he always tried to keep the meetings open and friendly, but maybe a more forthright approach would be needed if conduct continued. He reminded Cllrs of the meeting procedure. Cllr Whitfield offered full support for the Chairman and thanked him, this was echoed by the group.

2. To receive declarations of interest: None

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held both at Graig Hall and remotely on 14th July 2021:

The minutes previously distributed were read and briefly discussed. Regarding Item 6a, Cllr Smart reported that the Allotment Association was unable to assist with cutting back the Pyracantha on the outside of the allotment site. Cllr Appleton agreed to speak with her NCC contact to ask if he could help but it was recognised there would most likely be a charge for the service. Regarding Item 6b, no-one had yet volunteered to write an article for the Bassaleg & Rhiwderin Directory nor given any suggestions on celebrating the Jubilee in 2022. Regarding Item 6C, Cllrs Sayer and Appleton had forwarded 5 street signs which needed attention in the villages as they are faded and difficult to read. Cllr Gregory suggested a review of all signage should be undertaken not just street signs. Cllr Smart and Whitfield volunteered to take on this task. Clerk to forward them the street signs already identified. The Clerk was asked to keep the opening of community centres on the agenda. Proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Whitfield. **Action: Cllr Appleton to ask NCC for a quote to cut back the Pyracantha. Cllrs to consider volunteering to write the B&R Directory article and suggestions for next year's Jubilee celebrations. Cllrs Smart & Whitfield to review signage issues in the villages and Clerk to ensure opening Community Centres remains on agendas.**

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

CPRU – annual Subscription fee	£20.00
Best Kept Villages – donation towards planter and insurance costs	£187.25
Newport City Council – Annual Rhiwderin CC Lease cost	£75.00
WM Garden Services Ltd – Removal/fitting of play equipment & install wet pour surface	£1920.00
Total	£2202.25

Receipts:

None

5. Planning - Applications to be considered:

- a. 21/0593 – Proposal: Retrospective application for the retention of raised decking to the rear of the property, including balcony area, steps and other associated works. Site: 28 Caerphilly Close, Rhiwderin, Newport, NP10 8RF. Application Type: Full. **Comment: Council had concerns that the height of the works meant neighbouring gardens were being overlooked and notes that the proposal does not conform to planning rules.**

Cllr Harris joined the meeting at 7.26pm

- b. 21/0784 Proposal: Proposed raised rear patio area including glass balustrade. Site: 2 Highfield Gardens, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8LR. Application Type: Full. **Comment: No objections.**

6. Items for discussion:

- a. Essential maintenance at Graig Green (LF) – Cllr Fry referred Council to the list he previously submitted and suggested some items on the list did need attending to as essential works. He also suggested some items needed to be attended to by contractors as they were technically challenging but need to be addressed. The group discussed some of the items and it was agreed local contractors should be used. The Clerk reminded Council that years ago, a company called Muddy Glove were used and they were reasonable and did a good job. She was asked to find out if the company was still trading. Cllr Taylor also offered to approach a local contractor. **Action: Clerk to investigate if Muddy Glove is still trading, Cllr Taylor to approach a local contractor.**
- b. Community Engagement (Christmas & 2022 Jubilee Event) – Cllrs Smart, Whitfield and Bailey told the group they were keen to do a Christmas event of some kind and would like to concentrate on pensioners. Cllr Smart agreed to look into this. Cllr Tarr reported he is looking into some kind of virtual event to celebrate Christmas this year. **Action: Cllrs Smart & Tarr to progress and bring suggestions to Council.**
- c. Councillor vacancy update (C) – Council agreed to interview for the post via Zoom on 17th August 2021. Clerk to set up a meeting and send out invitations to all involved. Cllrs not on email were content for the interview process to be carried out without them being present and agreed for the attendees to make the final decision and engage if appropriate. **Action: Clerk to arrange.**
- d. Burial Board/Committee (update) – An update was given by Cllr Gregory and the Clerk. There is little to do at present as information needs to be supplied by the former Burial Board Clerk. **Action: None at present.**
- e. Caretaker for Community Centres (AW) – Cllr Whitfield asked if Council would consider employing someone to be a general caretaker and bookings manager for Rhiwderin Community Centre. She was very concerned that since volunteers had given up at Rhiwderin, Cllr Gregory has been standing in to cover those roles which was unfair on him as he also had a heavy workload being the Council's Chairman. It was suggested that if a suitable person could be engaged, they could maybe run both centres for taking bookings, opening and closing if necessary and performing standard checks. Cllr Whitfield asked for a vote to be taken on whether in principle this would be agreeable to Council. This was seconded by Cllr Caston and agreed by majority. **Action: To be explored. A volunteer to look into this issue is needed.**
- f. Noticeboards (C&LF) – Cllr Fry had been informed by the Clerk that some noticeboards needed maintenance and he suggested 2 doors be replaced at a cost of £225 each. 7 in all needed some attention and it was suggested maybe it would be advisable to purchase new. It was agreed that any purchases would need to be fit for purpose and that the Clerk was best placed to look at the different styles available and the cost. **Action: Clerk to investigate and return to Council with suggestions.**
- g. Replacement Local Development Plan update (RC) – Cllr Caston gave Council his views on the plans. He suggested Council would again need to fight for development not to take place in the ward and that candidate sites would again likely include much of the green space around Pentrepoeth Road and Penylan Road. This was good agricultural land. Cllr Caston was waiting on information of exactly what sites were to be proposed. Regarding the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal also being looked at, it was noted that Graig has less than 50% of the amount of public open space provision than it should, and air quality is well below expected levels. He informed Council that it seemed no air quality report had been produced since 2019 and would be requesting more data on this. The Clerk gave Cllr Caston the name of the Senior Scientific Officer for NCC and would pass on contact details once obtained. **Action: Cllr Caston to progress, Clerk to provide contact details for the new Scientific Officer to Cllr Caston and Cllr Appleton.**
- h. IRPW draft consultation & proposals (C) – The Clerk asked if Council wished to comment on the draft consultation. Following a short discussion Council confirmed it would wish Basic Payments of £150 per annum to Cllrs to continue to be offered as voluntary payments under Council's Group 3 category and not become mandatory as suggested. This would continue to enable Cllrs to opt out of receiving the payment should they so wish, but those who wished to have the payment would automatically receive it if they had not chosen to opt out. **Action: Clerk to forward Council's comments to the IRPW.**

7. Reports:

- a. Police (July report received) – The Police report for July 2021 was read at the meeting. The report contained the following information: There had been 27 crimes during July, categorised as follows: Public Order 5, Violence Without Injury 7, All Other Theft 3, Criminal Damage & Arson 1, Violence With Injury 2, Other Sexual Offences 1, Theft from a Person 0, Residential Burglary 2, Bicycle Theft – 1, Rape – 2, Drug Offences - 2 and Vehicle Crime 1.
The ward priority for Graig was drug taking/dealing.
Emerging trend for the Ward - Off-road bike issues.

Activities by the local NPT: Patrols were being carried out in all hot spot areas where drug activity has been reported.

Patrols were also being carried out after reports of anti-social behaviour on the areas of Delphinium Road, McDonalds/Morrisons, Laurel Road, Duffryn Close and Forge Mews.

Operation Senior had seen new members added and the Police's vulnerable residents were happy with their monthly visits.

One person had been arrested for driving under the influence of drugs in the Laurel Road area and one person arrested for dangerous driving in the Caerphilly Road area.

Two vehicles had been seized, one car was found abandoned in the Laurel Road area and the other seizure was associated with the dangerous driving arrest.

Ward surgeries were to be held on 13th August between 3 & 4pm and on 3rd September 3 & 4pm both held in the area of McDonald's.

It was noted that PCSO Dean had been carrying out extra patrols, but no further issues were identified.

Action: None requested.

- b. City Councillors (DW) – Cllr Williams reported the latest update on the issues at Bassaleg Bridge. A new emergency entrance/exit onto the A467 for residents of Forge Mews and emergency services use was almost complete. There had been some criticism of how this issue had been handled by NCC, but Cllr Williams felt it had been dealt with well. He told Council he had been involved with many ward issues in the previous weeks and would email the Clerk a list which she could cascade to Cllrs to give further details. Cllr Appleton asked if he had addressed the issues she previously mentioned about parking issues at Church Crescent/Laurel Rd and was told he had asked wardens to perform extra patrols in the area to identify people parking illegally/irresponsibly but had no response to date. Cllr Gregory asked if City Council meetings were taking place normally again, Cllr Williams confirmed that Zoom meetings were still being held instead. **Action: Cllrs Gregory and Williams to progress for the time being.**

8. Items for next agenda if agreed:

Clerk's workload – Full Council Meeting 25th August 2021

Future opening of Community Centres - Full Council Meeting 25th August 2021

Community Engagement (Christmas & 2022 Jubilee Events) – Mid-Month Meeting 8th September 2021

9. Urgent other business not on the agenda:

- a. Following the AGM of Graig Hall Management Committee on 9th August 2021, Cllr Harris made a query regarding the Chair of the committee. Cllr Gregory advised him that any queries regarding the Management Committee must be discussed at its next management meeting, this was not the right forum to discuss committee matters. **Action: Cllr Harris to take up his query with Graig Hall Management Committee.**
- b. Council were advised that the next Memorial Garden Group meeting would be held at 6pm on Wednesday 18th August 2021. **Action: Group members to attend if able.**

10. Dates of next meetings

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

Mid-Month Meeting – Wednesday 8th September 2021 at Graig Hall & via Zoom at 7pm

Finance Review – Wednesday 20th October at Graig Hall & via Zoom at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 9.10pm

Signed (Chair) – 08.09.21

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