GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Council held at Graig Community Hall (and remotely via Zoom) at 19.00 on Wednesday 30th September 2026

Members present:	Cllr Watts (Chair), Cllr Cleeve (Vice-Chair), Cllr Tarr, Cllr Williams, Cllr Morris, Cllr Davis.
Members of the Public (MoP):	5
Absent:	Cllr Harris
Minutes:	Mrs. N Goodfellow (Community Council Clerk/RFO)

Meeting started at 1900 hrs.

1. **Chairman's Welcome and Public Participation**
   The Chairman welcomed Councillors and MoP.
   Attendees introduced themselves.
   It was asked whether MoP had any specific agenda items they were interested in. Agenda items 8 and 13 were highlighted.

2. **Apologies for Absence**
   Apologies were received from Cllr Grant, Cllr Roe & Cllr Sayer.
   It was noted that further correspondence had been sent to Newport City Council (NCC) representatives, namely Cllr Harris and Cllr Jones but it remained the case that no response had been received. An automated Out of Office response had been received from Cllr Jones, however it is dated 2024 therefore his return date is unknown.

3. **Declarations of Interest**
   Members to declare an interest in any items of business on the agenda. Cllr Tarr declared an interest in Item 13.

4. **Minutes**
   To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th August 2026.
   Proposed: Cllr Cleeve. **Seconded:** Cllr Watts. **Voted**: Unanimously in favour

5. **Matters Arising from Minutes, Updates and Clerk's Update**
   a) To consider matters arising from the minutes. It was confirmed that the Utilities supplies for both Community Centres were transitioning to Octopus Energy and details had been shared with Cllrs. Cllr Tarr confirmed his plans to attended the NCC liaison meeting. Cllr Watts shared details of an issue with overhanging trees on Graig Community Council (GCC) land. A tree consultant had been scheduled to attend on 13th October. The output would be shared with Councillors when available. It was expected that the costs associated with the

inspection would be c£350 plus VAT. It was agreed that Land Registry would be contacted to determine all land that falls within GCC remit.

b) To receive any other updates. None.

c) To receive Clerk's update.

Relevant correspondence had been shared with Councillors via email. No further feedback or information requests had been received from Audit Wales so the assumption had been made that the audit had been completed. All approved policies provided off the back of the Working Group had been updated on the Graig Community Council (GCC) website.

The Rogerstone & Bassaleg Burial Board had received a qualified audit. Details had been posted on the GCC website. Reasons for objection to the qualification had been noted and sent to Audit Wales. Conclusion of audit notices had been posted at the cemetery and online.

The 2025-26 VAT return had been highlighted to Cllrs. It was confirmed this would be reviewed during the October 2026 Council Meeting and the reclaim will be submitted thereafter.

Councillors had been sent details regarding 2027/28 budget. Budgets would be discussed, reviewed and agreed upon during October's meeting. The GCC Asset Register would be reviewed at the next meeting.

The Clerk had attended further upskill sessions.

6. Bassaleg Bridge

To receive an update on the bridge improvements / replacement.

Following the August meeting an email was sent to NCC regarding GCC and Residents' frustrations at lack of progress. Subsequently NCC had stated they considered the bridge to be unrepairable. A temporary bridge was being considered but no timescales had been given. It was confirmed that NCC's structural engineer did not support John Blackwell's planning application. GCC were awaiting a follow up meeting with NCC. John Blackwell had been invited to attend a meeting with NCC and contractors. An update would be provided in due course. The next meeting with Residents and Jayne Bryant was scheduled on Monday 6th October at 7pm at Graig Community Centre. Questions were asked by MoP all of which were answered to their satisfaction. The importance of keeping conversations going between GCC and NCC was highlighted.

7. Biodiversity

To discuss the Biodiversity and Resilience Report following the One Voice Wales visit to the Graig Ward, and agree on next steps.

Details of the Biodiversity report on the Ward had already been shared with Cllrs and were summarised. Initiatives were highlighted for the Graig and Rhiwderin parks. Grants were available to support initiatives. Initiatives such as "pollinator patches" were suggested. A potential rainwater

harvesting grant was highlighted along with gaps in hedges being replaced with hedgerow and a patch of waste ground close to the community centre being converted into a butterfly garden. In Rhiwderin, improvements were suggested by implementing "cut and collect" to encourage more wild flowers. The importance of communicating any implemented initiatives to residents was considered to be of paramount importance. Three accreditations were available, all of which would be looked into further. Further updates would be brought to Council in due course.

8. Christmas Event

To agree approach, date and budget for the 2026 Graig Community Centre Christmas event.

A recap on the successful 2025 event was shared. The date of Sunday 20th December had been booked for this year's event which it was thought would coincide with the annual Tractor run. A budget of £5,000 was agreed. **Proposed**: Cllr Watts. **Seconded**: Cllr Tarr. **Voted**: Unanimously in favour. A Working group would be set up to plan and manage the event. **Proposed:** Cllr Watts. **Seconded:** Cllr Williams. **Voted**: Unanimously in favour

Ideas for the event were discussed and it was suggested the event could be linked to charity fundraising.

Rhiwderin Community Centre had been offered to residents on 12th December to hold a Christmas themed fete.

Christmas tree provision was discussed and it was agreed that arrangements would be made to provide 3 trees within the ward.

The Council commended the resident and member of the public for her instrumental role in organising the successful Community Fete held on Monday 31 August, which raised £1,800.00 for Cerebral Palsy Cymru.

9. Task and Project Management Monitoring

To review, discuss and approve project proposals for 2026/27

An update on the Lower Machen Defibrillator would be brought to the next meeting.

Cllr Tarr requested that footpath lighting by Graig Community Centre be discussed at a future meeting. It was agreed that further considerations needed to be made before any actions were taken. Safety in public spaces / safe routes needed to be a priority.

10. Outdoor play equipment maintenance / repairs

To discuss the latest inspection report and associated costs and agree on the best approach for budgeting for future maintenance / repairs.

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It was confirmed that GCC had spent more money this year on outdoor play equipment than they had in previous years. The equipment had been provided by NCC but GCC were confirmed as being responsible for maintenance. An example was shared where £7k had been spent on replacement flooring and c£12k spent in total. This was a significant part of the GCC precept. This needed to be taken into account when managing the 27-28 budget.

It was suggested that a maintenance fund may be available via NCC. The Clerk would explore whether this funding was still available with NCC. It was suggested a database be set up to keep tracks on play equipment lifespans / warranties etc.

Repairs had already taken place to equipment in Graig Park. Further repairs were required to the "accessible swing" at a cost of c£500. **Proposed**: Cllr Cleeve. **Seconded:** Cllr Tarr. **Voted:** Unanimously in favour.

Natural break: 20.10hrs
Meeting resumed: 20:12hrs

11. Remembrance Day
To agree the GCC donation / wreath provision for the service at St Basil's Church.

A donation of £200 would be given to The Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Service.
Proposed : Cllr Watt. **Seconded**: Cllr Williams. **Voted**: Unanimously in favour

12. Planning
To consider responses to any planning applications received and opportunity to ask questions around the latest planning report and to approve the format for planning application summaries.

Case 26/0730 required a decision. Cllr Tarr agreed to review and send comments to Cllrs by Monday 5th October.

13. Resident Issues on Laurel Road, Bassaleg
To discuss and agree whether action is required by GCC to improve areas of concern relating to parking on the "green areas" and the vegetation encroachment from the land behind residents' properties on Laurel Road.

Cllr Tarr and MoP shared residents' concerns around parking issues on Laurel Road and residents struggling to park by their properties. It was requested whether a parking lay-by could be created on the bend to accommodate further parking. It was confirmed that any adjustments to the road would require NCC approval and GCC could not take action independently. Cllr Watts agreed to arrange a separate meeting with residents and then liaise with the associated parties to discuss

further. Residents agreed to send a list of email addresses of those residents who wished to be involved, to the Clerk.

Issues with vegetation growing onto the back of properties on Laurel Road were also discussed. It was suggested that MoP contacted the land owner to request they assess and maintain. It was confirmed that Network Rail did not own the land.

14. Parking Issues in Rhiwderin

To discuss parking issues highlighted in Rhiwderin Village, more specifically on Pentre Tai Road when activities are taking place in Rhiwderin Village Hall, and non-EV vehicles parking in EV charging point spaces at the bottom of Tredegar Street, and to agree whether further GCC involvement is required.

Cllr Tarr requested this item be deferred to the next meeting. **Proposed:** Cllr Tarr. **Seconded**: Cllr Williams. **Voted:** Unanimously in favour.

15. Finance

a) To receive financial documents to 31st August 2026. The bank reconciliation, receipts and payments summary were received and noted.
b) To approve / inform the schedule of payments. It was agreed that future payments would fall into two categories of inform and approve.

Payee		Amount
N Goodfellow	Clerk Salary August 26 (inc tax/NI)	£904.32
Hedyn	Fort View Park Grass cutting August	£212.04
South Wales Directories	½ page advert Sept/Oct 2026 Edition	£ 25.00*
DH & SJ Preece	Roundabout maintenance	£ 48.00*
M Cleeve	Daffodils for Ward Planters (J Parkers)	£139.50*
Newport City Council	o/s invoice (220046216) for hanging baskets	£447.94**
Bassaleg Allotments	Envelopes for allotment rent letters	£ 3.75

*Items already paid during September 2026
**Already paid in September - item had been approved in May meeting but the invoice had never been received (items delivered 15 June 2026)

Defibrillator pads had been purchased by Cllr Watts for the Court Crescent unit at a cost of £75.54. These would be handed to the Guardian for installation.

Acceptance **Proposed:** Cllr Watts **Seconded:** Cllr Tarr. **Voted:** Unanimously in favour.

16: Next Meeting: confirmed as Wednesday 28th October 2026 at 19.00. Full Council Meeting - Graig Community Centre and via Zoom.

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Meeting closed at 20:55 hrs.