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 28th October 2026

Members present:	Cllr Watts (Chair), Cllr Cleeve (Vice-Chair), Cllr Tarr, Cllr Williams, Cllr Morris, Cllr Davis, Cllr Grant.
Members of the Public (MoP):	6
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 item 8 was highlighted.

   MoP requested an update on Noticeboards and shared their disappointment on lack of progress on cleaning. It was confirmed that this was a result of ill health of the Cllr involved. Cllr Watts agreed to follow this up and look at alternatives. It was confirmed that a budget may be allocated to this in the 2026-27 financial year. Questions were asked around foliage on a public footpath. It was advised that the land was believed to be privately owned. This would be double checked to confirm. Litter picking was discussed.

2. **Apologies for Absence**
   Apologies were received from Cllr J Roe and Cllr K 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.

   Cllr Watts agreed to contact Cllr Harris to discuss none attendance and report back to Council. Proposed that "approved reason " for absence would be granted for a one month period. **Proposed**: Cllr Watts. **Seconded**: Cllr Tarr. **Voted**: Unanimously in favour.

3. **Declarations of Interest**
   Members to declare an interest in any items of business on the agenda. Cllr Grant - Item 6.

4. **Minutes**
   To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 30th September 2026.
   Proposed: Cllr Tarr. **Seconded:** Cllr Watts. **Voted**: Unanimously in favour

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5. Matters Arising from Minutes, Updates and Clerk's Update

a) To consider matters arising from the minutes.

Cllr Davis referred back to a previous meeting where bollard removal had been discussed. No update was available. It was proposed that an action log be created to ensure all actions from GCC meetings were tracked. **Proposed:** Cllr Watts. **Seconded**: Cllr Tarr. **Voted:** Unanimously in favour.

b) To receive any other updates.

The Clerk confirmed that Residents had not provided email details of those who wished to meet to discuss the parking issues highlighted during September's meeting. Cllr Tarr to follow up with residents. The Machen defibrillator agenda item would be carried forward to November. Cllr Cleeve provided an update on a One Voice Wales Meeting where National Resources Wales' Steve Morgan was the guest speaker.. Concerns had been raised regarding Bassaleg Weir and an update was awaited

c) To receive Clerk's update.

Relevant correspondence had been shared with Councillors via email. Energy supplies for Graig Community Centre (GCC) switched to Octopus on 16th October. Due to a delay in Octopus processing the direct debit mandate for Rhiwderin Community Centre (RCC), the switch would take place on 30 October.

The Clerk confirmed that Playground grants of £9k per year were paid by Newport City Council to GCC The 2026/27 had not been received for this financial year and was being chased.

Christmas tree costs for GCC and RCC have been obtained from N Morris. Spend was approved for: Rhiwderin Community Centre Christmas Tree (20' Tree with 3 sides on show) - £150. Graig CC Christmas Tree (25' Tree) - £280. Construct a gateway to GCC Tree - £75. Prices included the supply and installation and disposal of trees at the end of the festive season. N Morris would supply lights and dress the Graig Tree.
Proposed: Cllr Watts Seconded: Cllr Williams. Voted: Unanimously in favour

6. Bassaleg Bridge

To receive an update on the bridge improvements / replacement.
Newport City Council (NCC), in conjunction with Mott MacDonald and Acrow were looking at a temporary option. Weight bearing testing was scheduled to take place in November.
NCC's and John Blackwell's bridge ideas were now considered to be "not far apart". John Blackwell (JB) provided an overview of his meeting with NCC and contractors and advised that he had proposed further design amendments in order to fulfil requirements, including a 44 Tonne weight bearing load. These were subject to there being no significant changes in the bridge foundations. JB confirmed he had sent further correspondence to NCC but no response had been received. A follow up meeting with GCC Chair / Vice Chair and NCC was to be scheduled. Frustrations over progress delays since JB's meeting with NCC et al were shared. Cleaning issues were highlighted as well as

NOX canister litter being left by the bridge. Further CCTV camera installation was being considered by NCC and issues would be highlighted to the Police.

7. Community Boundary Review Graig Ward Errors

To discuss the errors and inconsistencies introduced by Newport City Council, the implications for Graig Community Council and our community and agree if further actions are required to clarify and, where necessary, resolve those errors.

Errors and inconsistencies with the review had been fed back to NCC as well as shared with GCC Councillors. It was highlighted that 32% of the Bassaleg population appeared to have disappeared. NCC agreed that an error had been made but they did not expect it to impact the review. Cllr Morris (in his capacity as a resident) considered this not to be the case and was progressing that the councillor requirements needed to be reviewed. It was confirmed that the ward would require 12 Community Councillors.

The Clerk would contact NCC to request what action would be taken and by when to rectify the errors.

Proposed:Cllr Morris. **Seconded:** Cllr Watts. **Voted:** Unanimously in favour

8. Traffic on Pentrepoeth Road

To discuss issues raised by residents relating to traffic volumes on Pentrepoeth Road and agree whether further action by GCC is required.

Cllr Williams declared an interest and left the room.

MoP highlighted the issues with traffic volumes and considered it had increased 10 fold in the past 6 years. The speed of cars and lorries was raised as an issue. Examples of gridlocked traffic were also shared with Councillors. Questions were asked around the activity in the area and concerns raised around the impact on wildlife in the area. An overview of the activities being undertaken by Neal Soils was shared. It was confirmed that there were no restrictions on the lanes in question. Neal Soils activities had stopped for the foreseeable but the project would recommence and activities were expected to continue into the summer of 2027.

MoP requested that GCC lobby for speed restrictions on the lanes in question. It was confirmed that NCC were the decision makers on restrictions but GCC would communicate on behalf of residents. Cllr Watts agreed to liaise with farms in the area and Michaelstone Community Council to highlight traffic issues. It was highlighted that previous traffic calming requests had been rejected by NCC. GCC (Cllr Watts / Cllr Cleeve) agreed to progress the issues with NCC Highways, Go Safe and Neal Soils. Safety issues where the footpath from Pant Glas Cwt comes to an end when reaching the Pentrepoeth Road were highlighted.

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20:24 Hours - Natural Break

Cllr Williams returned to the meeting.

20:28 Hours - Meeting recommenced

9. Review of current GCC responsibilities and associated processes and procedures related to Planning Applications in Graig Ward

To discuss and agree tightened processes and procedures and timetables to implement changes and associated responsibilities.

Cllr Tarr advised that he wished to step down as the delegated person for planning due to increased workload from other activities but he wished to retain his responsibilities as a Community Councillor. Cllr Tarr was thanked for his service to the Planning over the years.

It was proposed that planning applications were reviewed as part of a Working Group to enable more effective processing of planning requests. **Proposed:** Cllr Morris. **Seconded:** Cllr Watts. **Voted** Unanimously in favour. It was agreed that Cllr Tarr would communicate the changes to NCC and invite the planning officer to the next GCC meeting to enlighten GCC on the processes.

10. Planning

a) 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.

Planning applications 26/0767 and 27/0768 were discussed. Questions were asked around parking provision. Proposed comments to the Planning Officer were agreed.

An extension to the GCC meeting to 9:30pm was proposed. **Proposed:** Cllr Watts. **Seconded** Cllr Tarr. **Voted** Unanimously in favour.

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b) To consider inviting Newport & Islwyn Plaid Cymru Assembly Members to a Public Meeting to discuss proposed M4 Junction closures.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to request a meeting as specified

Proposed: Cllr Cleeve. **Seconded:** Cllr Watts**. Voted:** Unanimously in Favour.

A meeting had been scheduled at Graig Community Centre on 16th November to discuss the Local Development Plan and the impact on the ward. The consultation period was very short. Links to the event had been posted on the GCC Facebook page and had already been shared by the Clerk.

11. Task and Project Management Monitoring

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

a) Update on proposals and agree funding for Graig Fete in 2027 - £7,500 budget requested

Cllrs were taken through a presentation which had been shared with them prior to the meeting re the proposed GCC fun run in Tredegar Park on Friday 28th May and a fete on 31st May 2027. A working group with 3 Cllrs and 6 members of the public had been established previously. An estimated budget of £7500 was requested to support the event:

Proposed: Cllr Cleeve **Seconded**: Cllr Davis . **Voted**: Unanimously in favour

b) Agree costs of Christmas Trees at Graig and Rhiwderin Community Centres (already covered)

c) Halloween GCC Event - £200 budget requested

Amount requested was a retrospective request to support the Halloween event at a cost of £60
Proposed: Cllr Watts. **Seconded**: Cllr Williams. **Voted**: Unanimously in favour

12. Finance

a) To Review 2026 Spending so far and agree draft 2027/28 Budget and Precept

The Clerk went through the details of spend year to date against budget. A working group was proposed to agree to a detailed 2027-28 Budget and Precept funding prior to November's meeting. **Proposed:** Cllr Morris. **Seconded:** Cllr Watts. **Voted**: Unanimously in favour

b) To receive financial documents to 30 September 2026. Agreed and noted

c) To approve / inform the schedule of payments

Payee		Amount
For Approval:		
N Goodfellow	Clerk Salary September 2026	£ 720.63*
R&B Joint Burial Board	Precept 2026-27	£ 810.08
For Information:		
Hedyn	Grass cutting Fort View Park September 26	£ 212.04
DH & SJ Preece	Roundabout Maintenance INV 2899	£ 48.00
DH & SJ Preece	Roundabout Maintenance INV 2831	£ 48.00
DH & SJ Preece	Roundabout Maintenance INV 2870	£ 48.00
Newport City Council	o/s invoice for RCC rental	£ 100.00**
Secure Systems	GCC 6 monthly fire alarm service	£ 192.00
Envisage Promotions	Father Christmas GCC Event (30/9 Item8)	£ 576.60
Dynevor	Play area repairs approved 290726	£8160.00
DH & SJ Preece	Allotment Repairs already approved	£1740.00
DH & SJ Preece	Roundabout Maintenance INV 2932	£ 48.00

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*2026 pay award not yet applied
** To be reimbursed by RCC
Proposed: Cllr Tarr. **Seconded:** Cllr Watts. **Voted**: Unanimously in favour

13: Next Meeting: confirmed as Wednesday 25th November 2026 at 19.00. Full Council Meeting - Graig Community Centre and via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 21.30 hrs.

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