



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Mid-Month Meeting held remotely via Zoom at 7pm on 14th April 2021

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Prior to the meeting beginning, Cllr Gregory addressed Council who said that the past 12 months had been difficult for everyone, and that he hoped that Council would move forward with a more positive outlook and contribution.

1. To receive apologies for absence: Cllrs A Whitfield, W Haigh, J Bailey.

Present: Cllrs R Caston, D Evans, M Smart, K Sayer, P Gregory, J Harris, L Fry, P Appleton, K Thomas, N Tarr, J Taylor, D Williams (from 7.25pm) S Davies (Clerk). Chaired by P Gregory.

2. To receive declarations of interest: None

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held: None

4. Accounts for payment: Proposed Cllr Tarr, seconded Cllr Caston and approved.

Cllr M Smart – reimbursement of planting costs (3 invoices)

£460.76

Total £460.76

Receipts

None to date

5. Planning - Applications to be considered: None

6. Items for discussion:

- a. Allotments – approval for shed placement & rent charges (MS) – Cllr Smart told the group the location and size of a proposed greenhouse which an allotment holder requested siting, had been reviewed by the Allotment Association who were happy with the details. She asked that the decision be approved by Council. Council agreed. It had been suggested that Council reinstate collection of rent following last year's decision to give a rent-free year because of the pandemic. Council agreed and debated whether it was necessary to increase the rentable value per perch for 2021-22, which had previously stood at £2.75 per perch with a 50% discount to those eligible for a number of years. It was decided that in order to ensure costs remain covered, it would be prudent to raise rents a little and alter the discounts given. Council agreed to raise the rent per perch to £3.75 and to review the discount policy. This was proposed by Cllr Appleton, seconded by Cllr Sayer and agreed by majority. Cllr Smart also told the group that the Allotment Association would be applying for a grant the Clerk made her aware of. **Action: Cllr Smart to inform the Allotment Association of Council's decisions.**

A brief discussion took place about using the Probation/Community Payback system to litter pick areas such as under the bridge over the A467. **Action: Cllr Harris to explore.**

Cllr Williams joined the meeting at 7.25pm

- b. Council approval for risk assessments (C) – The Clerk put forward the risk assessments performed by Cllr Smart for approval. Cllr Appleton thanked Cllr Smart for performing the assessments and providing a report which she felt was very informative, saying it highlighted things she had not been aware of. Council approved the assessments. Proposed Cllr Caston, seconded Cllr Fry and approved unanimously. **Action: Clerk to replace the previous assessments with the currently approved assessments in Council's suite of documents.**

7. Reports:

- a. Police (March report received) – The Police report for March 2021 was read at the meeting. The report contained the following information: There had been 24 crimes during March, categorised as follows: Public Order 2, Violence Without Injury 11, All Other Theft 1, Criminal Damage & Arson 1, Violence With Injury 5, Vehicle Crime 3 and Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society 1.

Activities by the local NPT: Continuing to monitor anti-social behaviour levels around McDonald's and Morrison's premises and making monthly visits to crime victims and vulnerable residents. A male was given a Section 59 warning due to his manner of driving in the Bassaleg area. Several youths were dealt with for an incident on Deer Park Lane. Patrols had been carried out in identified hot spots.

It was noted there was a growing issue with off road bikes.

Ward surgeries were being held on 16th April 21 between 3 & 4pm and on 17th May between 3 & 4pm both held in the area of McDonald's.

Council expressed their disappointment that the report contained little useful information and were concerned at the lack of attendance at Council meetings. That priorities had not changed in years and were unlikely to change when the surgeries are always held in the McDonald's and Morrison's area only. There was frustration at the lack of information being relayed from the Police to Council. Council asked the Clerk to again ask for Police representation at Council meetings where these issues could be discussed.

- b. City Councillors (DW) – Cllr Williams acknowledged the Clerk's email sent to him on behalf of Council regarding unresolved issues in the ward. He updated Council on some of the cases with the progress he had made and promised to chase those unresolved. He agreed to send the Clerk a detailed report which could be cascaded to Cllrs. Cllr Tarr asked if he would help regarding complaints of dog fouling and he agreed to contact the dog wardens to patrol the area. He told the group that NCC had as last agreed to replace the chain at the bottom of Tredegar Street in Rhiwderin. **Action: Cllr Williams to forward an update to the Clerk and ask the dog warden to instigate patrols in the ward.**

8. Items for next agenda if agreed:

Tommy figurines (C) - Wednesday 28th April 2021 meeting

Risk Assessments (PG) – Wednesday 28th April 2021 meeting

Caerphilly Rd/Close junction (LF) – Wednesday 12th May meeting

The Griffin memorial garden proposal (LF) - Wednesday 12th May meeting

Action: Cllr Fry asked all Cllrs if possible, to visit both the Griffin site and the Caerphilly Rd/Close site to bring suggestions and comments to the meeting.

9. Urgent other business not on the agenda:

- a. Cllr Gregory told the group that further chasing by the Clerk had resulted in NCC Highways Officers agreeing to meet with Council representatives the following week and had a choice of dates to hopefully suit. The favoured date was 22nd April at 2pm. **Action: Clerk to arrange, Cllrs Gregory, Williams, Taylor, Fry, Appleton & Sayer to be included on meeting invitation.**
- b. Cllr Harris read to Council a Twitter message he had received from an NCC alert system whilst at the meeting, saying there was a Covid outbreak in the Bassaleg & Rhiwderin area linked to social gathering and car sharing. That a mobile testing unit would be deployed at Whiteheads from 15th to 19th April. **Action: For information. Cllr Harris to pass on information via Council's Facebook account.**
- c. It was agreed that the community centres should be opened as soon as it is safe to do so. Cllr Smart kindly agreed to look at the risk assessment needed for the centres and the Clerk to inform the insurers as soon as the Hall can be safely opened again. Also, to arrange a face-to-face Council meeting as soon as it is safe to do so and can follow Government guidelines. **Action: Cllr Smart to progress with the risk assessment, Clerk to contact insurers and arrange a Council meeting to be held at the Hall as soon as is practicable.**

10. Dates of next meetings

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 28th April 2021 (venue TBA) at 7pm

Mid-Month Meeting – Wednesday 12th May 2021 (venue TBA) at 7pm

Finance Review – Wednesday 5th May (venue TBA) at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.25pm

Signed (Chair) – 12.05.21

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