



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 29th January 2025

Members present: Cllr J Watts, Cllr M Cleeve, Cllr J Harris, Cllr D Williams,
Cllr N Tarr, Cllr D Whittaker, Cllr K Sayer, Cllr L Fry, Cllr J Roe.

Members of the Public: 4

Minutes: Mrs C L Cotterell (Locum Clerk/RFO)

Meeting started at 19.05

1. Chairman's Welcome and Public Participation

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Cllr Appleton.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members to declare an interest in any items of business on the agenda – Cllr Williams declared an interest in item 7a.

4. Minutes

To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th December 2024 –
Resolved – Proposed Cllr Tarr, seconded Cllr Williams.

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

- a) To consider any updates or matters arising from the minutes – Cllr Harris confirmed there was no update on the air quality information referred to in the November meeting. Cllr Cleeve confirmed that the repair to the play equipment has been completed.
- b) To receive Clerk's update. The Clerk's update was received and noted. The Clerk had discovered that there was a large amount outstanding on the water supply account to Graig Community Centre and a very low monthly direct debit amount being taken. There appears to be a spike in consumption during the last year. A plumber has been contacted and will visit to check the plumbing in the centre and carry out leak tests.

6. City Councillor Reports

To receive City Cllr reports.

City Cllr Harris reported:

- Police report - July to December - 18% reduction in overall crime in Newport and January is on course to see further reductions
- Robbery Month on Month reduction to 22 reported incidents (-7 from previous month).
- Police initiatives - Trialling messenger alert to ease the pressure on contact centre - Farm watch, shop watch and night-time economy watch.
- Serious Organised Crime (SOC) - The SOC team seized record drugs hauls, one gang sentenced to over 100 years in total and smashed 10 organised crime groups.
- Police Attendance to ward surgeries - There has been a reduction in police attendance to ward meetings due to cuts in WAG funding for community support officers and the need to balance attendance with core policing activities.
- Police Force Organisation - New Operating Model - The force is in the process of going through a reorganisation and will be working to a new operating model focusing on three functional pillars:



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 29th January 2025

- Neighbourhood Pillar - Neighbourhood policing teams roads and dogs teams and planning & crash detectives.
- Crime Pillar - Public protection, serious organised crime CID all investigative functions.
- Response Pillar - Newport response team Monmouth Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent custody force control room pillar to get consistency across the Gwent police force.
- Newport Council - other business
There will be a ban introduced on the use of helium balloons on public land.
The next Mayor is Cllr Kate Thomas.

Cllr Watts proposed adding an agenda item to each meeting for updates on Bassaleg Bridge, updates to be provided by City Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Cleeve.

7. Planning (This item was moved to the end of the meeting at the discretion of the Chairman)

To consider responses to:

- a) 24/1032 - REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING SUBSTANDARD DWELLING WITH A NEW, HIGH-QUALITY FAMILY HOME DESIGNED TO MEET MODERN LIVING STANDARDS - The Hollies, Garden Cottage Pentre-Poeth Road Newport.
- b) Any other planning applications received.

8. Liaison Meetings

To agree a 2nd representative for Liaison meetings – Cllrs agreed Cllr Sayer to be the 2nd representative for the Newport City Council liaison meetings.

9. Financial Regulations and Internal Control Procedures

To review and approve updated Financial Regulations and Internal Control Procedures.
This item **deferred** to February meeting, any questions to Locum Clerk by 14th February.

10. Finance

- a) To receive financial documents to 31st December 2024 – Bank reconciliation, receipts and payments summary and Budget vs Actual for Q3 were **received and noted**.
- b) To consider reimbursement for rat bait purchases by allotments association for previous years - £92.96 – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Tarr, 8 voted for, 1 abstention.
- c) To consider request for rat bait purchase for allotments for coming year - £105.29 – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Tarr, 8 voted for, 1 abstention. Agreed that Cllr Sayer will request a risk assessment from allotments committee regarding the use of rat bait.
- d) To approve the following schedule of payments – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Tarr, seconded Cllr Watts.

<u>Payee</u>		<u>Amount</u>
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	Locum services (December – SD1852-1)	£2,142.00
Firequip	Fire extinguisher service Graig Hall	£214.62
Griffiths Signs	Fire exit signs	£108.00
One Voice Wales	Cllr Training invoice 8912	£40.00
R Thorn	Allotments purchase of rat bait for previous years	£92.96



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 29th January 2025

Allotments	Allotments request for purchase of rat bait for coming year	£105.29
St Basils Church	Donation to Christmas decoration costs	£50.00
Newport City Council	Premises licence – Graig Hall	£180.00

Bank balance as at 31 December 2024 - £96,175.31

11. Staff Recruitment

To agree members of a staff recruitment working group – It was agreed that all members are able to join the working group. A meeting is to be agreed.

12. To pass a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press for discussion regarding staff matters. Proposed Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Tarr.

Cllrs **resolved** an amendment to the Locum Clerk's contract for the next three months at slight increase in cost – Proposed Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Williams.

Cllr Tarr proposed a vote of appreciation for the Locum Clerk.

Item 7 Planning – (Cllr Williams left the meeting before this item)

To consider responses to:

- a) 24/1032 - REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING SUBSTANDARD DWELLING WITH A NEW, HIGH-QUALITY FAMILY HOME DESIGNED TO MEET MODERN LIVING STANDARDS - The Hollies, Garden Cottage Pentre-Poeth Road Newport – The Community Council **resolved** to submit the following comments:
- That the revised tree plan suggested by the Tree Officer is carried out and is satisfactory.
 - That the SAB application is completed and approved by NCC.
 - That the recommendations from the Highways Officer are implemented.
 - That advice given by the Ecology Officer, Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Water are satisfactorily addressed.

Proposed Cllr Tarr, seconded Cllr Whittaker, 7 voted for, 1 abstention.

- b) Any other planning applications received: –
24/0895/FULL - Machen Quarry Commercial Road Machen Caerphilly CF838YP – The Community Council **resolved** to submit the following comments:

1. Increased HGV Traffic and Highway Safety Risks

The proposal acknowledges that the HGV traffic will increase but downplays its potential impact. Increased HGV movements through Bassaleg and Rhiwderin will lead to further road congestion, safety risks for pedestrians and greater wear and tear on local roads.

- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, Paragraph 111)**

- **Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**

2. Noise Pollution and Impact on Local Area

The proposal states that noise will remain within permitted levels, but cumulative noise impact is not properly considered. - **Noise Act 1996**



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 29th January 2025

3. Dust and Air Quality Concerns

While dust controls are mentioned, the proposal lacks detail on how dust from HGV movements will be managed. Increased dust emissions could have negative effects on public health, particularly for the residents of Lower Machen, Rhiwderin and Bassaleg as this is a signal point of entry / exit, including recognised safe routes to school.

- **Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990) – Part III (Statutory Nuisance) – Section 79**

4. Other Comments/Questions.

The application does not state how the quarry will be 'restored' beyond 2042 following the cessation of quarrying, or that the production of construction materials, as established, will remain at current operating levels. What controls are there in place to ensure other materials are not accepted in the future?

The expansion of Bassaleg School and changes to road links, additional traffic light systems, roundabout, school entry/exit and Safe Routes to School has resulted in a dramatic increase in traffic at peak times, noise and pollution. The preferred transportation option of HGV's with a 20 tonne payload will have an impact on the road surface. The application does not state how many vehicles are expected to travel to and from the site during operating hours.

Conclusion

Given these concerns, Graig Community Council strongly urges the planning authorities to:

1. Conduct a full, independent assessment of the cumulative impact of noise, traffic and air quality is undertaken.
2. Stronger conditions are imposed on vehicle movement, working hours and environmental controls.

Proposed Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Cleeve.

13. Next Meeting - Wednesday 26th February 2025 at 19.00 – Full Council Meeting - Graig Community Centre and via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 21.00

These minutes were approved at the meeting held on Wednesday 26th February 2025