



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 26th February 2025

Members present: Cllr J Watts, Cllr M Cleeve, Cllr P Appleton, Cllr D Williams
Cllr N Tarr, Cllr D Whittaker (zoom) Cllr K Sayer, Cllr J Roe (zoom).

Members of the Public: 0

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

Meeting started at 19.00

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 Community Cllrs Fry and Harris.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members to declare an interest in any items of business on the agenda – **None**.

4. Minutes

To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29th January 2025 –
Resolved – Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Watts.

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

- a) To consider matters arising from the minutes and any updates.
 - Planning comments from last meeting were submitted – it was noted thanks were given to Cllrs Cleeve, Whittaker and Roe for their comments.
 - Cllr Whittaker has organised a litter picking group in liaison with Keep Wales Tidy and NCC. It was agreed to set up a litter picking working group with Cllrs Whittaker, Williams and Sayer as members. The working group will decide on a date for the first litter pick and will advertise with posters etc.
- b) To receive Community Wellness Event feedback – Cllr Watts confirmed the event with the health board was very successful and leaflets are available.
- c) To receive an update from the Recruitment working group – Cllr Watts has contacted One Voice Wales and will receive templates for advertisement and job specification shortly.
- d) To receive Clerk's update – the update was received and noted.
 - Agreed to send a letter of complaint to SSE regarding the outstanding refund due.
 - Also agreed to send a letter to Welsh Water regarding the lack of communication when the consumption increased significantly and ask for a review of the outstanding bill.
 - Options to control the flushing mechanism in the gents toilets are being investigated.
- e) Other updates:
 - Cllr Cleeve reported that the cleaning of Graig Hall has been completed.
 - Cllr Cleeve confirmed an abandoned car on NCC land was reported to NCC in May last year and suggested involving all responsible parties to arrange to remove the car. Cllr Cleeve to contact NCC.
 - Cllr Cleeve confirmed the website is up to date regarding the community centres.

6. Bassaleg Bridge

To receive City Cllr update on the bridge – **No update received**.



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7. City Councillor Reports

To receive City Cllr reports.

Cllr Harris' report received via email:

"Newport City Council Meeting 25th February 2025

Last nights council meeting was to discuss the 2025-26 budget proposals.

The proposals are:

£4 Million for Road repairs, pavements and bus shelters. More money for street cleaning, Council Tax, the third lowest in Wales, a £1.93 increase. Street. Streetlights are to be switched on overnight. £15 Million will be allocated so we can consider reopening some public toilets to support events, tourism and the use of parks. More money for grass cutting. Libraries and Community Centres are to remain open. £11 million extras for schools and education. 25% extra discount on business rate eligibility for city centre businesses, combined with 40% of support from the Welsh Government, some city centre businesses will get a 65% Increase discount on business rates again this year. Funding for additional Learning needs provision and transport. £5 more for Social Services. Almost £2million more for housing. There has been £17.5 million form the Westminster Government this year.

Police, Superintendent Jason White:

There has been a reduction in Crime from October to February, between December and January a 9% reduction in crime, made up of 3% reduction in violent crime, 50% reduction in vehicle crime 44% reduction in residential burglaries 50% reduction in commercial burglaries. Home office funding of £1 million for hotspot patrols will continue for another 12 months, no change in Antisocial behaviour and robbery. There are trained police drone pilots."

8. Planning

To consider responses to:

- a) 25/0002 | REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING SINGLE GLAZED WINDOWS WITH ALUMINIUM WINDOWS ON THE FRONT ELEVATION AND UPVC WINDOWS ON THE REAR ELEVATION, AND NEW ALUMINIUM/WOOD DOORS | Old Station House Church Road Lower Machen Newport NP10 8GW – Cllrs **agreed** to submit the following comments: Graig Community Council has no objections to this application, subject to the following:
That the ecology officers' concerns regarding bats are satisfactorily addressed, including the conduct of bats surveys, if necessary.
That if the building is listed by Cadw, the council is satisfied that the proposal is consistent with legislation and any supplementary planning guidance appropriate to listed buildings.
- b) Any other planning applications received.

9. Financial Regulations and Internal Control Procedures

To review and approve updated Financial Regulations and Internal Control Procedures –

Resolved to adopt the updated Financial Regulations and Internal Control Procedures – Proposed Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Cleeve.

10. Community Centre Bookings System

To review bookings systems for Community Centres – Cllr Watts has carried out some research into automated booking systems – Cllrs **resolved** to start a free trial system for automated bookings for both community centres, this will be reviewed by council once the trial completed and decision taken whether to continue – Proposed Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Cleeve.



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11. Pump House

To consider works to the Pump House and review and consider quotations.

Two quotations have been received to carry out works to the Pump House a) £5,111.00 + VAT and b) £3,800.00 + VAT – **Resolved** to accept the quotation of £3,800.00 from Olly Thomas – Proposed Cllr Cleeve, seconded Cllr Tarr. Cllr Cleeve is to contact a contractor to remove scrap metal.

12. Finance

- To receive financial documents to 31st January 2025 – The bank reconciliation and receipts and payments summary were **received and noted**.
- To approve the following schedule of payments – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Tarr, seconded Cllr Williams.

<u>Payee</u>		<u>Amount</u>
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	Locum services (January – SD1893-1)	£2,508.00
Blacker Heating Solutions	Plumbing works Graig Hall	£324.00
Tidy Cleaning	Graig Hall – Invoice 10894	£2,332.00

Bank balance as at 31 January 2025 - £114,780.89

13. Fixed Asset Register

To review the updated fixed asset register and approve any disposals – The asset register was reviewed and it was **resolved** to approve the disposals – Proposed Cllr Cleeve, seconded Cllr Williams.

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

Meeting closed at 20.25