



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 April 2025

Members present: Cllr J Watts, Cllr M Cleeve, Cllr D Williams, Cllr L Fry & Cllr N Tarr.

Members of the Public: 3

Minutes: Cllr M Cleeve.

Meeting started at 19.00

1. Chairman's Welcome and Public Participation

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr P Appleton, Cllr J Harris, Cllr K Sayer & Cllr J Roe.
Cllr D Whittaker was absent.

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 26th March 2025 –
Resolved – Proposed Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Williams. - 4 voted for, 1 abstained – Proposal carried.

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

- a) To consider matters arising from the minutes
 - a. Abandoned car above Lower Machen is still there; Newport City Council have refused to move – Cllr Cleeve considering next steps.
 - b. Pump House refurbishment will commence in the next 4 – 6 weeks.
 - c. Replacement Smart Meter at Rhiwderin Community Centre is still outstanding (EDF).
 - d. Cllr Watts to circulate proposed letter to Matthew Evans (Head, Newport Conservative Party) regarding City Cllr, John Jones.
 - e. Cllr Cleeve to write to Gwent Police and Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner.
- b) To receive any other updates:
 - a. The Sun Dial outside Graig Community Centre has been repaired.
- c) To receive Clerk's update:
 - a. Internal Audit
 - Accounts for 2024-25 have now been sent off to the internal auditor – hopeful his report will be received in early May.
 - b. Welsh Water – Graig Hall
 - Direct debit payment to Welsh Water has been adjusted and the first payment of £180.00 has been taken on 23.04.2025.

6. Recruitment

Cllr Watts has received feedback from The Clerk on the advert and the job description and will update them and circulate to all Cllrs.

7. Bassaleg Bridge

Cllr Rhian Howells, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, was invited to the Meeting to provide an update on Bassaleg Bridge – this was in light of the Welsh Government (WG) not approving a grant for the build stage of a replacement bridge.



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- It is understood the funding process for transport will become regionalised from April 2026 and Bassaleg Bridge will come under this new process.
- £1m has been provided to carry out some provisional work (downstream flooding, utilities review).
- Two other projects were not approved, one for Newport City Council and one for Caerphilly County Borough Council. As with Bassaleg Bridge, these projects have had funding to keep them moving, but not the funding to fully commence the work.
- The meeting requested Cllr Howells discuss the option of a Baily Bridge with Newport City Council Officers.
- The meeting requested Cllr Howells discuss the option of regular face to face meetings with the residents of Forge Mews with Newport City Council Officers.
- The meeting requested Cllr Howells discuss the option placing planters on the bridge (to prevent traffic access) rather than the current fencing with Newport City Council Officers.
- Cllr Howells to confirm details of Teams Meetings that residents are invited to for updates.

8. City Councillor Reports

To receive City Cllr reports.

City Cllr Harris reported:

Council Meeting, 8th April 2025

The last Newport Council Meeting was held on the 8th of April. On the agenda the Police reported that Crime has been reducing month by month to the end of March 2025. Shoplifting was 12% of the total number and assaults of shop employee assaults was low.

Grant funding is awaited for hotspot patrols addressing antisocial behaviour, serious violent crime and knife crime and they are applying to appoint a dedicated officer to address the hotspots in the city.

The Gwent police force is using drones to address bike crime

I have not been approached by any residents with issues to take to the Council.

The question of why GCC/all Community Councils cannot publish the received Police crime data was raised. Cllr Cleeve the write to the Gwent Police & Crime Commissioner and Superintendent Jason White, Gwent Police.

9. Planning

To consider responses to planning applications received.

Cllr Tarr has been unavailable for family reasons and will request extensions to outstanding planning applications and communicate with Cllrs.

10. Publication Scheme

To review and approve draft Publication Scheme – an amendment was requested under Class 1, “Parish Office Address” to “Community Council address and that the address be added in the column to the right. **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Tarr.

11. Section 6 Report – Biodiversity

To receive an update.

- a) Cllr Cleeve outlined the requirements for GCC to provide a plan and report for Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty in line with Section 6 by the end of 2025. Cllr Cleeve and Cllr Roe will bring both documents to the Council at a future date.



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- b) To approve Cllr training on Modules 25 and 26 @ £42.00 per course per person (two Cllrs, £168 in total) – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Cleeve, seconded Cllr Watts.

12. Finance

- a) To receive financial documents to 31st March 2025 – The bank reconciliation, receipts and payments summary and budget vs actual for Q4 were **received and noted**.
- b) To write off cheques 3100 - £55.00 and 3130 - £208.00, unpresented cheques from 2023-24 – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Tarr, seconded Cllr Watts.
- c) To consider purchase of 12 no hanging baskets with reservoirs from NCC – cost £300.00 – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Cleeve, seconded Cllr Tarr.
- d) To approve the following schedule of payments – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Tarr, seconded Cllr Watts.

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
SLCC Enterprises Ltd	£2,565.00
Locum Services – March 2025 – (SD2064-1)	

Bank balance as at 31st March 2025 - £100,681.03

13. **Next Meeting** - Wednesday 28th May 2025 at 19.00 – Annual Council Meeting - Graig Community Centre and via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 20.58

These minutes were approved at the meeting held on 29th May 2025