



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 17th December 2025

Members present: Cllr Watts, Cllr Cleeve, Cllr Roe, Cllr Tarr, Cllr Williams, Cllr Sayer, Cllr Morris, Cllr Grant & Cllr Harris (arrived 19.11 hrs)

Members of the Public (MoP): 2

Absent: Cllr Fry.

Minutes: Mrs. N Goodfellow (Community Council Clerk/RFO)

Meeting started at 19.02 hrs

1. Chairman's Welcome and Public Participation

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public. Cllr Tarr acknowledged the recent tragedy in Bondi Beach and requested that it was recognised by those present.

It was proposed that item 6 (Councillor Appointment) was moved forward on the agenda and discussed before item 2. **Proposed** Cllr Tarr. **Seconded** Cllr Williams. **Voted** unanimously in favour.

Agenda Item 6 – Councillor Appointment Lisa Grant read the declaration required to become a GCC Councillor (Bassaleg Ward) and signed the declaration. The declaration was subsequently signed by the Clerk to the Council. Cllr Grant was welcomed by those present.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Appleton. Absent – Cllr Fry

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Minutes

To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th November 2025. Acceptance **Proposed** Cllr Cleeve. **Seconded** Cllr Williams. **Voted:** 6 in favour 1 abstained.

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

a) To consider matters arising from the minutes.

Item 12 – Best Kept Village. Cllr Cleeve updated that there was no delivery timescale on the planters as yet. It was highlighted that an amendment needed to be made to the authorised bulbs for the planters and it was proposed that an evergreen alternative was provided for the planters by the bridge (8 in total £100). It was also proposed that an additional £200 spend was authorized for winter / spring flowers.

Proposed Cllr Cleeve. **Seconded** Cllr Watts. **Voted** unanimously in favour.

b) To receive any other updates. Cllr Watts shared how Go Safe had attended the Ward and completed checks on car seats and provided general support and advice to residents.

Activity was well received. Cllr Tarr passed on his appreciation for the Christmas event led by Cllr Roe. Cllr Tarr also shared disappointment in the turnout for a Christmas Fayre arranged



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by a member of the public. Cllr Watts shared brief plans on additional activity proposals which could be implemented for Christmas 2026.

- c) To receive Clerk's update. The Clerk confirmed that Councillors had received relevant communications during the month via email. Details of the monthly bank transactions were shared to provide full visibility of council accounts.

6. Councillor Appointment

(see above)

7. Bassaleg Bridge

To receive an update on the Bassaleg Bridge developments. Cllr Cleeve updated that a meeting with Cllr Rhian Howells and Andrew Brookes from Newport City Council (NCC) was scheduled for 21st January 2026. Residents from Forge Mews were scheduled to attend the meeting along with GCC representatives. The agenda was expected to be sent early in the New Year. Cllr Cleeve was unaware of any other Newport City Council representatives who would be present. The delay in the erection of the green fencing and planters was due to manufacturing / production delays. An update would be provided when available. Rodent issues correlating to A465 disturbances had already been noted and traps had been set verge side as well as in Forge Mews. Appreciation was shown for the responsiveness of NCC regarding the rodent issues. Issues remained around waste management. Streetlight issues since the lights were reinstated were discussed. Slow response times from NCC regarding emergency access requests were raised. It was agreed that this would be added to the NCC agenda on 21st January 2026. The provision of Owl boxes was suggested, to potentially assist with the reduction of Rodents. Other Biodiversity initiatives currently being undertaken in other Wards were discussed and it was agreed to investigate further. It was confirmed that Resident parking would also be discussed in the January meeting. It was confirmed that Grant Hawkins (NCC Planning) has been unable to provide a date for a planning decision / outcome and it was not known whether the decision would be going to planning committee or whether it would be delegated. MoP raised concerns around the lack of transparency / involvement so far in the consultation. The importance of the decision being made by committee and not by delegated decision was discussed and it was requested Cllr Tarr contacted NCC to advise as such. MoP requested involvement in compiling agenda items and shared that they were still awaiting a response to previously noted access to information requests submitted to NCC. Concerns were raised around the stability of some of the new fencing. Cllr Cleeve agreed to follow up on this.

8. GAVO – Warm Hubs

To receive an update on progress. Cllr Watts confirmed that he and Cllr Williams would be moving this initiative forward in readiness for January. Cllr Tarr also agreed to support. A Warm Hub working group was proposed. **Proposed** Cllr Watts. **Seconded** Cllr Tarr. **Voted** unanimously in favour.

9. Planning

To consider responses to any planning applications received. Nothing to discuss.

10. Postbox Provision in Bassaleg

To review the provision of postbox availability following the removal of the postbox by Bassaleg Post Office. Cllr Williams confirmed that the postbox had been removed and was being replaced



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by a facility that would accept parcels. The Royal Mail had over concerns around lack of postbox provision. Cllr Watts shared details on the proposed solar-powered parcel boxes. Concerns were raised over the fact the Postbox had been removed before a replacement had been sourced. Existing locations of postboxes were discussed. It was requested that Cllr Tarr investigated how the replacement process worked, including whether there were any planning implications with the proposed parcel box. Details of correspondence from the Post Office with a MoP regarding concerns around the changes were shared.

11. Community Centre Upgrades

To gain approval to progress with maintenance improvements and upgrades to facilities within Ward Community Centres. It was proposed that adding a new timer to the lights on the GCC Christmas Tree would be discussed at a later date.

12. Finance

- a) To review budgets and agree the Newport City Council Precept for 2026/27. The Clerk shared the current spend versus budget. Cllr views on the proposed precept were shared. The need for Cllrs to own and implement more initiatives within the Ward was highlighted. Financial spend was discussed and a proposal made not to increase the 2026/27 Precept for Graig Ward Residents.

Proposed Cllr Sayer. **Seconded** Cllr Williams. **Voted** 7 in favour, 1 against.

20:40 hrs Cllr Sayer made his apologies and left the meeting.

It was proposed that key projects were documented and owned by Councillors in Q4, and proposals for 2026/27 projects would be brought to the January meeting.

- b) To receive financial documents to 30th November. The bank reconciliation, receipts and payments summary were received and noted. **Proposed** Cllr Tarr. **Seconded** Cllr Watts **Voted** unanimously in favour.
- c) To approve / inform the schedule of payments.

Payee		Amount
Vision ICT	Gmail annual charge Feb 25-Jan 26	£ 24.00
CPA Horticulture	Delivery surcharge for compost (paid)	£ 24.00
Defib World	Adult/Child Electrode Pads	£ 112.00
N Goodfellow	Clerk salary (inc £34.95 NI)	£ 649.98

Approval **Proposed** Cllr Watts. **Seconded** Cllr Williams. **Voted** unanimously in favour.

Cllr Watts requested that all Cllrs come to the January meeting with project expenditure proposals. Details of bench costs were shared with Cllrs and advised that a proposal to replace existing benches, would be shared at the next meeting.

13. Next Meeting



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Wednesday 28th January 2026 at 19.00 – Full Council Meeting - Graig Community Centre and via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 20.51 hrs.

DRAFT