



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Council held at
Graig Community Hall (and remotely via Zoom)
at 19.00 on Thursday 02 October 2025

Members present: Cllr J Watts, Cllr M Cleeve, Cllr L Fry, Cllr D Williams. Present via Zoom: Cllr Morris, Cllr Tarr, Cllr J Roe

Members of the Public: 5 (4 in person, 1 via Zoom)

Absent: Cllr Whittaker

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

Meeting started at 19.00hrs

1. Chairman's Welcome and Public Participation

The Chairman welcomed members of the public and introduced those present

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr K Sayer & Cllr P Appleton

3. Declarations of Interest

Members to declare an interest in any items of business on the agenda. Cllr Cleeve item 9 item 14. Cllr Watts item 14.

Cllr Watts requested approval to swap the running order items 6 & 7 (bringing Bassaleg Bridge forward to item 6) for the convenience of members of the public in attendance. Proposed Cllr Watts. Seconded Cllr Cleeve. Voted unanimously in favour.

4. Minutes

To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27th August 2025.

Resolved – Proposed Cllr Watts. Seconded Cllr Tarr. Voted unanimously in favour.

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

a) To consider matters arising from the minutes. – none

b) To receive any other update.

Cllr Cleeve – Allotments signs for planters ordered and received. Only outstanding work is the painting of the gates (scheduled 12/10/25). Rhiwderin planters (8 in total) & the rockery planter (outside Bassaleg shops) have also been refurbished.

c) To receive Clerk's update – Clerk confirmed full handover from the previous Clerk was completed. Initial Vision ICT training had been completed.

6. Bassaleg Bridge

To receive an update on the bridge - Cllr Cleeve updated on ascetic improvements and shared details of the regular meetings taking place with NCC. Issues with pest / waste control and parking permits had been escalated to Cllr Rhian Howells and a sufficient response was awaited. Meeting to be scheduled for residents and Newport City Council (NCC) / Graig Community Council (GCC) regarding pest control. Improvements to ascetics of the bridge were noted.

A member of the public (MoP) raised concerns that NCC had contacted residents for updates on pest control and were keen to consider all issues resolved when this was not the case.



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Cllr Cleeve confirmed NCC considered there was not a pest control issue by the communal bin area, so an onsite meeting had been requested.

MoP raised concerns that workers had been observed marking out potential areas for a new two-lane bridge despite there being no consultations. It was considered that a single lane bridge would be suffice.

MoPs raised concerns around lack of liaison from NCC. Questions were raised around why it was deemed acceptable to access the dual carriageway onto the 60 mph speed limit between Tredegar Park roundabout and Bassaleg Roundabout, yet it was not permitted onto a 50mph dual carriage way for Forge Mews Residents.

Concerns were raised around lack of communication from NCC around any planning application relating to new bridge proposals despite on-site assessments being witnessed.

MoPs were concerned about potentially losing their parking spaces – there were no objections to this short term, but they expected these to be returned to Residents.

It was noted that Cllr Tarr would request access to the new bridge planning application

It was noted that Cllr Williams would explore the possibility of access to Forge Mews via the Bassaleg Bypass.

MoP confirmed a discussion with NCC Structural Engineer and a subsequent request as to whether NCC were up to date with their Principal (4 year) and General (1 Year) Inspections. Concerns were raised that there appeared to be no access to inspection reports. MoP had applied for the information under the freedom of information act, but nothing had been received. A referral to the Public Service Ombudsman was suggested.

MoP advised on questioning the Welsh Government on its due diligence with having a stopping order in place for 4 years.

MoP shared concerns around being declined for a mortgage as their property in Forge Mews was considered to have zero value by the lender. GCC were advised by MoP that Stephen Jarret had confirmed by email that Compulsory Purchase Orders on Forge Mews were not being considered.

Three MoP's left the meeting at the end of the Bassaleg Bridge agenda item,

7. GAVO – Warm Hubs

To receive an update on funding application and agree next steps - Cllr Watts confirmed that the grant application to support the Warm Hubs initiative had been successful and £2.5k would be received for each Community Centre. The hub at Graig Community Centre would be set up in the first instance. Volunteer support would be sought. Questions were raised around access. It was agreed that this would be discussed as part of the planning. It was noted that Cllr Watts would arrange a meeting to drive the initiative forward.



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8. Planning

To consider responses to any planning applications received. Cllr Tarr advised there was nothing to discuss.

9. Allotments

- a) To consider amendments to revise agreement documentation. Proposed Cllr Watts. Seconded Cllr Williams. Voted 3 in room, 2 online (2 abstained due to declaration of interest). Proposals agreed.
- b) To receive an update on the Allotment Inspection – Inspection hosted by Cllr Watts on 30 August 2025. In general, the inspection showed the allotments as being maintained to a good standard. Letters to be issued to those not maintaining their allotment to the standard expected. Advised on hedge cutting scheduled for October / November. Fruit tree management / Community orchard to be discussed at a future date. Skip to be arranged October / November recycling advice. Plot 7.5 discussed with the potential of splitting the plot in half. Potential to extend the hedge to fill gaps to add security / privacy to the allotments. Noted that Cllr Cleeve is looking at biodiverse options and will report back to GCC.

Cllr Cleeve shared details of a Mastyear where the fruit trees are producing more fruit than normal. As a result, 2 shipments of apples had been shared with the Parish Trust Food Bank on weekly basis. It was noted that Cllr Cleeve would also contact the Salvation Army in Risca to see if they could make use of the additional fruit.

10. Park Bench Replacement Proposals

To consider options to replace damaged bench in Graig Park - Cllr Watts shared details of benches in the ward in need of repair and replacement. Placement of picnic tables was also discussed. Approximate costs and potential suppliers for new benches were shared. It was proposed that tenders were sought and a working group set up to take the initiative forward. It was suggested that the noticeboard refurbishment was incorporated as part of this initiative. It was requested that benches in Fort View and the one by the bus stop opposite the Rhiwderin Inn were also considered as part of the refurbishment.

It was noted that Cllr Fry would provide a list of all benches in the ward so this can be fed into the working group

It was noted that Cllr Cleeve would contact the Karate Club / family of the memorial bench. The request that the Working Group consider the opportunity for residents to purchase memorial benches was noted.

Proposal to set up a working group - Proposed Cllr Watts. Seconded Cllr Cleeve. Voted unanimously in favour.

11. Best Kept Village

To consider proposals for replacing planters. Concerns were shared about the condition of planters on the pavement by the Friendly Fox. Quotes were shared with the group (Provided by Amberol). It was



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recommended that we remained in keeping with those in the village. Six-week delivery timeframe once order is placed. Residents had confirmed they would be happy to continue to maintain the planters. Old planters will be removed free of charge.

Proposal to purchase the £1,247.95 replacement option. Proposed Cllr Cleeve. Seconded Cllr Watts. Voted unanimously in favour.

12. Community Survey

To receive an update on the Graig Community Survey. It was noted that this was still a work in progress and an update would be provided by Cllr Watts at the next meeting

13. Administration and Governance

To consider an Administration and Governance working party to update policies and procedures within GCC. Proposed that an Administration and Governance working group was set up to review and create policies on an ongoing basis. It was noted that targets/controls would be set to ensure the 31 policies were reviewed in a timely manner. Proposed Cllr Tarr. Seconded Cllr Watts. Voted unanimously in favour.

Cllr Watts, Cllr Morris, Cllr Cleeve, Cllr Tarr to form part of the group.

14. Finance

- a) To receive financial documents to 31st August 2025 – The bank reconciliation and receipts and payments summary were **received and noted**.
- b) To approve the following schedule of payments – **Resolved** – Proposed Cllr Watts. Seconded Cllr Williams. Voted unanimously in favour. Cllr Watts and Cleeve abstained on ones in relation to their individual expenses.

Schedule of Payments (processed)

Payee	Detail	Amount
One Voice Wales	New Councillor Induction (Cllr Morris)	£ 42.00
Hedyn	Grass Cutting Fort View Park (1-31 Aug)	£ 212.04
Vision ICT	Addition of Cllr Morris email	£ 14.00
Vision ICT	Clerk training (previously agreed)	£ 90.00
GCC Clerk	Clerk Wages 11-31 August 2025	£ 529.88
Rawlins Paints	Painting materials authorised 27/8/25	£129.14
Cllr M Cleeve	Painting materials authorised 27/8/25	£ 31.00
Cllr J Watts	Expenses (inc. Office supplies)	£187.15



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Payments to be Scheduled:

SLCC	Locum fees August 2025	£ 2,785.68
JGS Ltd	Planters Clean up	£ 150.00
Tidy Ext Cleaning	Allotment gates / planters etc	£ 665.00
Vision ICT	Hosted Email A/c Dec 25-Nov 26	£ 72.00
Griffiths Signs	Planter signage as approved August	£1,113.60

It was noted that Cllr Williams would enquire about the settlement on the 2024 invoice and send details to the Clerk if appropriate.

15. Next Meeting

Wednesday 29th October 2025 at 19.00 – Full Council Meeting - Graig Community Centre and via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 20:50 hrs