



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 July 2026

Members present: Cllr Watts (Chair), Cllr Cleeve (Vice-Chair), Cllr Tarr, Cllr Grant, Cllr Davis, Cllr Williams & Cllr Morris

Members of the Public (MoP): 1

Absent: Cllr Harris

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

Meeting started at 1901 hrs.

1. Chairman's Welcome and Public Participation

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and the member of the public. Cllr Watts announced that Mrs M Brookes (Forge Mews Resident) sadly passed away last week and offered the condolences of the Graig Community Council. It was understood there may have been some issues with Emergency Services Access to Forge Mews, which would be followed up with the Resident's family at an appropriate time.

MoP introduced himself.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Sayer.

It was noted that no response had been received from Newport City Council representatives.

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 24 June May 2026.

Proposed: Cllr Tarr. **Seconded:** Cllr Watts. **Voted:** In favour (Cllr Morris abstained due to being absent from the meeting)

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of attendance of Cllr Harris at GCC meetings.

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

- To consider matters arising from the minutes. None
- To receive any other updates.

Cllr Cleeve provided an update on a meeting with residents regarding Neal Soils. Cllr Williams declared an interest in any matters relating to Neal Soils. Cllr Tarr raised concerns around the amount of dust on hedges in the area. His points were noted.

It was confirmed that issues around raw sewage in a Rhiwderin brook (leading to the River Ebbw) had been resolved.



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The toilet block flooring at Rhiwderin Community Centre would be completed by the end of the week.

Biodiversity meeting with One Voice Wales Representative, Rachel Carter, would take place on 24 August 2026 at 11am, Graig Community Centre. Councillors and members of the public were invited to attend.

c) To receive Clerk's update.

Relevant correspondence had been shared via email. It was confirmed that all Councillor payments had been made in July. The Clerk had attended a further upskill session with Scribe regarding automated / digital AGAR submissions.

Councillors were reminded that full access to GCC accounts was available via their Scribe account.

The Clerk had submitted the required full audit information to Audit Wales via a secure portal which closed on 24 July 2026. Audit Wales would request read only access to Scribe when they complete the Audit but no time scales had been provided.

6. Bassaleg Bridge

To receive an update on the bridge improvements / replacement.

It was confirmed that all Senedd Members had been written to, and meetings had taken place with Art Wright (Reform) on 8th July and Natasha Asghar (Conservative) on 24 July

Forge Mews Residents (FMR) were commended for how they shared their stories with Senedd. A summary of actions was shared.

Peredur Owen Griffith and Lyn Ackerman have visited the Bassaleg Bridge area and met with Cllr Grant and were scheduled to attend a meeting with GCC and FMRs on 31 July 2026

A meeting with Jayne Bryant (Labour) was scheduled for September.

A follow up meeting with the Leader of Newport City Council (NCC) and other NCC representatives was scheduled for 24 August 2026.

An outcome from John Blackwell's planning application was overdue.

It was confirmed that the overgrowth on the River Ebbw edge had been attended to following escalation by Art Wright.

It was noted that an appeal could be lodged with NCC for the delay in a response from planning. The Clerk agreed to liaise with One Voice Wales with regards to additional support that could be



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provided should an appeal be launched. An update on the potential appeal would be provided at the next meeting.

MoP raised questions around the correlation between planning permission and funding being approved and the associated timescales.

Cllr Watts confirmed that GCC would be requesting evidence that the £10m funding request for the original Bassaleg Bridge application was actually submitted.

Cllr Watts confirmed that despite NCC confirming Google directions for Emergency Services had been updated, this didn't appear to be the case.

The ascetics of the new Bassaleg Bridge signage were discussed.

Cllr Williams suggested that "telephone linked" access could be explored for Emergency Services so this could be discussed with NCC. Alternative options for access would also be requested.

It was confirmed that a "No Stopping" sign had been erected by the By-pass entrance, but some appeared to be ignoring the signage and still parking in the area.

7. No Item

Cllr Watts explained that an Item 7 had been omitted from the agenda in error

8. Council Policies and Procedures Review Working Group

To sign off the latest policies and procedures reviewed by the Working Group

a) Clerk's Delegated Powers

Cllr Tarr shared details of the proposed Clerk's Delegated Powers Policy. Changes were highlighted. The maximum limit for emergencies would be raised from £500 to £3,000 Payment had been updated from Cheque to BACS.

Acceptance **Proposed:** Cllr Tarr. **Seconded:** Cllr Watts. **Voted:** Unanimously in favour

b) Model Safeguarding Policy

The proposed new Safeguarding policy was shared. It was confirmed that One Voice Wales (OVW) had provided input.

Acceptance **Proposed:** Cllr Tarr. **Seconded:** Cllr Cleeve. **Voted:** Unanimously in favour.

The Clerk confirmed that she would upload the policies onto the GCC website.



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Cllr Tarr confirmed that the next policy to review would be General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It was suggested that Cllr Tarr liaised with OVW and also looked at best practice from other Councils. The next Working Group was scheduled for Monday 3rd August 2026 at 7pm.

9. Planning

To consider responses to any planning applications received and opportunity to ask questions around the latest planning report.

Cllr Tarr shared details on the planning application ref 26/0548. No comments had been logged on the portal. A number of questions were asked around the application and satisfactory responses were received. It was proposed that no objections would be made. **Proposed:** Cllr Watts.

Seconded Cllr Williams. **Voted:** 7 in favour, 1 against. Cllr Tarr agreed to submit GCC response to NCC

26/0574 - was highlighted. It was confirmed that Cllr Tarr would put a proposed comment in the planner and share with Councillors for further comment.

10. Finance

- a) To receive financial documents to 30th June 2026. The bank reconciliation, receipts and payments summary were received and noted.
- b) To approve / inform the schedule of payments.

Payee		Amount
N Goodfellow	Clerk Salary June 26 (inc tax/NI)	£847.80
Hedyn	Fort View Park Grass cutting June	£212.04
Audit Wales	Audit Fees 1024/25	£185.60
SW Directories	½ page advert *	£ 25.00*
Riley	Period Poverty Project / Trial	£ 333.94**

* Already paid ** Already paid /approved in June meeting

Acceptance **Proposed:** Cllr Watts. **Seconded:** Cllr Tarr. **Voted:** Unanimously in favour.

11. Task and Project Management

To review, discuss and approve project proposals for 2026/27.

Proposed that Cllr Cleeve would discuss items a, c & d and then Cllr Watts would cover items b & e .
Proposed: Cllr Watts. **Seconded:** Cllr Cleeve. **Voted:** Unanimously in favour.

a) Cleaning the outside path around the building perimeter of Rhiwderin Community Centre

Moss build up at Rhiwderin Community Centre was discussed. A proposed quote from Tidy Exterior Cleaning was provided to effectively remove the moss and tidy the area. A breakdown of the quote £939.43 (plus a potential additional £10 fuel charge if required) had already been shared with Councillors.



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Questions around the quotation were asked and answered to the satisfaction of Councillors

Proposed: Cllr Cleeve. **Seconded:** Cllr Williams **Voted:** Unanimously in favour

b) CCTV Provision at Graig Community Centre

Cllr Watts provided background relating to the proposal. A few anti-social behavior incidents outside of the Community centre and an incident inside of the Community Centre were highlighted. A couple of incidents had also taken place where cars in the car park had been damaged and broken into. The latter incident had been reported to Gwent Police.

It was proposed that we looked to consider quotes for CCTV to cover the Community Centre / Park / Car Park so GCC could work collaboratively with Gwent Police if required. Initial enquiries had been made into the cost of this initiative.

Questions around the usage of the GCC park were asked, all of which were answered by Cllr Watts. The detailed quote had already been shared with Cllrs and was shared again with members. It was proposed that further quotes would be obtained and stakeholders would be engaged, and Cllr Watts would bring proposals to the next meeting in August 2026.

Proposed: Cllr Watts. **Seconded:** Cllr Grant **Voted:** Unanimously in favour

c) Playground / Park repairs

Details were shared on the recent inspection of our ward parks had identified issues with some of the equipment in the play area / Graig Park. This included damage to the bucket swing (which had been taken away). Swing repairs would amount to £1,500. Damage to the gate closing mechanism was highlighted (Repair cost £560). Trees were also in need of being cut back, and moss treated (Cost of £350).

Severe damage to the overlaying flooring under the Titan multi swing device was highlighted. Despite repairs being made previously, this was now in need of being replaced. The repair for the flooring was quoted as £7,250. It was proposed that holes were filled and a fresh layer of flooring added. Images of the holes were shared with those present. The cost of removing the entire surface and replacing the flooring was considered to be excessive.

It was highlighted that Council had attempted to obtain further quotes for the work but no response / quote was received. The requirement to go with approved suppliers was shared and a prompt response was required. As a result of the urgency of these repairs it was suggested that the standing order relating to financial orders was suspended for this agenda item. **Proposed:** Cllr Tarr. **Approved:** Cllr Williams. **Voted:** Unanimously in favour.

Acceptance of the quotation: **Proposed:** Cllr Cleeve. **Seconded:** Cllr Williams **Voted:** Unanimously in favour

d) Bassalegs Shops / Planter Tidy Up



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Ascetics of the planters outside Bassaleg shops were discussed.

20:38 hrs - meeting adjourned for a comfort break

20:40 hrs meeting reconvened.

A quote had been obtained to declutter, prune, cut and paint the area at a cost of £575 plus VAT was shared. With fortnightly maintenance (March to October) of £40 plus vat per visit. Cllr Tarr agreed to look at a memorial plaque for a former Cllr. This would be brought to a future meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Cleeve. **Seconded:** Cllr Grant **Voted:** Unanimously in favour

e) GCC Charity Event - discuss and approve funding for August event

Cllr Watts had been approached by a resident (hall user) who wanted to put on an event for Cystic Fibrosis on 31st August 2026. It was suggested that we collaborated with said resident and provided the venue and a budget to support a community event for GCC residents.

It was requested that the GCC meeting was extended by 5 minutes. **Proposed:** Cllr Tarr. **Seconded:** Cllr Watts. **Voted:** Unanimously in favour.

It was suggested that a charity tug of war could also be incorporated. This would be explored further with another resident.

It was suggested that a maximum budget of £5,000 was allocated to this initiative. **Proposed:** Cllr Watts. **Seconded:** Cllr Cleeve **Voted:** Unanimously in favour.

It was asked that associated costs were invoiced direct to the Clerk to ensure transparency. Further updates would be provided.

11. Next Meeting

Wednesday 26th August 2026 at 19.00 – Full Council Meeting - Graig Community Centre and via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 21.04 hrs.