

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE GANOLFAN, ARTHOG, ON 6/07/2016

390. Present: Cllr J. Haycock(Chairman),Cllr P. Parker, Cllr P. Thomas, Cllr P. Roberts, Cllr Wiles, Cllr Eves, Cllr L. Hughes (County Councillor) Mrs. S. Williams (Clerk).

391. In Attendance

Lisa Marshall Gwynedd Council

392. Apologies: Cllr J. Kirkham, Cllr Scott, Cllr D. Hughes.

|

393. Guest Speaker- Phil Bennet-Lloyd JBA Consulting

Mr Bennet-Lloyd gave an update of the current position with the Fairbourne Learning Project and how to progress and to learn lessons. A draft bulletin will be published shortly highlighting key points. This bulletin will be available locally and on the Welsh Government website. Due to cost implications, there will not be any hard copies. However, as a caveat, some may be available and ACC can have a hard copy. ACC will be expected to study the document and give feedback.

Cllrs Haycock and Thomas explained that consideration needs to give that there will not be a full Council meeting until September.

Cllr Parker suggested that every Councillor should have a copy and to give their consideration

It is expected that the bulletin will be published in November. Mr Bennet-Lloyd reiterated that the report in it's current format was still a draft document.

Lisa Marshall stressed the need to compromise and to ensure that the correct decisions are made.

Cllr Wiles questioned how would this be 'fed' to the people of Fairbourne, as this may influence the way that decisions are made. The decisions should be positive and constructive.

Questions were also asked as to where the critical areas of change are and how would the vulnerability of the village be managed. More understanding on the fluvial and ground water risks is needed.

Lisa Marshall mentioned that a letter to accompany the bulletin would be helpful to explain the situation in simple terms and not to use Jargon.

As this issue was a great importance for the residents of Fairbourne, it was felt that public meetings should continue. Lisa Marshall mentioned the weekly drop-in meetings to be held in September and Mr Bennet-Lloyds attendance is most welcomed.

Cllr Eves stated that the residents of Fairbourne felt that they had been let down and they need to know that things are happening .i.e. Friog Corner.

The Council agreed that NRW attend the next meeting in September.

Cllr Wiles will e-mail a summary of the document to the Councillors and for them to prepare feedback. Once the Councillors have had a a chance to digest and respond to Cllr Wiles Summary a response will be submitted by 20th July 2016.

Declaration of Interests: -

Cllr Roberts declared an interest to agenda item 13. 'To Deal with any Planning

Applications'.

394. To Receive Special Announcement from the Chair:-

The Chair thanked Cllr Scott for all his hard work.

395. To confirm Minutes of Meeting Held on 1st June 2016

The minutes held on 1st June 2016 were accepted as correct and duly signed.

396. Matters arising from minutes:-

384 (a) Agenda Item

(d) Agenda Item

(e) Agenda Item

385 The Clerk has yet to receive a reply from the Highways department.

388 The Clerk to invite FFC to a future meeting.

397. To confirm minutes of EGM held on 29th June.

The minutes held on 29th June 2016 were accepted as correct and duly signed.

There were no matters arising

398. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that the notice for the Casual Vacancy has been placed in the ACC notice boards.

The Clerk informed the meeting that she would not be available for the first two weeks in October. This will be discussed at the meeting on 7th September 2016.

399. Specific Items Brought to Attention

a) Monthly Councillor Surgery.

The Councillors agreed that this was a good idea and the surgeries would go ahead.

b) Cemetery Matters.

Mr Rees, Undertaker, reminded ACC that they are responsible for paying the gravedigger. Mr Rees suggested that the undertaker pay the gravedigger as part of his service and ACC will charge a flat rate of £200 'opening fee'.

Proposed by Cllr Thomas Seconded by Cllr Wiles.

c) Fairbourne Flood Plan Update

Cllr Scott reported that to date, out of the 456 residences within the Flood Plan, 438 have registered to receive flood warnings. 4 residences have refused, 6 residences are vacant and are up for sale. While 8 residences have still to be registered.

Those who have refused to register have been recorded on the NRW information site.

Mr M. Burrows and Cllr Scott have met and discussed the website. Clerk to put as an Agenda Item for the September meeting.

d) Information Board

Photographs were shown and Cllr Scott gave a report on the present situation and

his positive meeting with Tourism Officer, Mr Alun Williams. Mr Williams intends to visit Fairbourne and see the plan of the layout of what would be on the board. The Clerk to put this as an Agenda item for the September Meeting.

e) Penrhyn Point Overnight Parking

Cllr Scott reported that there were a number of problems encountered during the Whitsun holiday. There had been as many as 13 motor homes camping overnight. Cllrs Scott, Roberts and Kirkham have had problems when approaching the owners of the motor homes. Some Councillors were of the opinion that Gwynedd Council should be more proactive in dealing with this situation. Lack of enforcement officers was seen as an issue.

Cllr Wiles has agreed to carry out research into the appropriate by-laws and TRO's. Cllr L.. Hughes was asked if she could bring the matter up at a full Gwynedd Council Meeting, as there were potential public health issues and also the defilement of an SSSI.

The Clerk was also asked to e-mail Gwynedd Council once again on this issue.

f) Beach Road Car Park Fencing

Cllr Scott has spoken to Les Hunt, who has told him that the work to repair the damage will commence week 4th July.

g) Complaint -Glan Y Mor Bins

Cllr Scott- following up on a complaint made to a PCSO regarding waste bins blocking the paths in Glan-y Mor, Cllr Scott was asked by PC Hall to consider letter drops. Cllr Scott noticed that the bins had been blocking the drop down kerb, making it impossible for wheelchair access. This problem was only seen on 'bin-day'.

400. Correspondence

Dail Dysynni- requesting financial assistance- To be discussed at the September meeting.

Fairbourne, Friog and Arthog Senior Citizens -requesting financial assistance – To be discussed at the September meeting.

Gwynedd Council -Street Enforcement Scrutiny Questionnaire .

Gwynedd Council- Works Programme June 2016.

Gwynedd Council- Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic -Beach Road Fairbourne.

Welsh Government -Buildings Regulations Advisory Committee for Wales, recruitment of Additional Members.

Unllais- Financial regulations - Model for consideration.

Welsh Government-Statement by Mark Drakeford, Collection and Management of Devolved Taxes.

Gwynedd Council- Salt bin-response needed by 1st July. ACC agree that GC to fill bins. Cllr Roberts to check locations and condition of salt bins.

Gwynedd Council- to arrange extra collection of dog waste bin during summer months.

Shelter Cymru- requesting financial support- ACC decided against this request.

Gwynedd Council- Closure of public toilets. ACC wanted to know if revenue from Car park could be used fund the toilets as is the case in Barmouth. Total needed is more

than the current precept and this would need to be doubled. The Clerk to contact GC. Gwynedd Council – Amendments to Code of Conduct. Gwynedd Council- Land at Morfa Friog - Cllr Wiles to access Land Registry. ACC will pay for search. Cllr Wiles to report in September meeting.

401. Planning Applications

Having declared an interest in this agenda item Cllr Roberts left the room.

No observations were made.

SNPA NP/5/53/337D Erection of porch extension Is y Rhod Arthog. LL39 1YU

402. Financial Report and Payments Made

No Bank Statements were available for the meeting. The use of the Youth Account was discussed, Clerk was to establish how much interest has been acquired in the last ten years.

Payments made:-

Stamps £12.80

Internal Audit Postage £26.60

P.Cook, Gravedigger £ 500

L..C .Jones Grass Cutting Arthog Cemetery £196

403. Representatives Reports

Cllr Parker **Fairbourne Moving Forward Multi-Agency Project: Masterplan Sessions**

“From now onwards this meeting will form part of the Project Work Group meetings to reduce expense and travel.

Project Work Group Meeting – 24 May 2016

Project Spend update

General Project spend (admin, meetings stationary, translation etc) - £50k

Last year Gwynedd were expected to contribute 15% of this money. This figure has now been increased to 25%. Bid in for £75k.

Approval received for the following:

Management/Action Plans (Masterplan) - £24k

Community Resilience & Self Sufficiency - £21K

BTL Feasibility - £14k

Work started on the Masterplan without funding. Funding is now approved and waiting agreement from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children, Carl Sargeant.

Property Condition Surveys (37 requests received) - £15k

Welsh Language

This subject is emotive. The Welsh Language Act is determining that the Fairbourne Project costs are inflated by the need for its documentation to be published bilingually yet there has not been one single request from the Fairbourne Community for a Welsh translation other than the original anonymous complaint about a Poster being printed in English only.

It is understood that the cost to Gwynedd County Council last year for bilingualism was £750,000.

This matter remains unresolved.

House Prices

Lisa Marshal has contacted both HSBC and Barclays regarding their “60 year” rule but has no further contact except Barclays' initial contact from the N. Wales Regional Manager.

Council Tax Reduction

John Wynn Jones, Cabinet Member for Environment has stated that this is not going to be possible. It is also understood that Gwynedd are proposing to adopt the Anglesey approach of levying a 100% load on second homes in the area.

Supplementary FAQs

An FAQ update is now available for the questions raised at the Public meetings in January although Welsh translations are still awaited. Discussion ensued relating to the proposal not to deliver a copy to each household but rely on the website electronic version and to have copies available in strategic places such as the village hall, shops and businesses etc.

The Fairbourne Moving Forward Website is expected to have has the facility to select the questions relating to specific headings available soon.

Buy to Let Public meeting

76 members of the Community attended.

There is concern about the level of misinformation that is being spread. Lisa Marshall was shocked to hear that one elderly man come to her and ask if it was true that he would be evicted from his home at short notice to let his property. This is of course totally incorrect and proves that these public information meetings are vital to quell gossip!

After talking to a number of Housing Associations it is evident that they expect at least a 38 year window (as opposed to the originally thought 21) to consider Fairbourne property. Thus unfortunately HA's are not interested in the Fairbourne opportunity which they consider to be too high a risk.

The following opportunities are still being explored.

- Gwynedd Council Strategic Housing Manager has expressed an keenness to identify properties (Flats &/or bungalows) that could become older people's managed housing, similar in concept to ExtraCare or McCarthy & Stone but of lower cost. Lisa is expecting to visit him on 23 June to discuss this opportunity.
- There is at least one organisation willing to rent out FB properties
- There are also companies that buy houses for holiday lets
- CIC (Community Interest Company). This would need adequate funding – would Welsh Government be prepared to pump prime such a venture?

There is a **serious implication** for anyone who might receive a lump sum payment for their property as this could compromise any benefits they receive.

Natural Resources Wales

Friog Corner

Press Release published – No further update

NRW Asset inspection

NRW Inspectors re to visit Fairbourne to inspect their assets to ensure their integrity e.g. Sea Wall; Sluice Gates and water courses. Their functionality is to be assessed by the Operations Team.

Morfa Friog

Louise Pennington is to ask for an environmentalist to monitor the condition of the area.

Masterplan Model

A draft report is expected by November 2016.

Model will identify:

- What will happen, when
- What will that cause
- What will need to be done about it

There is insufficient Ground Water monitoring history so a flood risk consultancy called WaterCo has been engaged to help (£7k)

An environmental barrister has been appointed by Gwynedd partly to advise the Project on the implications of "decommissioning" Fairbourne.

Gwynedd are also proposing to use a "Social Researcher", potentially a PhD student from Bangor University to study the Social impact on Fairbourne.

The Gwynedd Council Fairbourne Moving Forward Project are also considering the potential for holding "surgeries" as the Masterplan is rolled out to help counter its alarming content.

Welsh Government appointed Researchers

The Researchers have issued their first "Learning document" to the Welsh Government.

The FMF Project have also fed back to Welsh Government their concerns about the apparent lack of interest and motivation for the Project shown by the Researchers.

Incident Reporting

A draft "Contact List" has been produced for distribution to the Fairbourne Community containing the phone numbers to call in the event of a variety of emergency situations. E.g. Breaches, Landslips, Sewers etc."

Cllr Eves - **Fairbourne Railway** :- Reported that the Bank holiday/Whitsun weekend had been very successful and Mr Burrows had worked very hard.

Cllr Wiles - **Fairbourne Village Hall** :- Some tenders have been received and more tenders are needed. The deadline for finishing the work was scheduled to be November, however, this is now more likely to be the New Year.

Cllr Haycock - **Ysgol Y Friog** :- Cllr Haycock met with the budgetary office, there was a £1000 overspend last year. The budget has already been set for the next academic year, this will be last budget set for the school. Currently there are 35 pupils in the school and this does not affect the income from the budget.

The Welsh language unit has been in the school for a term, however, no extra finance has been received.

Teaching posts will be advertised nationally.

Cllr Scott - **Fairbourne Golf Club** :- reported that the Golf Club was still experiencing some financial difficulties. An appeal has been made to the Valuation Tribunal Service Wales, to get the rates abolished as the Golf club are the only business that pays business rates in the Community.

Presently the rateable value of £8,800, this has been reduced to £7,800 but cannot reduce any further due to the fact that as they are a golf club different rules apply and currently the golf club pay the lowest business rates in Gwynedd for a Golf Club. Cllr Scott went onto report that they are now seeking further information from Royal St David's Golf Club regarding becoming a Community Amateur Sports Club and may also have to involve the Community Council. If the application to become a CASC is successful then the rates can be waived completely.

404. To Receive Councillors Questions.

Questions were raised during the presentation

405 . Date of Next Meeting.

Wednesday 7th September 2016

Meeting Closed 10:00pm