

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE GANOLFAN, ARTHOG 7th DECEMBER 2016

452. Present: Cllr J Haycock, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr P Thomas, Cllr P Parker, Cllr (Mrs) D Hughes, Cllr M Scott (Acting Clerk)

453. Apologies: Cllr J Kirkham, Cllr S Eves, Cllr M Wiles, Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes (Gwynedd Councillor)

454. Declaration of Interests: None

455. To receive any Special Announcements from the Chairman: None

456. To Confirm: Minutes of of the Meeting 2nd November 2016. The minutes were accepted as being correct. Proposed by Cllr P Roberts and seconded by Cllr P Thomas. Confirmation of Minutes of Precept, Proposed by Cllr P Thomas, seconded by Cllr M Scott.

457. Matters arising from the Minutes:- None

458. Clerks Report: The Clerk had written to the Highways Officer, Trevor ap Iwan pointing out that the de-resriktion signs had still not been removed. Original letter dated 12th October 2016.

There had been a reply from the Highways regarding the Ragwort on the Grass verges, saying that they did not own the land in question. The Clerk was asked to write to the NRW as they now owned the land and that some of the Ragwort was within SSSI and what their position was. Cllr P Parker had visited the Fairbourne Railway regarding the Ragwort in the sand dunes. He had few or no staff available to remove it as it was regarded as 'Low Risk', and so it was to be left as it is.

The Clerk had attended the monthly surgery the previous week and the owner of Station House had pointed out that the walls on either side of the entrance to the Station Car Park had been damaged as well as the shrubbery with the Flower Beds were overgrow. The Clerk had taken photos and that he was to send them to the Highways Department.

The same resident had also mentioned that there had been a couple incidents where furniture had been fly tipped at the end of Car Park. He had taken the matter into his hands and rung the Council and they had come and removed the items.

The Clerk had returned the survey regarding the maintenance of the footpaths following discussions with Cllr P Roberts. The Clerk had also pointed out to him that Footpath 13 stretched from the Fairbourne Railway Passing Loop down to Penrhyn Point. Cllr Roberts was to discuss the matter further as a matter on the Agenda.

The Clerk had also informed Cllr Roberts that a new style was due to be erected on Footpath 22 which stretches from Cyfannedd Fawr and then in a North Easterly direction to the Drovers Road. We assumed that the style was being put in close to the RAF Memorial.

The invoice for the maintenance of the footpaths in 2016 had been returned along with the survey to Gwynedd Council.

The Clerk had spoken with Les Hunt of Hunt Engineering earlier in the day and he was due to cut down the damaged fencing at the Play Park later that day and hopefully replace the new fencing the following week.

459. Specific Items Brought to Attention: Penrhyn Point Update (a):

Cllr Wiles had tendered his apologies to the meeting due to ill health and so an update was not possible. In order that the Chairman and Cllrs Kirkham and Scott were kept in the loop, Cllr Wiles had been asked to forward any emails that he had written or received, to them. It was felt that we needed to continue to move the problem of overnight parking forward. The Clerk was asked to write to Cllr Wiles to express their regret of his suffering of poor health and that Cllrs Kirkham and Scott were quite happy to take the problem back on again. Cllr Parker said that as there was a meeting of FFC next Tuesday when he would have the opportunity to have a quiet word with Cllr Wiles. The Council hoped that his health would improve.

459. (b). Fairbourne Community Flood Plan Website Update: Cllr Scott had been to see Elfed ap Gomer and had discussed the layout of the website. It was to be hoped that each Councillor would be able to view the website before it goes live. This would be done by them being given a temporary password to access the site.

459. (c). Tennis Court Update: Cllr Scott said that despite his putting an appeal in the Sibrydion, as yet there had been no interest in setting up a Tennis Club. Would hope for better interest in the New Year.

459. (d). Footpath 13: Cllr Roberts had been informed by Cllr Scott that Footpath 13 stretched down to Penrhyn Point via Morfa Friog. As it was a footpath that came under our jurisdiction and was subject to be maintained by the Community Council. He pointed out that all these footpaths must be kept open. In this case it is constantly waterlogged and we have a statutory obligation to keep it open. No information on its closure or diverting it had been received by this council.

Cllr Scott was confronted by Mr John Evans about 3 weeks ago when at a meeting he had with the NRW, he had told them about the footpath. The response from the NRW was that it was the Community Council's responsibility to maintain it. The Clerk was asked to write to One Voice Wales with as much information as possible in order to seek further advice on the next way forward. The Ramblers Association had been mentioned as another body to contact. It was felt that we should wait until we had heard back from One Voice Wales.

459. (e). Information Boards & Friog Community Council Board: Cllr Scott had met the Planning Officer for Gwynedd in Cae Penarlag. The meeting was very positive and the Officer was very helpful. He suggested that once the Boards had been approved by the CC and a draft plan had been drawn up by the Sign Maker, that the plan be sent to him. In order for the Boards to have a smoother ride through the Planning Dept, that as much of the sign as possible should be bilingual. Cllr Scott took this on board. Gwyn Evans also hoped that each sign could come under one application at £90 and not each sign costing £90. The Tourism Officer Alun Fon Williams had been helpful in offering organisations who we could apply to for Grants – one of them was Gwynedd Council! Cllr Scott had spoken with Silvia Stephenson MBE with regarding to having her help in filling in these forms etc.

At this stage Cllr Scott was only aware that Lisa Marshall was able to offer the Community Council the funding for the Noticeboard in Friog.

On the Wednesday following the meeting on the previous Monday, Cllr Scott received a call from the Planning Officer informing him that each sign had be accompanied with a seperate planning application. In the meantime Lisa Marshall had offered to pay for all the signs but still felt that we should not have to pay for an application for each, but she informed Cllr Scott that she would pay for the applications if necessary. She was due to speak with the Planning Officer. One of the Information Boards is self funded and with the money available, this funding should pay for the installation and the planning application.

Tenders for the Noticeboard and the Information Boards had been sent out and received back and were to be sent to Lisa Marshall for her perusal.

459. (f) To deal with any Correspondence: Letters had been received from The British Red Cross for a donation to be used locally. The decision was that whilst it was a good cause, we were unable to help at this time.

An alleged right of way in front of Mawddach Crescent to Barmouth Bridge. No decision was taken and no reply was to be sent.

Footpath 22 was dealt with earlier. A letter had been received from Gwynedd Council regarding the Salt Bins. There will be a charge to service each bin from the Summer of 2017 of £40 per bin and then a charge of £60 per bin if requested during the Winter

1st October 2017 - 30th April 2018. All the bins were to be checked at the end of the Winter for re-filling. The Chairman and Cllr Roberts had checked all the bins and all were full with the exception of one bin. Cllr Roberts was asked to map out as to where all these bins were. One bin had a hole in and was to be reported to Gwynedd Council by the Clerk.

459. (g) Planning Applications: An application had been received from Snowdonia National Park regarding **Hen Long, Friog, for a Certificate of Lawfulness of an Existing Use or Development.** The owners wish to use the land between 1st April and 30th September every year for holiday and leisure purposes. No objections had been raised. No objections had been raised either at a previous application when the period was for Winter use.

459.(h). Precept Update: Prior to this meeting, a meeting had been held to discuss the Precept from April 2017. The Chairman outlined his view that we should we should act with constraint especially with donations, and that any donations are made once a year and that we should keep a figure of £500 set aside for these applications.

459. (i). Financial Report and Statement:

The current account stood at £5,903.79

To Pay Out:	LC Jones	Grass Cutting	£98.00
	M Scott	Wreath /Stat/Post	93.04
	Vodaphone	Line Rental	12.60
	Arthog VH	Hire of Room	165.00
	Arthog VH	Donation	1000.00
	Fairbourne VH	Donation	<u>1000.00</u>
			2368.64

Total Balance after Expenditure **£3535.15**

Business Reserve 4/11/2016 **£4738.25**

Business Reserve Youth Account 4/11/2016 **£7707.37**

Cllr Scott had been in to the NatWest Bank in Dolgellau and asked about online banking for the Council. It was explained to him that it was not possible to have both online banking transfers etc and also signatories on the cheques at the same time. Easier for things to stay as they are but he felt that somebody on the Council should have access atleast to finding out the Balance of the accounts as there are occasions when the statements do not arrive until after a monthly meeting has been held.

459 (i) Representative Reports:

Cllr Parker gave a brief report on the findings that had been conducted by Charlotte Beattie as part of the Fairbourne Moving Forward Project. The Community Council came out well in the report which was generally supportive to them. A full report can be seen if you went on to the Fairbourne Moving Forward Facebook site. Cllr Parker was thanked for his report.

Cllr Scott told the meeting that there had been an IDD (Internal Drainage District) area meeting down at the Afon Dysynni to discuss further work down there. The mouth of the river had been changed so that the water went in a straight line, and not round the bend into the sea. Work was to start by also digging a channel through the silted Broadwater for a quicker outflow of the river water towards the sea.

NRW machinery in Fairbourne had now been removed, but Cllr Scott said that there were two areas that they need to come back to address. A section behind Tremorfa Close and an area at the back of the Golf Course just before the Outfall. It will be interesting to see as to how all the work the NRW have done over the Autumn stands up over the next few months.

Cllr Thomas told Cllrs, that LC Jones would keep his rates the same as this year for the forthcoming year.

In the absence of Cllr Kirkham due to ill health, his report was read out after he had attended the **Barmouth Harbour Advisory Meeting**.

Due to staff shortages and a broken down launch, they were unable to police the launching of boats from Penrhyn Point and check their insurance etc. There had been a complaint regarding 'safe route' for ferries. There was no official route, but leisure craft were expected to give way to passenger traffic. A route had been suggested but Cllr Kirkham had objected most strongly and indicated that the route suggested was totally unsuitable.

Most Ferry operators were operating correctly, but one operator tended not to work as a 'team', and as a result they kept a close eye on him, even though they all operate separately. There is a fair amount of maintenance work is due to be carried out during the Winter, but Cllr Kirkham felt that being short staffed meant that the Harbour Master would not be able to complete this work. He was assured that if this were the case other staff could be drafted in from elsewhere.

The Pontoon structure in the harbour is failing due to poor construction. The structure should have been piled which is contrary to the contractors view. One ferry operator had asked that cleats be affixed to the structure to help fix his ferry, but this had been refused. Cllr Kirkham was unclear as to the reason.

A request had been made for a petrol fueling area to be installed. This had been refused on H & S issues. The idea was that all petrol driven boats could refuel more easily.

459. (j) Councillors Questions:

Cllr Parker asked as to where the Community Council stood in relation to the residents Wellbeing within the Community and elsewhere. One answer was to make sure as to when information became available, that it was put up on the Community Council Noticeboards for all the residents within the Community to take note off. The Clerk remembers a few months ago that Mrs Silvia Stephenson MBE, offered to come to speak to the Community Council about the subject, but it she was turned down at the time due to lack of speaking time available.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 4th January @ 7pm

Meeting closed at 21.05