

## ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE GANOLFAN, ARTHOG on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 @7pm**

**520. The Chairman welcomed those present and that the minutes of the meeting would be conducted by means of a tape recorder as agreed by Once Voice Wales, this would enable the Council to carry on its business.**

**521. Present: Cllr M Scott (Chairman), Cllr J Kirkham, Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley Cllr B Woolley, Cllr P Thomas, Cllr S Eves, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr J Haycock, Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes (Gwynedd Cllr) + Cllr (Mrs) R Stott (on adoption).**

**522. Apologies: Nil**

**523. Declaration of Interest: Nil**

**524. To Receive any special announcement from the Chairman: None**

**525. To Confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**

These were proposed by Cllr Kirkham and seconded by Cllr Roberts. All in favour.

**526. Matters Arising:** Many of the matters arising would be covered in matters brought to attention.

**527. Clerks Report:** The clerk had received a call from a resident in Heol Seithendre regarding cars being parked on pavements and as she is an owner of a 'motorbility scooter' there are many occasions when she finds her way blocked and has to resort to using the road. I contacted the PCSO who came down and spoke to the offending car owners. She also brought to my attention of overgrown shrubbery across the pavement between the former petrol station and the telephone exchange in Friog. Her way was totally blocked and no help was available. I reported this to the Council and was impressed with the speed with which the problem was resolved. I now have a direct line with Sion Wilkes should there be any other problems. I have since spoken with the Sion about the damaged wall and overgrown shrubbery in the station car park and also removing the one remaining sign applicable to the October – April parking on double yellows. He is also due to put heavier cones covering the hole along Ynys Faig Caravan Park.

The Clerk had spoken with Cllr Haycock regarding the Play Park and the state of the repair that had been carried out by GL Jones. Cllr Kirkham agreed with the Clerk that we should not pay the bill as the photos that you have in front of you show the reasons why we should not pay the bill. The clerk was instructed to write to GL Jones and send the photos.

The fencing had still not been repaired by Les Hunt. Cllr Haycock suggested that a letter should be sent to Les Hunt giving him until the end of the month to carry out the repair, failure to do so would mean that the Council would buy a fresh panel, get

somebody to fit and send him the bill. The Clerk was asked to send a letter to Les Hunt.

The bin 'liner' in the Play Park has completely rusted at the bottom and needs replacing. Discussion took place as to how to replace it. Cllr Eves said that a bin on his site cost about £24. The clerk would seek further discussions with Cllr Eves regarding a replacement bin or bin liner.

The Clerk had received an email from a Emily McGuinness who works for Taunton & Somerset Council, who had asked about putting a bench on the promenade. Her parents used have many holidays here and they thought they would like to dedicate a bench to them by donating a bench to the community. I informed her that the Council could not reach a decision on this and duly passed her email on to Barry Davies to give her the relevant answers. I have so far not received any correspondence from him as to what decision was made.

### **528. Special Items brought to Attention.**

**a) Co-option of Arthog Councillor.** An application has been received from a resident (Rebekka Stott) of Arthog who happens to live in the school house. The chairman read out her application and asked if they had any comments and also as to whether they wished to ask her any questions. All Councillors were happy with her application and she duly joined the meeting at which the Chairman welcomed her and looked forward to her contribution to the Council.

**b) Fairbourne Toilets.** The chairman called a public meeting (as a resident) that had nothing to do with Arthog Community Council, in the Fairbourne Village Hall, when all residents in both Fairbourne and Friog were notified of the meeting and that Gwynedd Council were going to close both toilets on October 1<sup>st</sup> if no partnerships were forthcoming.

Mr Gwyn Morris Jones Head of Highways and Municipal Works along with Miss Bethan Hughes came to the meeting and to answer many questions that Mike Scott had sent for him to do research on and to be answered at the meeting. He mumbled alot of the time and was very disappointing. Bryan Woolley gave a brief resume of the meeting and said that he never answered question directly. All attendees wanted the toilets left open and Mr Jones was asked as to whether there was a way of finding of keeping them open but no adequate response was given. We suggested that donation boxes to be erected at each toilet, but that we have already lost potential income from Easter and suggested that he should look sympathetically at our plight.

Cllr Thomas suggested that a letter signed by residents and sent to Gwynedd Council saying they were not happy with some of the answers given by Mr Jones. He also suggested that Once Voice Wales be contacted regarding the rates on toilets.

Cllr Eves gave a brief on what he saw as a way forward in that instaed of the residents entering a contract with the Council, that the Council enter into contract with the residents and that we lease the toilets from the Council paying a pepercorn rent.

At present the Community Council has the clerks funds that have not been used whilst Cllr Scott has been doing the clerks duties. When we set our precept for next year, we need to raise the Clerks salary up to £3,000 and also put a sum aside to be given to be given to running the toilets.

Contribution to the discussion was given by Cllr Louise Hughes as she did at the public meeting emphasising that Fairbourne needed support as it is a tourism village with significant importance especially after the flooding issues in 2014.

The slipway was then brought into the discussion as this relevant to the tourism of the village. Money was available to move the old slipway away and a wooden ramp would be put in its place a few months ago, but now there seems there is no money available. A meeting of the technical group was due to be held tomorrow and they were going to decide as to what they were going to do with Friog Corner. The Clerk was asked to write to the Council saying that they they do not have any money to support the keeping of the toilets open.

The way forward now is that a committee would be formed from people across Fairbourne and Friog and decide as to whether the residents go into a partnership or to lease the buildings from Gwynedd Council or let Gwynedd Council close them on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

c) **Clerk Vacancy.** The Chairman said that there had been no interest for the vacancy but Cllr Haycock said that he would be seeing the present head of the school Sarah Elliot who had indicated to him that she thought that she knew of somebody who may be interested in the post. One Voice Wales had given the chairman some figures on what a clerk should be paid but Cllrs felt that we should show caution when accepting these figures. Cllr Eves proposed that a figure of £3,000 should be considered and raise the precept accordingly. Cllr Thomas said that the workload of the clerk had increased since the flooding issues of 2014. We will await further news from Cllr Haycock once he has spoken with Sarah Elliott.

d) **Signing off BDO Accounts 2016 – 2017.** The Chairman had had difficulty in filling in some of the forms to satisfy BDO, with one of them being having a Code of Conduct which Cllr Thomas pointed out that we had never had one but abided by the one that Gwynedd Council had. The Chairman would be sending the Accounts to be audited for 2016-2017 back tomorrow pointing out that the Chairman was also the acting clerk as well as chairman and could not sign the main form twice. All forms were displayed on the public noticeboards as required for the general public to inspect, but nobody came to his house asking to see them!

e) **Penrhyn Point.** Cllr Kirkham gave a brief report on what has been done at the Point recently for the benefit of the new Cllrs, which has included the rubbish bin being removed and with very little or no rubbish left behind, a dog waste bin being installed and emptied on a regular basis. A gate has been erected, just prior to the slipway for the benefit of the Fairbourne Railway, boat users and the Emergency Services. It is 95% successful in keeping all the motor homes and cars out beyond the

gate. Only if somebody leaves the gate open do people take the opportunity of going through as the sign cannot be seen unless the gate is closed. He would like to see the fencing repaired by the tunnel and a cctv notice erected as well as a permanent sign be attached to the new gate. There have been a couple of thefts from the vessels that are moored in the Creek which has been annoying for those concerned. They have now moved their vessels into the harbour. Last weekend it was like a motor home showroom, so many cars had little area to park. Cllr Kirham said that as Highways had taken over the responsibility for the road but erecting 30mph signs he suggested that a height restriction bar be inserted to restrict access for the larger vehicles and control the impact on the area especially as much of it is SSSI. Cllr Louise Hughes suggested that Mr Dyfrig Siencyn come to the meeting to discuss the problems in Fairbourne especially the slipway etc. The Chairman said that he would write to him.

**f) Penrhyn Drive South Slipway.** Much has already been said about this topic has already been discussed but all I know that the driver that came down with a low loader and carrying a machine for breaking up the slipway, came across a resident who refused to move their car and altercation took place. We will now await the arrival of a smaller machine.

**g) Information Boards.** The Chairman presented an example of the information boards that had been produced. Unfortunately all of the boards had 'You are Here' as being down the shops. I hope to collect the corrected versions on Friday. Two have been funded by Lisa Marhsalls department and the other one is being funded by the Fairbourne businesses so the Community Council does not have to pay a penny. Wyn Jones will be erecting them hopefully some time next week. #

**h) Fairbourne Community Flood Plan Exercise.** This is going to happen on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 5pm – 8pm in the village. This as a result of the chief constable of NWP approaching Cllr Scott at the conference at Llandudno and said that he had seen the flood plan and the website and it would be good for all the services to be involved. Every resident within the catchment area would receive a letter informing them that a 'table top' exercise would be held in the Village Hall. There would be some people in HV vests and that some 'vulnerable people' would be visited after having been warned first. They would not have to leave their property, it would be just for the Emergency Services to go through the motions. The NRW would set up a scenario for the exercise. Cllr Joyce Woolley was not happy with what was going to happen and said the exercise should be held in another village and not Fairbourne as they had suffered enough. The whole idea was to test the flood plan and for the emergency services to familiarise themselves with the village. There will be lessons to be learnt no doubt so that if the unlikely event happens, everything has been tried and tested.

**529. To Deal with any correspondence.** The chairman read out correspondence regarding a letter from the Navy to commemorate 'Navy Day'. We have no flag pole to celebrate the day. A letter from Gwynedd Council informing the CC of resurfacing work and also a new gate on Footpath 4. The SNP informed us that we could have 4 apple trees for free. In front of the old school in Arthog was a suggestion for one, one

up by Friog School and another one on the entrance to Fairbourne just before the flower box. A disabled parking restriction in Glan Y Mor which is already there for a person who lives in the area of 66 or 67 Glan Y Mor.. Letter from a Mr Skipp in Friog expressing his thoughts on the state of the area down at Morfa Friog and Footpath 13. As this subject had already been covered, there was no need to elaborate until we heard more from Gwynedd Council or NRW.

An email had been recieved from a Mr Ronald Boyd Pugh looking for his ancestors who were believed at some stage to have lived up at Tyddyn Sieffre. I involved Cllr Roberts and his family as well as Rob Jones(Tyddyn Sieffre) and they all met up during their visit and went to the farm as well as the Quakers Yard in Llwyngril. Their ancestors go back as far as 1689 and as result in going to the Quakers yard go back even further. A letter from One Voice Wales regarding The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens and how to build a garden in the community. A confernece on the subject is being held in Bangor. A letter from Gwynedd Council regarding piloting a scheme to increase the Welsh language in Community Councils and also within the communties.

### **530. To Deal with any Planning Matters.**

A planning application had been received from Gwynedd Council regading the demolition of a property (Sea Shanty) on Penrhyn Drive South and be replaced by a two story building with the living quarters being 2.3metres above ground level. The Council supported the application as well as the surrounding properties.

An application had been received from the SNP regarding the Carriage Hall in Arthog asking to build and extension and join the two sections together. It was noted they applied some 2yrs ago for this area to be converted into a storage area.

### **531. Financial Statement and Report.**

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| In the Current account:           | £11,009.49p |
| Business Reserve Account:         | £4,738.61p  |
| Business Reserve (Youth) Account: | £7,707.98p  |
| To Pay Out: M Scott               | £11.79      |
| LC Jones (Grass Cutting)          | £98.00      |
| WV Round (Bench Repair)           | £150.00     |
| Sign Creation (Information Board) | £435.00     |
| Fairbourne Festival (Insurance)   | £150.00     |
| Vodaphone                         | £14.26      |

### **532. To Ratify Councillor (Representative) Apointments for the year 2017/2018.**

|                         |   |                      |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Barmouth Harbour        | - | Cllr J Kirkham       |
| Llais Cymru             | - | Vacant               |
| Fairbourne Village Hall | - | Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley |

Fairbourne Golf Club / Community Flood Plan – Cllr M Scott

|                     |   |                |
|---------------------|---|----------------|
| Fairbourne Railway  | - | Cllr S Eves    |
| Pig yr Allt         | - | Cllr J Haycock |
| Arthog Village Hall | - | Cllr J Haycock |

Cllr Haycock told Cllrs that there would be no representation on the Governing Body of the new school. The new school will be part of new main school whose base will be Ysgol Bro Idris in Dolgellau.

### **533. To Receive any Councillor Questions.**

Cllr Thomas had spoken to both Doris Jones and Rupert Jones regarding the operating of the Cemetery on its own and not relying on the Community Council to fund everything and also Gwynedd Council having their input. Cllr Scott is still waiting for contact from NatWest regarding forms etc. He will continue to follow this up and not other Banks.

Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes said that that Gwynedd Council were considering changing the rules on Licencing Betting establishments within the county. Presently there are three areas and they are considering amalgamating them into one for tax purposes.

Cllr Bryan Woolley brought up the Ramp situation at Penrhyn Drive South Car Park. He understands from Barry Davies that he is not going to replace the ramp. Cllr Scott said that Barry Davies would replace the ramp with a wooden structure based on two other areas that had such ramps, obviously things have changed. He suggested that we go above the Maritime Officers head and express our displeasure of losing the ramp as people not only from the village but also tourists that are elderly are unable to access the beach now. Cllr Scott was asked to write to the leader of the Gwynedd Council Mr Dyfrig Siencyn and ask him to come to Fairbourne and see things for himself.

Cllr Scott produced a copy of a brochure of Fairbourne which is to be put in the TIC's in North and Mid Wales as well as North West England and the West Midlands. This brochure has been produced and paid for by Fairbourne Moving Forward. He also produced a pile of documents from the Snowdonia National Park and their development policy plan up to 2031.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked those present for attending.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 @ 7pm

Meeting closed at 21.10hrs