

## **ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL ON Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**580. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00 pm**

**581. Present: Cllr's M Scott, J Kirkham, B Woolley, P Thomas, J Haycock, P Roberts, S. Eves, Cllr's (Mrs)J Woolley, (Mrs) R Stott and Angela Thomas, (Clerk).**

**582. Apologies received: Nil**

**583. Declarations of Interest – Nil**

**584. To Receive any special announcements from the Chairman.** Cllr Scott confirmed that the Nat West Bank in Dolgellau will close in June 2018.

**585. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017.** Proposed by Cllr J Haycock and seconded by Cllr P Roberts

**586. Matters Arising from the Minutes of Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

Cllr Scott said that he had spoken to Mr Stott to confirm that there would be 2 trees coming too each placement for the purposes of cross pollination. The trees are going to Arthog Village Hall and the Old Peoples bungalows in Friog. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes had been contacted by a concerned citizen over a parked car in the railway car park. Cllr Scott had resolved the problem of the car by contacting the owner to remove the car which could be regarded as occupying a disabled parking space. Cllr Woolley referenced a conversation with Mr Barry Davies in which Mr Davies said that he was not prepared to spend an extra penny on Fairbourne. It was felt that this was perhaps tongue in cheek, as Cllr Kirkham had

also had a conversation with Mr. Davies who at that time seem quite amenable to developing a temporary slip way with perhaps coconut matting etc.

**587. Clerks Report.** The Clerk asked for a little patience as this was her first report. A letter was sent to the Arthog Village Hall Secretary asking for a copy of the current accounts and a reply was received. A copy of the annual accounts has already been received from the Fairbourne and Friog Village Hall Chairman. A letter was received with regard to the Precept enclosing the form to be completed by the end of January 2018. A letter had been written to Vodafone informing them of the change of email address and we are currently awaiting copy of the October and November billing. A letter had been sent to HMRC requesting help in presenting the information that BDO had requested regarding the employment status of members of the Council who undertook work on behalf of the Council. We are awaiting a reply.

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The Clerk told the Councillors that she had received 4 telephone call from a concerned citizen with regard to the dumping of rubbish, at Penrhyn Drive South, Cllr Scott had spoken to the Street Enforcer contact and this was being dealt with and then a second call about dumped rubbish in "contaminated waste "bags. GC had been notified of the fly tipping. Cllr Scott said that this is an ongoing problem. He had read that an outside contractor was going to be employed to tackle fly tipping and dog fouling. The same citizen voiced concern that she was unable to put certain garden rubbish in the bin that she had paid £33.00 per year for. It was felt that she should apply to the GC for a composting bin. As requested at the last meeting a letter had been sent to Corporate Support at GC inviting Bet Huws to attend one of our meetings to address the Council regarding promoting the Welsh Language. A reply had been received asking to attend the March meeting. A letter will be sent to confirm that the Council will look forward to the address. A letter had been received from the Highways Department GC confirming that the requested bin and salt replacement on the Hill up to Cregennan Lakes had been replaced and filled. A letter from Mr. Barry Davies had been received confirming that litter pickers and loops were now ready

to be delivered to Cllr Scott. A letter had been sent to "Play Wales" informing them of the new Clerks address and email address.

**588. Special Announcements brought to the Attention:**

**(a) Fairbourne Public Toilets** – Cllr Scott said that since the last meeting, the Toilets had now been re-opened by Gwynedd Council since 17<sup>th</sup> November. An offer had been made to clean the toilets by the Trust but legally this could not be put in place until the end of November/early December when it was hoped to have the legal agreement in place. The Trust could breathe easy for a while, and the collection box outside the shop toilets was still in place. Cllr Eves added that he was very pleased with Bethan for her efforts on our behalf. It was noted that GC keep the toilets open 24 hours a day reflecting in a higher billing for electricity etc. The Trust would propose using sensor led lights to cut the costs.

**(b) Penrhyn Point – Cllr Kirkham.** Cllr Kirkham was very concerned about the arbitrary way the Railway were using the CC gate, leaving it open even when closing their own. He proposed sending a letter to Mr. Murray Dodds. It was felt that the tone of the letter should be less condemning and that it should be sent to "The Manager", rather than to "Mr. Dodds", requesting their co-operation in closing both gates at the end of the day, after the last train. The gate has proven to be successful in limiting camper vans. Cllr Thomas felt that a simple letter, to the point, would be better. Cllr Scott has the sign ready to go on the Railway Gate. Mr. Barry Davies is keen to see this completed. Cllr Kirkham also reported on the receipt of a letter from the Highways Officer regarding the Pay and Display, Height Restriction Barrier and Parking Bay proposals. Unfortunately, various legislations, bye-laws, and how it fits with the Future Generation Act, and the fact that this is a public highway render it impossible for GC agreeing with virtually all of the proposals. It was agreed that a request be sent asking for a further site meeting for further explanation to be made by the CC. If a site meeting request is refused then a complaint will be made through official channels at Caernarfon.

It was also suggested that Iwan ap Trefor could be invited to one of our meetings.

**(c) Friog Corner – Cllr Scott.** There was a site meeting about Friog corner approximately three weeks ago with Barry Davies, the NRW, CADW, Cllr Eves, Kirkham and Scott from Arthog Community Council, and Michael Murray, (senior) flood warden. All agreed that the Dragons Teeth should be laid flat (20), shingle would be brought back and extra taken from further up at Point Penrhyn if needed. Cllr Scott was asked to put notices up informing the Public about the work commencing. Cllr Scott then went to a meeting with Lisa Marshall, where she read out a letter from Gareth Evens which was totally the opposite of what had been agreed. The NRW have stated that none of the work can commence until various forms (health and safety etc.) have been completed. No work can commence until the "long term plan" for Friog corner has been discussed and set out because it would mean that anything that they did would have to be undone once the plan is set. The "long term plan" is supposed to be shared with the community asking if the community agreed, nothing will be done until the plan is brought to a meeting in the Fairbourne Village Hall, however, the plan is again out for consultation costing a further large amount of money. In the meantime, if an accident happens at Friog Corner NRW consider they are not responsible, even though they contracted to make a "temporary" fix. Lisa Marshall is not coming to any further drop in sessions until February 2018.

**(d) Afon Henddol/Fairbourne Ditches – Cllr Scott.** It's gone quiet in Fairbourne due to the excessive amount of water flowing down the Afon Henddol. NRW are clearing ditches where the old brick works were. When they came to the land next to the bowling green owned by Lindsay Winfer, she refused NRW access. Cllr Scott will talk to Michael Griffiths to see what the problem is. Having had access before, they are confused as to why they cannot enter now. Work is now on stop. NRW could get a court order to re-enter the section of land owned by the Bwlch Gwyn Farm from the pumping station to the Outfall. It is essential that they clear the basin area. It is felt that they will re-commence work in January 2018

**(e) Footpath 13 – Morfa Friog - Cllr Scott -** A letter was sent to Cllr Haycock and Cllr Roberts for consideration. Cllr Haycock had a problem with the wording

of the letter with regard to "reclaimed land", which was with reference to land in South Wales. Fairbourne has lost land to "wetland" not lost reclaimed land in Fairbourne. Cllr Scott confirmed that £465.00 had been received with regard to Footpath maintenance within the community.

**(f) Amendment to Precept 2018/2019 – Cllr Scott** - A query had been raised in regard to "Reserve" amounts. Cllr Scott rang BDO, made a record of the call, asking for a statement and reply in writing to their question. As yet no reply has been received. When we say in the minutes we take into consideration that the reserves are not touched, that they are left there for a rainy day. A copy of the minutes will be provided to BDO if necessary. Precept form to be ready for January meeting.

**(g) Asset Register – Cllr Scott** - Cllr Scott provided more information with regard to the value of some of the assets. The steel cabinet in the tennis court could not be valued. It was agreed that all the assets should be written down and Cllr Scott agreed to speak to his accountant for guidance. It was agreed that a figure of £50.00 would cover the benches.

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Total value of all assets was estimated to be £78,000.00. £67,000.00 accounted for by the Play Park. Cllr Thomas suggested that we ask BDO if the assets should be depreciated. HMRC do have a formula, after 10 years there is no value to assets. We do however, need a value for insurance purposes.

**(h) Confirmation of Councillor Representatives –**

Arthog Village Hall Rep – Cllr Haycock

Fairbourne Village Hall – Cllr (Mrs) Woolley

One Voice Wales – Cllr Thomas

Fairbourne Railway – Cllr Eves

Barmouth Harbour Advisory Committee – Cllr Kirkham

Fairbourne Golf Club – Cllr Scott

**(i) Fairbourne Play Park – Cllr Scott** – Cllr Scott went to see Mr and Mrs Lee the week before trying to find out how much the cost of the play park was. They volunteered some information relating to how much was held in the Play Park Account, which previously they had been unprepared to divulge. The amount is £257.00 and they asked "what did we want to do with it". Cllr Scott told them

that it would be discussed at the December meeting. Cllr Scott suggested that with the inspection coming up in January some of that money could be used to pay for that. It was suggested that an amount be left in the account making the account ready to receive any future funds. The Clerk to write a letter suggesting this. Discussion regarding replacing the bin resulted in an estimate being accepted and Cllr Scott was asked to go ahead with the order costing £93.60, but the vat can be reclaimed.

**(j) Alleged right of Way (Footpath 13) at Mawddach Crescent – Cllr Roberts.**

Cllr Roberts said that this Alleged Right of Way had been used over some 100 years, he confirmed that the houses have in fact purchased the invisible line to the sea wall but that it does not interfere with the right of way. Cllr Roberts has walked here all his life and it has always been acknowledged as a right of way. Cllr Roberts asked that the Community Council support the report. All Councillors were in favour.

**589: To Deal with any Correspondence:** The Council had received a letter from the British Red Cross asking for a donation. After discussion, it was agreed that we could not offer support at this time and a letter would be sent to say we had no budget available.

**590: Planning Application:** One has been received from SNP reference 10 Arthog Terrace. No objections were raised.

**591: Financial Statement and Report:** The only income was footpath 13 payment. The only expenditure was L Jones. Cllr Thomas said that in the Spring the Cemetery will need some attention to the path. Wyn Jones's cheque £150 was for putting one of the information boards up. Rent for Arthog Village Hall £165 In the bank, today:

**Main Account: £7709.89 less £150 and £165 = £7394.89**

**Reserve Account: £4738.77**

**Youth Account: £7708.21**

Donations to Village Halls: **Cllr (Mrs) Stott declared an interest in Arthog Village Hall.** After lengthy discussion and analysis of the Audited Accounts it was proposed and agreed to donate £500.00 to each of the Halls, and to ask for current accounts to date. Cllr Roberts read the Dail Dysynni letter and accounts which were in Welsh. It was proposed and agreed to donate £50.00. Renewal of the Website request, the fee was accepted and agreed by all at £165.00.

**592: To Receive Councillors Questions:** Cllr Kirkham raised the question, what has happened to the "Race the Train" money? Most of the revenue has been retained by the Railway for repair to the track. This was deemed to be totally wrong. Previously donations were always made to the school. Next year it is proposed that the Steam Gala held usually in May will be held in July with loco's on loan from Severn Valley Railway etc. It was suggested that the Fairbourne Amenities Trust could maybe run it next year. An approach should be made to Kathryn Walford and Mr Murray Dodds. It was proposed that the idea be supported. In fact, Mr. Dodds has expressed an interest in somebody else taking it on. Cllr Scott expressed the view that it was wrong that monies collected went to repair the track. Repairs should be paid for from ticket revenue. Cllr Wooley talked about the Youth Account. He had looked through the old minutes and confirmed that the Old Scout Hut had been sold for £6000.00 less £271.11 to Farmers Mart. It had been decided that the balance should be administered by Arthog Community Council in a separate account called "Youth Account". The Charities Commission were fully informed, but do not get involved otherwise. The only stipulation is that the Capital amount cannot be spent, only the interest. The interest would amount to just under £2000.00. Thanks, were given to Cllr Woolley for his work. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley commented that concern had been raised reference the "old ramp" concrete. It appears to have become the local youth interest but could be considered dangerous. Would NRW/Gwynedd Council be liable for any accidents? Likewise, the tilting Dragons Teeth were also considered to be a possible hazard. Cllr Eves had spoken to Murray Dodds and discovered that footfall through the railway had gone up by 60% over the past 5 years and Murray Dodds has pledged money to the Fairbourne Toilets. Cllr Eves

raised complaints received about the state of Footpath 13 along the new section of the embankment, being covered in horse muck which has been compacted by vehicles. It's about 200mtrs of path concerned. It was pointed out that the land does belong to Bwlch Gwyn Farm, therefore it's a case of living with it and wearing boots as opposed to trainers etc. Cllr Roberts pointed out that all the footpaths that are maintained in the community have been particularly challenging this year. Cllr Thomas raised the issue of traffic calming on Arthog Hill. An incident happened just this evening and it was a miracle that nobody was hurt. Cllr Eves told the meeting that it might be possible to get advisory 20mps signs/zone put on the hill without a change of law/legislation. It could be done in the space of a week. A letter will be written again to those concerned asking about the advisory 20mph. Also saying that the Community Council is very, very concerned for the safety of pedestrians and other drivers on the hill. Cllr Kirkham attended the Barmouth Harbour Advisory meeting, nothing to report.

**592: The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday January 3<sup>rd</sup> in Arthog.**

Cllr Haycock tendered his apologies already. All were wished a very Merry Christmas.