

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE
FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 4TH APRIL 2018

640: The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm

641: Present: Cllrs' M Scott, J Kirkham, S Eves, P Roberts, P Thomas, Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley, Cllr (Mrs R Stott), Angela Thomas – Clerk.

642: Apologies Received: Cllr J Haycock and Cllr B Woolley

643: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley – Fairbourne Festival and Cllr P Roberts – Planning Application No. NP5/52/101F

644: To Receive Any Special Announcements from the Chairman: The Chairman had sad news that Mr Harry Lister of Fairbourne, aged 103, had passed away.

645: To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 7th March: Proposed by Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley and seconded by Cllr P Roberts.

646: Matters Arising from the Minutes of Wednesday 7th March: Litter Picking – Cllr Scott said that a litter picking exercise had taken place, Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley also took part. The litter was picked up and collected the same day, most impressed. Another litter pick will take place after Easter hopefully it will be a bit warmer. **Ditches** – Cllr Scott said that ditches are due to be cleared by the NRW on Bwlchwyn Land but only if the silt is cleared and the brush cutter is not used. There is a question as to who owns a particular piece of land adjacent to the Golf Club. General consensus of opinion was that it did belong to the Golf Club and not Bwlchwyn Farm. The Land Registry will be checked. There had been a dispute with John Evans in the past reference this piece of land also land at the outfall. **633 (e) Footpath 13 Morfa Friog.** Only two replies had been received. It was decided to allow a further one/two month and then start chasing replies. (June Agenda). **637** – Cllr Scott and Cllr Eves had discussed the soil and rubbish on the land immediately left leaving the village, and what an eyesore it had become. It was decided that Cllr Eves would get clarification from Planning Department and the NRW.

647: Clerks Report: The Clerk reported that she had been asked to make an appointment to see Mrs D Connolly, which she had done. Also present at the meeting was Mr Matt Burrows. Mr Burrows spoke for a full 25 minutes regarding the sad death of Mr Peter Connolly and all that led up to it, i.e. first responders, arrival of ambulance, arrival at Wrexham hospital, the transfer to 2 other ambulances, actual admittance to the hospital ward, all of which took 8.5 hours and ultimately the untimely passing of Mr Connolly. It was a harrowing and very distressing experience for those concerned and the family are seeking to take matters further. No blame was apportioned by the family to any of the hospital staff, the blame lies with the system and because of the system more than one life was lost that night. The Community Council will write a general not specific letter of deep concern to the Chief Medical Office for Wales and to the CEO of Wrexham hospital. The Chairman of Betsi Cadwalader. This experience could be repeated again and again, if or unless the system for receiving A & E patients is looked at seriously. The Clerk will draft a letter. Cllr

Kirkham asked that the Community Council acknowledge and thank the local first responders for their sterling work.

The Clerk was asked to establish who was responsible for overgrown foliage in the Station Road Car Park. A phone call had been made to Gwynedd Council, ref. 1-185796549, with no outcome at the time of the meeting. The Clerk had been asked to establish whether it was possible to move the Community Council bank account to Barclays Bank. After investigation it was decided to stay with the current bank, to avoid incurring bank charges and other changes in operation by moving to Barclays. The Clerk had been asked to source a new mobile phone contract for the Community Council. After speaking to various providers, it was established that a new contract would have to be taken out in the name of an individual because of credit checking. The Clerk will now look to the possible purchase of an affordable mobile phone for use with a sim only contract.

The Clerk asked for permission to send the letter of appointment to Luned Fon Jones, the new Internal Auditor. Authority was given. Cllr Kirkham had requested that the Clerk write a letter of objection to an increase in fees for the use of Leisure/Sport Centre facilities. To date no reply had been received. The Chairman had asked the Clerk to write to Mr Barry Davies reference the state of the notice on Penrhyn Drive South Car Park, reference the historical facts relating to the dragons teeth etc, it will be repaired in due course. The Chairman had also asked the Clerk to write a letter reference the wall on Beach Road at Ynys Faig Caraavan Park. A reply had been received indicating that due to a lack of cooperation by Network Rail, the job had now to be put back to September 2018. A letter had been written to Mr Steffan Jones reference the dog waste bin on Penrhyn Point South Car Park, referencing the fact that it is broken and dog walkers are dumping their litter in the bottom of the frame instead of using the general bin some 20 metres away. At this moment in time no reply had been received. An appointment had been made for Cllr Scott and Cllr Eves to meet with Mr Barry Davies to discuss Penrhyn Point North matters. That meeting had in fact taken place that very morning. Overnight camping has become a serious problem.

A letter had been sent to Mr Colin Jones reference Penrhyn Point and he had confirmed that everything was in hand, parking bays, sign placement etc. A further letter had been sent reference the A493 water seepage, this time to Mr. Sion Wilkes at Gwynedd Council. A reply was yet to be received. The Clerk read a letter of resignation from Cllr Kirkham, which contained praise for the current Chairman and his achievements and best wishes to the new Chairman commencing in May. Cllr Scott replied. He thanked Cllr Kirkham for all his sterling work and support over the years and wished him a happy retirement. All Councillors agreed and wished Cllr Kirkham well. The Chairman did confirm that he is actively trying to recruit and three people had promised to attend this evening and then found a reason not to. The Chairman will look further afield.

648: Special Items Brought to Attention:

- (a) **Fairbourne Amenities Trust** – Cllr Scott and Cllr Eves. The toilets are both open now, however there is a need to encourage member of the public to donate and with that view a bigger bolder notice asking for donations and less small print will be designed. Items have been purchased to improve facilities in both toilets. Cllr Scott and Cllr Eves had met with Barry Davies that day to discuss the Trust taking over the collection of launching fees at the Point, all the fees being retained for the betterment of the toilets. He will provide Notices, high viz vests and receipt book. Volunteers will be needed to police this. Local residents could be issued with a permit costing approx. £20.00.
- (b) **Penrhyn Drive South Ramp** – Cllr Scott. This was discussed at length. Planning consent had not yet been asked for, with a view to taking the rock armour over the wall. Mr Davies is going to ask the NRW to relocate the ramp that they will use to move the rock armour to a

more northerly position with a view to leaving it in place after the work is completed, to then be used by the public to access the sea, and possibly use roll in/out matting. Cllr Eves asked that the Clerk write a letter to the NRW stating that he and Cllr Scott had discussed with Mr Davies the fact that Mr Davies would be more than happy to allow the NRW to store their rock on the promenade and build a ramp down to the beach, in the position of the previous ramp rather than further south down the beach at Friog Corner. This would be more cost effective and a very useful item for the community. It is hoped that this might happen for this season. The condition of the remaining bits of the original ramp were discussed, some of it being quite dangerous. The original removal contractor is responsible for the dangerous state.

- (c) **Penrhyn Point** – Cllr Scott. The traffic officer met with Cllr Scott earlier and the situation is still ongoing.
- (d) **Penrhyn Point Gate** – Cllr Scott. The ongoing problem of the railway staff leaving the gate open was raised in a heated discussion between Mr Murray Dods and the Chairman. It was reiterated that requests had repeatedly been made for the gate to be closed. Mr Dods said he should not be expected to check on his employees all day. Cllr Eves said that he would have a discussion with Kevin Wyatt on Thursday to try and come to an amicable solution. A last resort would be to write a letter of complaint to the owner and the trustees. Cllr Roberts was thanked for his sterling work on the new gate.
- (e) **Fairbourne Moving Forward** - Cllr (Mrs) Woolley - A meeting was held 2 weeks ago which Cllr B Woolley attended. In his absence Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley gave a report. The Community Interest Group were waiting for a decision of the 3-million-pound grant for the purchase of properties in Fairbourne to which a few people had already expressed an interest in selling. The sea level rise will be monitored every 5 years and results compared with Greg Guthrie's predictions. Adjustment will be made to the survival time of Fairbourne accordingly. Cllr Eves asked if a comparison could be made between Greg Guthrie's predicted sea level and rise and the actual sea level rise which could be published and made available. The predicted and the actual measures would take approximately 300 years to realise. Of course, this could not be scientifically proven. It was suggested that Greg Guthrie be asked to explain his predictions. At the next meeting of the Fairbourne Moving Forward/Community Council, Cllr Eves will make a presentation on work he has been doing with regard to "groins" and their possible use at Friog Corner, a project which could be carried out for a relatively low cost. Certainly, less than the money spent so far on consultation fees. Should Greg Guthrie's predictions prove to be correct there will be a "dry abandonment" of Fairbourne.

649: To Deal with any Correspondence: A letter was received with regard to a Welsh Audit Survey. The clerk felt that she was not in a position to complete the survey having only been in situ for a period of 6 months. The questions related to a deeper knowledge of the workings of County Council matters. It was decided to leave this survey for the moment and see if a request comes in again. A public meeting notice was put up in the notice boards reference Youth Clubs.

650: To Deal with Planning Matters – A Planning Application had been received and forwarded to all Councillors for comment. Cllr Roberts declared an interest, Cllr Scott and Cllr (Mrs) Stott had no objections. Reply was sent to Gwynedd Council confirming that there were no objections.

651: Financial Statement and Report: The Clerk presented the end of year figures to each Councillor and explained that everything balanced and that this set of figures will be used as the

presentation to the Internal Auditor. An explanation sheet was attached detailing all cheques issued and all monies received.

Current Account:	£2509.64
No monies received:	
Reserve Account:	£4739.51
Youth Account:	£7709.44
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	£11,867.79

All cheques had been presented to the bank from last month and two cheques were written for signing. The sum of £50.00 for the Air Ambulance of Wales and £357.30 for the External Audit Office. It was confirmed that the requested precept had been accepted. The Chairman of the Fairbourne Festival, Mr Roger Pritchard had sent an email requesting a donation towards this year's event. It was agreed that at this moment in time we would be unable to assist but the Councillors would review this in two months' time. A request had also been received for a donation from Enid Morris of RABI, Meirionnydd which also had to be turned down.

652: To Receive Councillors Questions: Cllr Eves raised the question of Beach Huts. He asked that the Clerk write a letter to Gwynedd Council asking if, for a pepper corn rent, the land could be released and Beach Huts could be re-instated in the dunes along Penrhyn Drive North, where they used to be. Mr Barry Davies had no objections. Cllr Scott to draft a letter for the Clerk to write. Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley raised a question with regard to the Fairbourne Festival being able to use the area of the play park on the day of the Festival. It was agreed by all Councillors. Cllr Scott to ensure that Notices are put up closing the area for tennis/football etc. on the day of the Festival. Permission has been granted by Gwynedd Council to use the lower end of the Car Park.

653: Representatives Reports: Cllr Eves had been talking to Mr M Dods that day to thank him for the use of the train with respect to the scattering of his daughter, Julie's, ashes. It was a moving occasion. The driver had put a wreath on the front of the train which was much appreciated. Cllr Kirkham passed documentation relating to the Barmouth Harbour Advisory Committee to the Chairman as this was his last meeting. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley asked, as a member of the Art Group, if it would be of interest to paint a mural on the outside of the toilet located at the shops. Cllr Scott said that at this moment in time the property still belonged to Gwynedd Council, so as nice a thought as it was, it would have to wait possibly another year. Cllr Scott said that the Golf Club is really struggling at the moment with the flooding issue and the ground is water logged. The silt still has to be cleared from the basin upwards, but the NRW have promised that the work will be done. The Bwlchwyn Farm are still in a settlement dispute with the NRW and until that is resolved there will be a delay in draining the ditches and this affecting the whole of the Village. Meeting closed at 8.40pm

654: Date and time of Next Meeting: Wednesday May 2nd. Lisa Goodier has been asked to attend. reference the CIC and communication with the Village.

