

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 2nd MAY 2018

655: The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.05pm

656: Present: Cllrs' M Scott, P Roberts, P Thomas, S Eves, Cllrs' Mrs R Stott and Mrs L Hughes, Guest Speaker Lisa Goodier, and member of the public, prospective Cllr, Dave Neville, plus Angela Thomas – Clerk.

657: Apologies Received: Cllr Mr B Woolley, Cllr J Haycock and Cllr Mrs J Woolley

658: Lisa Goodier YGC Update: The Chairman welcomed Lisa Goodier YGC, and gave special thanks for all the help and especially financial assistance that she had afforded Fairbourne with reference to FMF, flooding issues, CIC and many other matters. He also congratulated her on her marriage. Lisa thanked the Chairman for the acknowledgement of her efforts, which she carries out on behalf of Gwynedd Council.

Governance Model: This relates to who makes the decisions. Up until now it has been the Project Board, made up of various individuals from the interested bodies, ie GC, NRW, Network Rail, Arthog Council etc. The Model has looked at the way water behaves in Fairbourne and decisions are now ready to be made but it will not be by the Project Board, they are not senior enough. The aim now is to get those people who can and will make the decisions on behalf of Fairbourne involved, which Lisa Goodier said will be a mammoth task. The main aim is to get the “decision makers” up to speed, to get them to realise that Climate Change is happening to the whole of the Welsh Coast not only Fairbourne. Huw Williams, YGC, has been to the GC and Mon boards and made a presentation. Governance will be a long road but needs to be faced by these well paid and titled people. Cllr Eves made the case of the problem with the ditches and how that needs to be addressed. NRW are on the case but householders in Fairbourne who have properties bordering the ditches need to be educated with regard to keeping their stretch of ditch cleared. A programme of Education needs to be implemented to bring to the owner’s attention that they are partly to blame for the water level rise in Fairbourne and that Riparian law applies. The next newsletter will highlight the problem.

Masterplan: The Masterplan takes two forms now, firstly to secure funding to support Fairbourne from the Welsh Government. The Plan is now backed by hard evidence. Decisions now have to be made by GC reference the infrastructure of Fairbourne with regard as to, and when, decommissioning starts, i.e. the Railway, sluice gates, road closure, utilities, sub stations, pumping stations, overhead cables etc. Duty of care should apply to the very last resident in Fairbourne. An asset register for Fairbourne now exists. Secondly, the Masterplan document has been drawn up as to how the water behaves, it is a very technical document and needs to be put into plain language and then distributed to the community for discussion.

Community Interest Company: This has moved on greatly. Valuations have been carried out on 12/14 properties, 4 chosen were valued by the District Valuation Officer. The valuations were accurate, and were comparable to pre-SNP. Private sales have had effect on the valuation of properties that have been sold in Fairbourne, quite often the seller has

willingly taken a financial hit. The valuation was necessary to produce a financial model to work out how much money would be needed to purchase properties in Fairbourne. 3 million pounds was estimated and that will buy approximately 25 homes over a period of time. This will also fund the taking over of the Railway Café which will be re-branded, and the establishment of a centre for the “National Academy for Climate Change”, hopefully on Beach Road, possibly by purchasing half of the Springfield Car Park and locating “posh” porta cabins on that plot. All, hopefully, self-funding. The 3 million pounds is an interest free loan and has to be paid back. (There are currently 27 applicants on the housing list to live in Fairbourne.) (Cysor, meaning an “embrace” in Welsh), is the name that the CIC will adopt and will be used as a national model. It is hoped that it will go live in January 2019.

Social and Economic: Already covered.

Technical Group: Already covered.

Education and Engagement: Drop in sessions every Friday will continue as will the newsletter. The plan is to very slowly, over a number of years, pass this aspect over to Arthog Community Council to run. FFC is considering its position with the possibility of disbanding as it now has no fight to fight. Several members of FFC may be interested in sitting on a subcommittee to support communications within Fairbourne. LG would offer continued support to that subcommittee until such time as it becomes self-sufficient and stand on its own two feet. At this point Lisa Goodier concluded her presentation at 8.15pm. She would like to be able to attend a Community Council meeting every 2nd or 3rd month and this was agreed. She will attend again in July. Minutes of the last FMF meeting are on file.

659: Cllr (Mrs) Hughes asked if she could make her presentation at this point as she had to leave early in order to attend a GC meeting the following morning. Cllr Hughes had not heard any further about Footpath 13 Morfa Mawddach. Cllr Roberts confirmed that it will be deferred until June/July and the next meeting will be held in Dolgellau. Cllr Roberts also confirmed that Barmouth are now on-board with support. Cllr Hughes said that parking on the double yellow lines at Penrhyn Amusements corner is a cause for concern by residents. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to the Highways department asking that it be policed in the evening as this is when the parking is taking place. Cllr Hughes said that at the main GC meeting on Thursday a vote will be taking place reference the closure of Youth Clubs locally. 39 youth clubs have been shut.

660: Councillors' Declaration of Interests – Nil

661: To Receive Any Special Announcements from the Chairman: Nil

662: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2018: Proposed by Cllr Roberts seconded by Cllr Eves.

663: Matters Arising: Cllr Scott – Litter picking had been organised but because of rain it was cancelled. Ditches – no further update. 636 – Cllr Scott and Cllr Eves, rubbish on the land had been removed only to have a further 8 lorry loads dumped that afternoon. 648 (d) Penrhyn Point Gate. Ex Councillor Kirkham attended the Railway preservation meeting and read out a statement on behalf of the CC reference the gate being left open. The statement was supported by the Railway Society. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

664: Clerks Report: The clerk reported that a communication had been received today from Gwen Luned Evans of GC with regard to free wi-fi for communities. The clerk was asked to write a letter asking for coverage for fibre optic broadband for Arthog. A memorandum of understanding for child burial fees was received. The clerk will write a letter confirming acceptance. The clerk wrote a letter to Mr Keith Ivens and then a reminder reference the ramp and rock armour issue. The Clerk had received a phone call prior to the meeting to say that the NRW were planning on placing the rock armour in the first instance, on land belonging to Network Rail at the end of Penrhyn Drive South and not on the Promenade, ready for any contingency. Work on the ramp was not planned until September. The Clerk was asked to write a letter again saying that the preferred position for the Rock Armour would be on the top of the sea wall/promenade, where the ramp down to the beach could later be used by the Community and this is also GC's preferred position, thus saving time and money. A letter asking for a donation had been received, the Clerk would politely decline. Only one reply had been received reference Footpath 13 Salt March from the office of Liz Saville Roberts. A very non-committal/neutral reply. The Chairman had asked that a reminder be sent to Steffan Jones with regard to the dog waste bin. Still no reply. It was noted that other dog waste bins in other communities were in the same state. A further prompt was agreed. A letter had been sent to the CEO of Wrexham Hospital, a reply was awaited. A letter had been sent to GC reference the reinstatement of Beach Huts on Penrhyn Drive North, a reply was awaited. The Clerk had received a telephone from Luned Fon Jones, Internal Auditor. A date to be set for taking all the appropriate paperwork to Dolgellau for approval of the accounts is awaited. A letter had been sent to Mr Roger Pritchard reference a donation, saying that approval had been given for use of the playpark area for the Festival.

665: Election of Officers 2018 - 2019: Cllr Scott asked if Cllr Thomas, Vice Chair, was prepared to take over as Chairman and he agreed. Cllr Scott said that he had found the last two years extremely challenging as he had assumed the role of acting clerk as well as Chairman. He thanked all for the support he had received.

666: Election of Chairman 2018 - 2019: Cllr Scott asked for a proposal that the Vice Chairman steps into his seat as Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Stott. Cllr Thomas took up his position as Chairman.

667: Election of Vice Chairman 2018-2019: Cllr Scott proposed Cllr Eves, seconded by Cllr Roberts.

668: Election of Representatives to outside organisations 2018 – 2019:

Barmouth Harbour Advisory Committee: Cllr Scott,

Pyg-Yr-Allt – Fund set up many years ago for the benefit of local young people, involved in a trade: Cllr Haycock,

Village Hall Fairbourne: Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley,

Village Hall Arthog: Cllr Roberts,

FMF: Cllr B Woolley,

FCT: Representative to be advised after the next meeting.

Golf Club: Cllr Scott

Fairbourne Railway: Cllr Eves

669: Special Items Brought to the Attention:

Fairbourne Amenities Trust – Cllr Scott – Cllr (Mrs) Woolley asked about paining a Mural on the wall and permission had been granted by GC, Bethan Hughes, providing that any wording was bilingual. On a different matter, it would appear that less than 20% of people using the toilets are actually making a contribution which is disappointing.

Penrhyn Drive South/Ramp – Cllr Scott – A letter to be written

Penrhyn Point – Cllr Scott – Nothing to report

Penrhyn Point Gate – Cllr Scott – Nothing to report.

Footpath 13 Morfa Friog Salt March – Cllr Roberts - A reply had been received from the office of Liz Saville Roberts, a letter of a very neutral and non-committal nature, possibly siding with NRW. Cllr Roberts suggested that Mark Wiles be asked to join a subcommittee reference the planning aspects. An extra ordinary meeting has been proposed by Cllr Roberts at which time Mark will make a presentation of his findings. Philip Percival will be extended an opportunity to attend the meeting. Cllr Scott will make a booking in the Fairbourne Village Hall for after the 16th May.

670: To Deal with Any Correspondence: Nil

671: Planning Matters: An application had been sent to all Councillors, a reply had been received from Cllr (Mrs) Stott. There were no objections providing there is no alteration to the green hut.

672: Financial Statement and Report: A statement of accounts was passed to all Councillors.

An email had been received reporting that the first part of the precept (£6000) had been banked. All cheques amounting to £420.90 from April had been banked. Cheques signed: £1.00 GC (Play park rent) £19.99 Mobile Phone Charger – Cllr Scott, Stationery and Ink £79.09 – Clerk, £100.00, L C Jones grass cutting.

Balance as at 2nd May 2018

Current Account: £2088.74

Reserve Account: £4739.70

Youth Account: £7709.75

A letter and VAT claim form had been prepared and the Clerk asked for approval for it to be sent to HMRC. Approval received.

673: To Receive Councillors Questions: Cllr Scott asked for permission to purchase 2 football nets and couplings. Cost about £48.00. Cllr (Mrs)Stott asked for clarification as to how the halls would be required with reference to no meeting in August. It will be in Fairbourne in September.

674: Representatives Reports: Cllr Eves said that he is still compiling a report with regard to shore line protection. The Chairman Cllr Thomas raised the question of the number of

camper vans now staying overnight at Cregennan Lakes Car Park and Morfa Mawddach. It amounts to vagrancy. It is also restricting the amount of parking for walkers wanting to enjoy the Mawddach trail and Cregennan walks. It was requested that the Clerk write a letter of concern to the National Trust and also to SNP reference this matter raising objections. What is needed is a by-law. A letter/phone call was requested to Liz Haynes to ask if there will be any contribution to cutting footpaths. Cllr Scott stated that the Golf Club needed a very good bank holiday weekend as takings were considerably down. Payment for the mast is supplementing takings at the moment. The situation is quite dire. If the Golf Club should fail the asset comes back to the Community Council. The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

675: Date of Next Meeting: June 6th in Fairbourne Village Hall.