

**ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE**  
**ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

**737: The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed all Councillors.**

Mr Gareth Evens from the NRW was also in attendance, he had been invited to make a presentation regarding the work to be carried out at Friog Corner on the Flood Defences commencing end of October 2018.

**738: Present:** Cllr P Thomas, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr J Haycock, Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes, Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley, Cllr B Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) H Neville, Angela Thomas Clerk, and Mr Gareth Evens (NRW).

**739: Apologies Received:** Cllr (Mrs) R Stott

**740: Councillors' Declaration of Interest:** Nil

**741: To Receive Any Special Announcements:** It was with great sadness that the Councillors were informed of the sad passing of the son of Julian Kirkham, Julian had sat on the Community Council for many years. A letter of condolence will be sent to Julian and Judy Kirkham from Arthog Community Council.

**742: To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018.** Proposed by: Cllr B Woolley, seconded by Cllr P Roberts. The Chairman signed and dated the minutes as a correct and accurate copy.

**743: Gareth Evens gave his report:** He confirmed that the NRW were responsible for the sea and tidal defences, and ditches for Fairbourne and of course surrounding area. He confirmed that the NRW had received a letter from Liz Saville Roberts reference a temporary/permanent access to the beach. He confirmed that the NRW/Contractor would not using a ramp/temporary access to the beach but would be traversing over from the promenade. There is no intention to re-instate the previous ramp. The old ramp could be removed by the contractor that the NRW are using but GC would be responsible for financing it. The Maritime Officer will be contacted and asked what will happen. The NRW are not responsible as an organisation for the removal. Gareth Evens said he would contact GC and chase for an answer.

With regard to Friog Corner, Network Rail have now finished their work on the railway line which means that the Contractor will start the Rock Armour Defence in late October 28/29<sup>th</sup>.

An easy access plan has been approved, the Contractor lorries will come into Fairbourne via Beach Road, take a left into Penrhyn Drive South and exit under the Railway bridge, in other words a one-way system. Residents will receive a mail shot informing them of this. 20-ton lorries will bring the 20,000 tons of Rock Armour in at the rate of 20 lorries a day. The work will commence on the 5<sup>th</sup> November hopefully completed by end of March. Cllr Haycock expressed concern of the weight of the lorries coming over the Bont, but Cllr Roberts

pointed out that much heavier lorries from the quarry that were 44 ton had used the same roadway without damage. Gareth Evens confirmed that the Tank Traps were going to be raised up onto the Promenade but what would happen after that he did not know. They are a preserved monument and will in fact enhance the look of the area. He added that what the NRW are doing is stabilizing the situation, but they are not in fact adding further protection, which was fully understood by all.

The subject of shingle was raised with reference to the loss in Fairbourne. Gareth said that it was a problem all along the coast, it was moving and there was nothing that could be done about it because of cost. However, by putting the rock armour in it should slow the loss of shingle down. The rock armour will extend down the beach by some 100 metres at least and will make a tremendous difference. Gareth Evens left the meeting at 7.20pm.

#### **744: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> September: Nil**

**745: Clerks Report:** The Clerk reported that she had written to Dwr Cymru reference the plot on Penrhyn Drive South, the taking of water and depositing of waste into and from the Public Toilets. The letter had been passed to GC, environment department for consideration. GC confirmed that there is no wrong doing at all. Because of the nature of the word PUBLIC, that the public can basically do what they like. The situation may well change when the FAT takes over the responsibility of the building, the toilets could then be called something different taking out the word PUBLIC. The Clerk reported that she had at long last after 22 weeks heard back from GC with regard to the Application to reinstate some Beach Huts on Penrhyn Drive North, however, the answer was a resounding NO. Cllr Roberts will take the paperwork to the next FAT meeting. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes will also take up this issue. It would have brightened and enlightened Fairbourne, but obviously Fairbourne is a no-go area for Planning. The Clerk reported that the Ynys Faig Wall will be repaired in the first week of October. The Clerk reported that she had sent a Big Thank You to Steffan Jones and his street team for keeping Fairbourne clean and tidy over the hot Summer period. Cllr Roberts had reported that the gate on the left at the "hump" on Penrhyn Drive North was hanging off. The Clerk had reported this to Elizabeth Haynes GC and a repair was being actioned. It transpires that both Gates were in fact broken, the Clerk will check. The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from HM Revenue and Customs regarding VAT. It is now a much easier procedure to claim VAT back and can all be done on line. The SNP development Plan had been received and was available for inspection. The Clerk will retain the copy, but it will be available to all Councillors and in fact Cllr (Mrs) Neville took it to read through. It was discussed in detail. An issue raised by Cllr (Mrs) Neville pointed out how difficult it is to get planning permission in the SNP, you have to have lived in the SNP for a period of 10 years before an application can be considered. Cllr Roberts pointed out the hypocrisy of clause 106 relating to local affordable housing within a radius of 30 miles. It would appear that (in documented cases) this can be lifted upon payment of £30,000 to the SNP. Three local cases were discussed. It was felt that this ought to be brought to the attention of the Media. The Preliminary Fairbourne Coastal Adoption Masterplan had been received from Liz Saville-Roberts office. Cllr B Woolley took it for perusal, and also took it to the Project Board Meeting. A list of works to be carried out by GC locally had been sent to the Clerk. The Clerk forwarded the list to all Councillors, all had received it. The sum of £1.00 had been received from Fairbourne Golf Club. The Clerk had purchased stamps with it. This is for rent. The renewal for the CC Public Liability Insurance became due at the end

of September. Because of the upcoming Remembrance Service, the Clerk had to speak to The Chairman Cllr Thomas to obtain permission to go ahead with the renewal to enable her to add the new Policy Number to the GC Road Closure Paperwork. The cost of renewal was fixed for a three years period and had in fact only risen by a few pounds. The Clerk gave a summary of the position with NAT WEST Bank. No replies had been received to any of the three letters written. The mobile telephone bill had doubled this month because of calling Nat West Bank on their premium line to further our requests, and the statement had again gone to Mike Scott's address. A letter of complaint will be written with a copy to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. The situation is getting untenable. The Clerk told the Councillors that as a result of the meeting held with Liz Saville Roberts, 3 of the topics raised are already being actioned. (Camper Vans, Station Car Park and Beach Ramp). At the last meeting, there was mention of an abandoned boat and trailer at Penrhyn Drive North Point, which it was thought, on a high tide could cause a problem in the estuary if it floated out. The Clerk spoke to Kevin Wyatt and was told in no uncertain terms that the boat and trailer were on railway land and it was nothing to do with the Community Council. The Clerk said that she had tried on several occasions to contact Wyn Williams GC and the NRW Dylan Williams, to find out what is happening about the relocation of the bridge/footpath across Morfa Saltmarsh without any success. A previous Planning Application concerning the Black Poplar at the Old Church Rooms had resurfaced and the application to put a plastic grid around the trunk of the tree had been DENIED.

#### **746: Special Items Brought to Attention:**

- (a) **Fairbourne Amenities Trust:** Cllr Roberts gave a summary of what is happening. Things are going very well and that over £4000.00 has been raised. People have been donating £5.00 and £10 notes. The plan now is to try and get a disabled toilet incorporated into the site. Cllr Haycock asked if Cllr Roberts thought that the majority of the donations came from visitors and then asked if local users/businesses were engaged in the scheme as well. Cllr Roberts said that Alan Wild will be visiting the local business to chivvy them on as the majority of donations were from visitors. Cllr Roberts made a plea for spare white masonry paint to help with the repainting of the outside to ready it for the mural to be painted by Cllr (Mrs) Woolley. Cllr Roberts also said that the Fairbourne Railway had agreed to make a regular donation towards the upkeep of the toilets. Cllr (Mrs) Neville raised the subject of an article in the Cambrian newspaper refereeing to another community receiving monies from GC via car parking fees being slightly increased and the "over balance" being given to the toilet fund, could this apply to Fairbourne? This was in fact one of the topics raised at the One Voice Wales AGM. It would be difficult to apply in Fairbourne as the Public Toilets are situated in the free station car park.
- (b) **BDO LLP Accounts:** The Clerk gave a summary of events: A letter had been sent to BDO signed by both the Chairman and the Clerk indicating that HMRC had confirmed that the CC did not need to become an employer. The issue could be dealt with as a Self-Employed matter; however, the Clerks wages were below the figure that needed to be considered for tax and insurance matters. BDO confirmed that they had written to the Welsh Audit office as the information supplied by the HMRC to the CC was in conflict with information supplied by HMRC to the Welsh

Audit Office/BDO. As a consequence, the Accounts had not yet been signed off and notices had been put in the 3 Notice Boards indicating the same. A reply from BDO was awaited.

- (c) **Remembrance Sunday:** The Clerk summarised that she had been having problems with GC reference the location of the Monument and the Service details. It appeared that even though this event has been happening for a great many years the person dealing with the request to close the road had no idea what was being asked for. After sending three different maps and explanations, the request had been submitted. At this moment in time the CC was still awaiting approval to close the road even though North Wales Police have confirmed that they are ready.
- (d) **Project Board Meeting:** – Cllr Woolley: Cllr B Woolley gave a presentation reference a meeting he attended on behalf of the CC. He reported that there was an inaccurate statement in the Preliminary/Draft Coastline Management Plan received from the office of Liz Saville-Roberts. The meeting opened with reference to Fairbourne being a Village on the North Wales Coastline that had NO history of flooding. In the plan, it states that Fairbourne is a Village on the North Wales Coastline that HAS a history of flooding. Lisa Goodier will get this statement removed immediately. Fairbourne **did not** flood in 2014. It was a comprehensive document, but it did not cover the important facts of what happens when these North Wales Communities do supposedly flood. Evacuation matters principally. The Board requested a Public Meeting without the same fiasco as last time. I.e. GC requesting a meeting to explain what was happening and then at the last minute pulled out/cancelled because the matter was too sensitive, and GC left the matter to Arthog Community Council who were totally ill-equipped to deal with such life changing matters. It was stressed that the Communities concerned did not want sensational headlines in the local press or the BBC/ITV again, which gave a very biased and untrue slant to this matter. It was agreed that a compact flyer would be sent to all Fairbourne residents if a Public Meeting should go ahead. Abandonment is scheduled for 2045 but Fairbourne will be supported until 2054. Is this a dry or wet abandonment? However, accurate figures of sea level rise, or not, will be available in 2020, ten years' worth of data being available, and this could result in a complete re-think of the situation and SNP2 could be re-written. World figures of sea level rise are .08 of a mms per year globally, so at the moment everything is speculative, and it would take 100s of years for the North Wales Coastline to flood. It was pointed out that the stumbling block is actually that CG are not prepared to maintain the sea wall after a certain time and although the sea level may stay the same, the wall will deteriorate. Cllr Thomas said that of course opinions can and do change. Cllr Robert said that 30 years ago Sam Williams, Chief Executive, Gwynedd River and Sea Authority, said "that this was the last time money would be thrown on the maintenance of the sea wall". Greg Guthrie is no longer employed by GC, he does however still consult for NRW. Cllr Haycock thanked Cllr Woolley for his work on this matter.

**747: To Deal with Any Correspondence:** The Clerk had received a letter via Cllr (Mrs) Stott from Cherry and Andy King, making a formal request for support from the CC for help to purchase a defibrillator for Arthog. The Chairman read the letter and then opened the topic for discussion. The plan is to place the defibrillator in the decommissioned telephone box on the Terrace. A local ambulance member is prepared to get this up and running. No

objections were raised, and it was agreed that, in principle, the Community Council would match any funds raised. Proposed by Cllr Haycock and seconded by Cllr Roberts. Cllr Haycock said it would be good to run it as a Community Project and match fund.

A copy of the One Voice Wales AGM minutes had been sent to the Clerk. The Chairman raised an issue from the minutes that looked as though GC were planning to pass to the Community Councils' a 7-point plan for the responsibility for "well-being" in the Communities. This was a cause for concern. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes had already objected in Council to this. Ultimately it would only result in a raise in Council Tax and Precepts. In other words, paying double for what is already in situ. The Minutes also confirmed that the Dovey Bridge By-Pass would not proceed due to a lack of funds. It was noted that the Bridge had had to be closed again due to flooding. The provision from GC of salt for grit bins and been changed, but at this moment in time it was not known how it had changed. One of the grit bins above Cllr Thomas' property on the road leading to Cregennan Lakes needed a new lid. The Clerk would write to GC and report it. The Chairman said that he would not wish for the Community Council to become responsible or involved in gritting matters as it would leave the CC open to litigation.

**748: To Deal with Planning Matters:** Nil

**749: Financial Statement and Report:** The Clerk had received the statement from Nat West very late therefore the statements were handed out at the meeting. The lateness of the statement is part of the on-going issues with Nat West and their operating procedures.

Current Account: £12536.29

Reserve Account: £4740.71 + 20p interest

Youth Account: £7711.40 + 33p interest                      £24988.07 in total.

The forms for the Cemetery account will be sent to Nat West once the changeover of Clerk/RFO is confirmed, at which stage £4000.00 will be transferred.

Cheques to be signed and sent were as follows: Came & Co Insurance Renewal £1564.14, Postage Angela Thomas £20.20, L C Jones 100.00 Grass Cutting, Mike Scott Flower Boxes £31.90 and £1000.00 Peredur Roberts, Grass Cutting Footpaths.

Cllr Roberts said that at the last FAT meeting the subject of a parking meter at the point was raised again. There would be a concession for local residents, maybe along the lines of £5.00 a year.

A listing for the Precept 2018 was also circulated for discussion and ready for the Extra Ordinary Meeting to be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October in Arthog to discuss and set budgets.

**750: To Receive Councillors' Questions:** NIL

**751: Representatives Reports:** Cllr Roberts reported that on Arthog Hill, where the cars park, there is rutting in the road edge, caused by water erosion. This may have been resolved without involving the CC. Cllr B Woolley once again raised the question of speed cameras on Arthog Hill. It was explained that the CC had done everything it could to try and get a second sped camera and speed reduction signs and a second illuminated warning of speed sign all without success. GC do not see the need for any change. It was felt that one day there will be a very serious accident there, possibly resulting in a death. Hopefully Liz Saville Roberts will progress this question. Cllr (Mrs) Neville asked if it would be possible to

brighten the notice boards and make them stand out a bit more. The Arthog Notice Board is damp, and it was suggested that Bill Round should be asked if it could be made good.

**752: Date of Next Meeting:** – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> – Precept Meeting 7.00pm Arthog Village Hall and Wednesday 7th November 2018, Fairbourne Village Hall commencing 7.00 pm.