

**ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE**  
**FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019**

**793: The Chairman Opened the Meeting at 7.00pm**

**794: Present:** Cllr P Thomas, Cllr S Eves, Cllr B Wooley, Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) R Stott, Cllr (Mrs) Neville, Clerk Angela Thomas.

**795: Apologies Received:** Cllr (Mrs) Hughes, Cllrs Roberts and Haycock

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

**797: To Receive Any Special Announcements:** The Chairman wished everybody a Happy New Year.

**798: To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018.** Proposed by Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley and seconded by Cllr B Woolley. The Chairman signed the minutes as being accurate.

**799: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018.** Nil.

**800: Clerks Report:** The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with Lisa Goodier to request an accurate and up to date copy of the sea level rise as discussed at the last meeting. After an exchange of several emails a copy of a graph was forwarded to the Clerk on the 9<sup>th</sup> January in time for this meeting. The graph only showed figures to 2015, not to 2018 as mentioned at the last meeting. Also, the rise in sea level was well below the 4mm that Lisa Goodier reported as being factual. It was a chart that had no explanation as to how it worked, where the figures had come from and was not up to date. The chart also showed less than a 1mm rise in 25 years. There were no shown legend/units of measure. What was also needed was a copy of the Greg Guthrie predictions for comparison. Cllr Eves said that he would contact Aberystwyth University Marine Department for their actual figures. It appears to many people and to this Community Council that Gwynedd Council is intent on closing Fairbourne down and many people are feeling uncertain about their future. This Community Council is lacking actual facts and figures, especially who, what and where will happen to the residents of Fairbourne in the case of a catastrophic or managed event. And in the ever likely event that GC have got this all wrong who will compensate the residents of Fairbourne for their hardship. Greg Guthrie and his associates should be brought to task. The Clerk will again write to Lisa Goodier inviting her and a colleague to attend the next meeting. The Clerk had written to Keith Ivens reference the request from Councillors at the last meeting. The Clerk had spoken to Keith Ivens and he confirmed that a reply as well as the requested plans were imminent. The Clerk had written to Liz Saville Roberts asking if she could obtain a breakdown of the spend of the NRW on the clearing of ditches in Fairbourne. A reply was still awaited. Cllr Eves said that in light of the figures supplied to the CC from LS-R, the Fairbourne Amenities Trust were seriously considering tendering for the ditch clearing contract. FAT would ask for support from the CC.

The Clerk had circulated the GC plan of works in the area to all Councillors. It concerned changing the street light columns on Beach Road, commencing January. The Clerk confirmed that Cllr (Mrs) Neville had made a December inspection of the Playpark. Everything was in order, however the seat on the toddler swings may need attention in the near future. There is no danger or risk presently. A reply had not been received from the Welsh Audit office as yet with regard to the complaint referring to the External Audit bill. The Clerk said that she had received a letter from GC with regard to Leisure Centres. On initial reading it looked as though GC had sold the franchise to an external company, however Cllr Eves pointed out that the company now running the Leisure Centres was an offshoot of GC and watch this space because it usually leads to the closure within a year or two. Ergo, shifting the blame from GC to another party. The Clerk reported that the Penmaenpool crowd funding had resulted in the project for the defib. being completed successfully. The Arthog defib. fund raising events were still taking place. The CC is yet to be consulted about the Phone Box though. The Clerk presented a copy of a Notice to Tender for the grass cutting of the Cemetery, Cenotaph and Footpaths. After discussion and a few amendments, the Notice was approved and agreed that it would go into the Notice Boards until the March meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Lisa Goodier to invite her and her colleague to the February meeting for an update on sea level rise and the Master Plan.

**801: Special Items Brought to Attention:** Nil.

**802: To Deal with Any Correspondence:** The Clerk had received an email from GC reference the feeding of sea gulls. A poster was attached to the email referring to the fact that it is illegal to feed gulls and there is £1000 fine for offenders. The Clerk put a copy of the poster in the Notice Boards. The Clerk had received an email from the office of LS-R relating to accident statistics for Arthog Hill. North Wales Police had sent to LS-R a report indicating that there really was not a serious problem. The Clerk replied back to LS-R confirming that was not an accurate assessment mainly because most collisions are not reported to the police unless there is an injury. The Clerk supplied additional information to the office of LS-R. The Clerk had read in the Cambrian news that GC had announced an intended 5.5% increase in Council Tax. After much discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter on behalf of ACC voicing concerns and disappointment in the rise in Council Tax and the decline in service. 5.5% is more than twice the rate of inflation. The Clerk referred to a letter that had been written by Mike Scott reference Penrhyn Point. The Clerk confirmed that she had re-written it reducing it down to one A4 page but was still waiting for a reply. The Clerk had phoned GC to confirm that the letter had been received and it was in fact on the desk of the recipient Iwan ap Trevor, waiting to be actioned. Cllr Woolley confirmed that he would be representing the Community Council at the Friday meeting in the Village Hall (item f) on the Agenda. He will make a report at the next meeting. It is not a “drop-in” meeting. It is to discuss investment in Fairbourne.

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

**804: Financial Statement and Report:** The Clerk reported that the HSBC bank accounts were now fully operation and in fact a cheque to the value of £468.75 had been deposited already into the main bank account. This relates to the funds received from GC for the grass

cutting of the footpaths. A letter had been written to go to Nat West to close the existing bank accounts. It was signed by the three signatories present and Cllr Haycock will sign when he returns home.

A copy of the accounts to date was distributed to all Councillors present. There were no questions or concerns.

**Current Account:** £9175.06

**Reserve Account:** £4742.47. (78p interest)

**Youth Account:** £7714.27. (1.27p interest)

Cheques issued in December were all banked. Cheques to be signed in January were as follows: £184.00 for maintenance of the Fairbourne Community Flood Plan site, £70.00 for Fairbourne Village Hall rental and £14.75 stamps. Cllr Eves confirmed that Fairbourne Amenities Trust currently had £5500.00 in their account, a large proportion of this will go to fund a disabled toilet to be added to the block.

**805: To Receive Councillors' Questions:** Cllr Eves reported that he had spoken to the Constructors at Friog Corner with regard to the Tarmac road and the possibility of keeping the road in place after completion of the project. He was told that the Constructors instructions were to dismantle the road at the end of the contract. The Clerk was asked to write to NRW and establish whether it was feasible to leave the road in place. It would become a much-needed asset to the Community in future times. Cllr Eves had spoken to Mr Barry Davies, Maritime Officer GC, who agreed to speak to GC with a view to the CC retaining the road. Cllr Eves confirmed that the old slipway rubble and concrete had been removed. Cllr (Mrs) Stott reported that the Quarry Lorries were assembling in the layby in Arthog below her home at about 6.30am in the morning. It was confirmed that they were not allowed to enter Fairbourne until after 8.00am, this is an NRW instruction. Cllr Woolley reported his concerns regarding the Master Plan and all that it entails, especially the way that Fairbourne is being portrayed and the wording used in conjunction with Fairbourne. He has been asking for specific information with regard to sea level rise etc and he feels he is being "fobbed off" and that Fairbourne and its Community Council were being treated badly. When the Master Plan is completed and ready to be presented to the Community, Cllr Woolley feels that not enough "actual" data and figures are available for the Councillors to make an accurate and more to the point believable report. Cllr Thomas suggested that Cllr Woolley should ask the question "at what point of sea level rise will GC start the decommissioning of Fairbourne". Greg Guthrie, at his first presentation said that once sea level rise had reached 600mm decommissioning would commence. At the present rate of sea level rise that would be in about 300 years' time. The point made was that you cannot give a presentation of future happening on "conjecture". What the CC wants is HARD FACT. Cllr Woolley asked for approval for him to be able to say at the next Board Meeting that Arthog Community Council WILL NOT put its name to anything that is not HARD FACT, and definitely not to assumed figures or conjecture. Cllr Thomas said that prior to any presentation being made by the ACC, a meeting with Gwynedd Council representatives was imperative for a frank and honest discussion on the Master Plan. Cllr Woolley had a second point to raise. A neighbour of his said that he had complained to Dwr Cymru about the poor rate that the basin, bath and toilet water was getting away to the drains. Complaints had also been made in Arthog. The problem was due to the Pumping Station it was felt, not

being fit for purpose. The neighbour was told by Dwr Cymru that they Dwr Cymru would not be investing in a bigger pumping station because of the impending demise of Fairbourne. At the Board Meeting Cllr Woolley was told that Dwr Cymru have a statutory duty of care to maintain the utility to all areas. **The Clerk** was asked to write a letter to Dwr Cymru asking for an explanation. It was established that some resident(s) had written to the Ombudsman for Wales about this problem. At the time that the Pumping Station was installed it was felt that it would not be fit for purpose and under capacitated. **Cllr Thomas** gave an update on the hill fire that happened just after the last meeting. It was a new tenant farmer who decided to burn gorse on the windiest day of the year to date. A slight change in wind direction and Cllr Thomas's property would probably not still be standing. It was wondered if the Farmer would be prosecuted. 200 acres were burnt. Luckily Garth Mountain was not affected. It could easily have been a 1000 acres.

**806: Representatives Report:** Nil

**807: Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Wednesday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019