

# ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE FAIRBOURNE  
VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019

**863: The Chairman Opened the Meeting:** The Chairman, Cllr Thomas opened the meeting at 7.00pm. Lisa Goodier and Emyr Gareth had not arrived at this stage.

**864: Present:** Cllr Thomas, Cllr Eves, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Haycock, Cllr Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes, Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) H Neville, Clerk Angela Thomas, arriving later Lisa Goodier Gwynedd Council and Emyr Gareth Gwynedd Council.

**865: Apologies Received:** Cllr (Mrs) R Stott.

**866: Presentation of Final Draft of the Mater Plan by Lisa Goodier Gwynedd Council and Emyr Gareth Gwynedd Council:** This presentation took approximately one hour. The Councillors were asked to keep the contents of the Final Master Plan confidential until it is ready for presentation to the Stakeholders, Residents and invited persons of Interest. The discussions were intense and heated and after much discussion the Community Council agreed to act as the means of conveying and receiving information, questions etc from Residents and interested parties. The Community Council did not agree to act as ambassadors or to sit on the top table during the presentation of the Master Plan. The reasons for this decision are that the Master Plan does not offer answers to any of the questions that have been asked by the Residents of Fairbourne. The Councillors asked Lisa Goodier and Emyr Gareth to re-write the Master Plan in plain and understandable language for the layperson, also to consider giving it a new name as Master Plan is not what this document is. The graphs and not understandable or sensible for the general public. There are no answers or conclusions contained in the document, and the information contained therein is all speculative with no hard evidence to back up. When asked what decommission was, neither Lisa Goodier nor Emyr Gareth gave an answer. Once again, Emyr Gareth was unable to extend to the CC accurate data from the Barmouth Gauge because it had still not been calibrated. Lisa Goodier and Emyr Gareth left the meeting at 1hr 31m 29s. They were invited back to the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, hopefully with a much clearer and understandable, new named, Master Plan for presentation to the public on June 26<sup>th</sup>. A drop-in meeting will be held on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May in Fairbourne.

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

**868: To Receive Any Special Announcements:** Cllr (Mrs) Hughes announced that matters were proceeding with Footpath 13 Mawddach Crescent. A to B to C was passed by planning unanimously. It will go on the definitive map. It will possibly still go to a public inquiry.

**869: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 in Arthog Village Hall:** The minutes were signed by the Chairman and proposed as accurate by Cllr Eves and seconded by Cllr Roberts.

**870: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 in Arthog Village Hall.** No matters arising.

**871: Clerks Report:** The Clerk reported that she had been having problems with Vodafone downloading the bill each month. It appeared that since the bill had been redesigned it had taken on a house name that Vodafone thought was a named person. It was proposed that the Community Council purchased a new phone, contract and number to try and put things right. The existing

phone is very old and does not hold a charge for a complete day. It was proposed by Cllr Robert and seconded by Cllr Haycock that the Clerk investigate, find the best deal and go ahead with a purchase. One Voice Wales had sent a draft form for Councillors to opt out of claiming costs etc. All Councillors signed the forms to opt out. The completed forms to be retained by the Clerk. A welcome letter had also been received from OVW and asked for the name of the current representative. Cllr Thomas agreed to again be the representative for the local area meetings. The Clerk was pleased to announce that Cllr (Mrs)Stott had been confirmed as a School Governor for Bro Idris Ysgol. The issue of the missing Flag Pole was still being investigated and the Clerk had written to the Planning Department of GC and again to Barry Davies, Harbour Master to try to get to the bottom of it. The Chairman welcomed Lisa Goodier and Emyr Gareth to the meeting at 7.15pm. The Clerk confirmed that a reply had been received from Keith Ivens reference ingress of water at Friog corner and that the concerns voiced by Michael Thrussell echoed the concerns of the NRW and their advisors. It is still ongoing. There is still one pump in situ. An article in The Post voicing Liz Saville Roberts concerns reference Sea Level Rise was shown to all Councillors. A copy of the works schedule from GC had been circulated to all Councillors.

**872: Special Items Brought to Attention:** Cllr Eves reminded Councillors that the Guardian article is being published on 18<sup>th</sup> May in the Saturday supplement. It should make interesting reading. Cllr Eves and the Clerk went to a meeting with Liz Saville Roberts regarding the proposed decommissioning of Fairbourne. The damage to Friog Corner was discussed in full and LSR will investigate that. The state of the Ditches and the outfall were a major topic of concern that she will also investigate. The problem with getting a mortgage as a result of the Surveyors not being prepared to come to the area. A 5-page letter had been prepared to send to LSR and had been approved by Cllr Eves. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes read an email that she had received about the state of the ditches in Glan Y Mor. A letter will be sent to Keith Ivens regarding this matter. Cllr Hughes will forward the email to LSR. Cllr Thomas brought to attention a potential problem with the Golf Club. The Golf Club now is making a loss on the catering and club house, despite receiving a little over £8000 from the telecommunications companies for the placement of the masts. Mike Scott is endeavoring to find a solution. The Golf Course was set up in its present form in 1995. A company limited by guarantee was set up and people could buy in for a £1.00. A mortgage was granted for about £60,000 in 2005, £23,000 is still owing on it. If the Golf Course/Club fails and after all debts are paid, the remaining balance comes back to the CC. The CC does not have all the paperwork regarding the setting up of the Mortgage, Land ownership etc and this will have to be found in the archives if a new committee cannot be found to run the Golf Course. In the events of a failure to find a buyer the Clerk will speak to One Voice Wales to establish how any monies coming back to the CC will be handled.

**873: Election of Officers:** Cllr Thomas asked if those Councillors in place were happy to continue and all agreed. There is a vacancy on the Golf Club for a CC member, Cllr Eves and Cllr (Mrs) Neville said they would become the representatives for the Golf Club. Proposed by Cllr Roberts and Seconded by Cllr Haycock

**874: Election of Chairman:** Cllr Eves was proposed as Chairman proposed by Cllr Haycock seconded by Cllr Roberts.

**875: Election of Vice Chairman:** Cllr Roberts was proposed as Vice Chairman, proposed by Cllr Eves seconded by Cllr Haycock.

Cllr Eves moved into the Chair and took over the meeting. A round of applause was given to departing Cllr Thomas and incoming Cllr Eves.

**876: To deal with Any Correspondence:** Nothing to report.

**877: To Deal with Planning Matters:** A Planning Application had been received for the Warehouse in Station Road, change of use from Warehouse to domestic use. It was assumed that this was retrospective. There were no concerns raised by the CC

**878: Financial Statement and Report:** The Clerk confirmed that the first half of the Precept, £6000.00 had gone into the HSBC Account. The Clerk also confirmed that the VAT claim had been acknowledged by HMRC but because of the change of Bank Account, it would take a little longer to process, but all was in order. All Councilors' had received a copy of the monthly report. There were four cheques for signature. £1000.00 for Fairbourne Amenities Trust, £1,00 for GC rent. £100.00 for L C Jones for the first cut in the cemetery and £21.68 for the Clerk for postage. It was decided to obtain two quotation for scraping the paths in the cemetery that have now become quite slippery. Cllr Thomas will ask Mr Black for a quotation and Cllr Roberts will also quote. The £1000.00 for FAT will go towards the cost of the redecoration of the two sets of toilets and the addition of a disabled toilet.. Hodgson's the decorators very kindly did the job for the cost of paid and labour only and it looks superb. Portaloos were available during the refurbishment. It was suggested that a plaque should be put in place thanking the residents, businesses and visitors for their very kind donations. A letter of thanks will be sent to Hodgson's thanking them for their excellent work and kindness. Cllr Woolley again said that FFC was now disbanded and that the money in the bank now would be left for a year for claimants to come forward but that after that any residue would go to FAT. Finally, the Clerk presented the returned accounts from the Internal Auditor to the Councillors. The Clerk read the 3 points raised: Risk Assessment, Donations to be listed as S173 and the Website. All will be addressed at the next meeting. The Chairman Cllr Eves and the RFO Clerk Angela Thomas signed them off. Proposed: Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Haycock.

**879: To Receive Councillors' Questions:** Cllr (Mrs) Neville raised the poor state of Blue Lake. It has become a dumping ground for rubbish from visitors which is very disappointing. A Travis Perkins bag full of sand will be removed after it is established that it is not owned. Cllr Roberts will remove it if it is not owned. It is private land. Cllr Haycock once again raised the matter of the poor broadband, Openreach have confirmed that there are no plans to bring fiber up the hill to Arthog Top. Cllr (Mrs) Neville again raised the fact that the football nets had been stolen and asked whether the CC should consider a basketball hoop. Cllr Woolley asked the Clerk to write to Lisa Goodier regarding the meeting tonight to reiterate that the CC feels that the leader of Gwynedd Council should attend the presentation meeting to the residents of Fairbourne.

**880: Representatives Report:** Cllr Haycock told the Councilors' that the Charity Commission had removed the Pygyrallt Charity from its listing. It was proving to be very difficult now to operate this Charity because its turnover is not big enough. Cllr Haycock will continue to try to resolve the problem.

**881: Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in the Arthog Village Hall, commencing 7.00pm. Lisa Goodier and Emyr Gareth will once again be present, hopefully with a more precise and accurate Master Plan. The meeting closed at 9.30pm.