

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE
FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 3rd JULY 2019**

897: The Chairman Opened the Meeting: The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00 and welcomed all present. A full complement of Councillors’.

898: Present: Cllr S Eves, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr P Thomas, Cllr J Haycock, Cllr B Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) R Stott, Cllr (Mrs) H Neville, Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes, Clerk Angela Thomas

899: Apologies Received: Nil

900: Councillors’ Declaration of Interest: Nil

901: To Receive Any Special Announcements: Nil

902: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th June 2019. The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairman. Proposed as correct by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Neville.

903: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 5th June 2019: Two corrections were needed, change Wynstay to Travis Perkins and change Dutch to Netherlands.

904: Clerks Report: The Clerk confirmed 6 queries had been received from BDO, all have been answered. An email was sent to Cllrs reference relief for Public Toilets. It had been read by those concerned. A letter had been received from Sam Hollingworth asking if the Community Council had any objection to a gate being added to Footpath 35, this was to retain stock. No objections. A telephone call had been received from Liz Haynes regarding the payment from GC for footpath cutting. Once again it will amount to £468.75 which was good news. A BTN Link Application had been registered by Aled ap Gomer to try and make the CC Website a bit more visible. An inspection of the Play Park had been carried out by ROSPA and a bill for £99.00 had been received. A lengthy report had been written, there were no immediate dangers listed for any of the pieces of equipment. Minor repairs needed to be made on some items. The CC will endeavor to find a local builder to fulfill the work required if it cannot be done in house. Cllr (Mrs) Neville took the report for further consideration. The bill was £150.00 cheaper than last years from G L Jones. A request for a questionnaire to be completed from a student regarding second homes in Anglesey and Gwynedd had been received. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes said that she would answer it. An email had been sent to Steffan Jones GC regarding overnight camper vans, the Clerk was still waiting for a reply. In a follow up email, the Clerk was asked to ask Steffan Jones if the CC on behalf of Fairbourne could pass a by-law prohibiting overnight camping in the village of Fairbourne, and at what cost. Barmouth has passed a by-law for the same. An email had been received from Mantell Gwynedd stating that the CC information had been added to the Third Sector Support Wales database. A reply had at last been received from the office of Liz Saville Roberts reference our letter dated 29th April. Quite a few of the queries were answered but nothing of new interest that the CC did not already know about. One point that was raised was that Gwynedd Council have an evacuation plan, but that plan is yet to be viewed by the CC. At a meeting that Cllr Eves attended some time ago the plan presented at that time was not practical as in an event Fairbourne would not be accessible not even by helicopter. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to St Cynon Church, Isgol Bro Idris and The Arthog Outdoor Adventure Centre asking whether these places could be used in the event of a flooding situation. There was still no news about a Minister coming from Westminster despite LSR asking 4 times. The Clerk had attended the last drop in meeting at the end of June, Cllr Eves had been otherwise

engaged. Lisa Goodier/Catrin Wager were suggesting a public meeting in September. They asked if the CC would liaise with the Fairbourne Amenities Trust to collect questions of a “positive nature” and submit to GC. During that meeting Catrin Wager again confirmed that residents would be responsible for the cost of demolition of their own homes. Within the same day an email was then sent to the Clerk asking the CC to hold off until Lisa Goodier had spoken to Cllr Eves, and LG had recruited ambassadors from Fairbourne. Not quite sure for what purpose. Cllr Thomas reported that although there are signs at Cregennan Lakes banning overnight camping, there are still persistent overnight campers, in both Vans and Tents. Cllr Thomas requested that a letter be sent to the National Trust voicing concerns. The last thing that Cregennan needs is another hill fire like last year. Also included in that letter should be a request for signs to be put back on the gates reference Closing the Gates after going through. All the notices have been removed. A review of Polling Districts and Polling Places had been received. No action required by ACC, but it was noted. Proposed by Cllr Thomas and Seconded by Cllr Haycock. SNP Events Diary was made available to the Councillors. The Clerk had received a reply from Barry Davies regarding the 999 phones, flagpole and information boards. Mr Davies had confirmed that the three 999 phones cost £1200.00/annum to maintain. Cllr Eves asked the Clerk to request a breakdown of how that cost is made up. The Clerk asked if it would be an idea to launch a Facebook page for Fairbourne and its future. Cllr (Mrs) Stott said that she could do it but not for a few months. It was felt that it was a good idea.

905: Special Items Brought to Attention: Nil

906: To deal with Any Correspondence: The Clerk was asked to write a letter to Natural Resources Wales about the Friog Corner Rock Armour Project, the state of the ditches and outfall pipe and to mention Footpath 13’s new path, as nothing has happened to date. A letter had been received from a Mrs Anna Zammit the new owner of Pen yr Odyn. This lady had applied to GC for relief from Council Tax as the property was not fit for habitation. She had been threatened with Court Action by GC for non-payment of Council Tax and wished the CC to minute the fact that she had tried to deal with GC in the fashion suggested by her Solicitor. The CC agreed to send a letter to GC asking for the rating department to treat her case in a fair and proper manner. The Clerk wrote to Helenna Lambert, SKY to thank her and the production team for coming to Fairbourne and telling their story. A schedule of work map and financial allocation had been received from Gareth Evens NRW regarding work to be carried out in Fairbourne on the ditches. It did not make for very good reading as they appeared to be no intention to clear silt from the ditch system at all. It was hoped that the Fairbourne Amenities Trust would be able to wrestle the care of the ditches from the NRW. Reference was made to the complaint from a resident on Glan Y Mor and their cat dying because it could not get out of the silted ditch. Cllr Louise Hughes will again try and contact Gareth Evens to discuss this matter. It was again pointed out that according to riparian law each household is responsible for their length of ditch and that in some cases land has been unlawfully acquired by householders making it impossible for some stretches to be accessed. Gareth Evens had walked that length of ditch with Mike Scott but deemed it to be unsightly rather than a flood risk. It is however blocked and could therefore flood and not drain away and affect the local area. Hugh Harrison Estates were responsible for the ditch, however, when that Company went closed the responsibility was left in limbo. A letter of thanks had been sent to Mr Hodson and Matt Hodson for the work carried out on the two sets of toilets. The Clerk had spoken to SNP about the Caravan seemingly permanently parked at Morfa Mawddach and about a Transit Van restricting the highway and pavement in the same area. The Caravan has now moved but may well be back. About the Transit Van, there is no tax or MOT, probably no insurance and certainly no SORN notice. Both GC and the Police are aware of this person, he is known to them from previous infringement of the law, however, it would appear to be impossible to do anything about the van. (It was pointed out by the

Clerk that there is now no Counter Service in Dolgellau Police Station.) SNP are going to put notices up saying no overnight parking and they are going to trial a height barrier.

Letters of thanks had been sent to all attending media and TV companies for their attention to the plight of Fairbourne.

Cllr Eves summarized all the media and television coverage that has taken place in the last month. He proposed that a meeting of all the involved parties should take place to discuss further action. Cllr Eves proposed that 6 questions be written for submission to Local Government, Welsh Government and to Westminster, such as: where is the Welsh Government proposing to house the residents of Fairbourne? What sea level data is GC basing its decisions on? What is GC going to do about the lack of Mortgage opportunity? A Sea Level Rise budget needs to be in place? Who commissioned the SMP in the first instance? Legislation needs to be in place for the residents not to be charged for the demolition of their homes. Why is the ditch system in Fairbourne not fit for purpose? Cllr (Mrs)Hughes crossed paths with Nathan Gill AM (Anglesey) on the weekend and he had no idea where Fairbourne was. She is seeing him in London however and will make sure he is fully apprised of what is happening in Fairbourne.

907: To Deal with Planning Matters: A planning application had been received regarding land in Penmaenpool to install a telecommunications mast. No objections from the Community Council.

908: Financial Statement and Report: The Clerk had circulated the monthly analysis sheet to all Councillors'. All the cheques issued at the last meeting had been banked. Cheques had been written to be signed as follows: G L Jones £100 cemetery and cenotaph grass cutting, ROSPA Safety check and report £99.00, Fairbourne Festival £100.00, Stamps £13.30 and Flower Box flower renewal £34.00 to Mike Scott. A discussion was again started about a new mobile phone. The Clerk had investigated both Curry's and Tesco. A contract was starting at about £20.00. It was decided that the best course of action would be to purchase a phone outright and then have just a sim only contract. Cllr (Mrs) Stott would help the Clerk to purchase a phone from EBAY. A get together would be arranged. The Clerk confirmed that the VAT refund had been received in the bank £211.24. Friog Festival have not submitted a request for a donation so no action will be taken to forward the £100 even though it was budgeted for.

Current Account:	£9535.24	July
Reserve Savings Account:	£ 744.54	
Youth Savings Account:	£7723.44	
Cemetery Account:	£4000.00	

Current Account:	£9521.74	August
Reserve Savings Account:	£ 744.67	
Youth Savings Account:	£7724.75	
Cemetery Account:	£4000.00	

Direct debit of £13.50 for July and £13.50 for August for mobile phone payment. £1.00 cash was received from the Golf Club for Rental. Purchased stamps to the value of £1.00.

909: To Receive Councillors' Questions: Cllr Eves raised the issue of the forthcoming meeting with Gwynedd Council and the type/kind of questions that need to be asked and answered. When will the village be decommissioned? By how much is the sea going to rise? Where has Gwynedd Council got its sea level rise figures from. Where will the people of Fairbourne be moved to and housed? What is GC going to do about the fall in house prices in Fairbourne 40%? Why can't residents get a mortgage, why can't residents get a survey, why can't residents get house insurance? For NRW, the

state of the ditches in Fairbourne, the size of the outfall pipe, the new outfall pipe takes less volume now than before? Cllr (Mrs) Neville asked if other Councillors would have a look at the matting under the rock armour at Friog Corner as there appeared to be large hole and gaps in it which was a bit disturbing to note. The Clerk said she would go and take some pictures. Cllr Eves asked the Clerk to write a letter to NRW stating the concerns about Friog Corner, the ditches and the outflow pipe at the Estuary. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes mentioned the Welsh Well Being Act and suggested that the Councilors' have a read through it. Cllr Eves confirmed that work was still being carried out reference the Ramp. Crowd funding is one of the possibilities considered. It will be discussed at the next FAT meeting. Cllr Woolley raised the question of Footpath 13 and said that the NRW once again seem to be ignoring our questions. Cllr Woolley also raised the question of why mortgages were not granted to people who want to move to Fairbourne when there is more than 25 years life to the Village or the young people in the village being able to buy. The only people who can buy in Fairbourne are people who can pay cash. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes had been approached by a resident in Fairbourne asking if he would be allowed to have an ice cream round in the village. No objections were raised. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes said she would speak to Barry Davies about a license and report back. Cllr (Mrs) Neville said that the new house, on the plot, (where the late Mr Duckhouse had lived) with the red roof, that the roof is now a permanent fixture even though it is in the SNP. The roof is in fact a manmade tile made of compressed board type material and has an "eco spec", not the usual insisted upon Welsh Slate. Cllr (Mrs) Neville also confirmed that the black poplar tree is on the short list of trees of special interest. If it is picked as the winner, it will get a £1000.00 worth of work on it.

910: Representatives Report: Golf Club: Cllr Thomas had again had a meeting with Mike Scott regarding selling the Golf House. The Golf House would only sell for £30/40,000. The Club has a debt of £23,000 on the mortgage, so after paying the mortgage, solicitors etc, the outstanding bills would just about be paid off. The fees received from the telephone tower more than covers the mortgage payments. It was felt that selling the Golf House was not a good idea. It was agreed that a change in strategy at the Golf Club was needed. Cllr Thomas presented two quotes from Mr Black regarding bringing the paths in the Cemetery to a safe and tidy state. One quote is to remove, sieve and put back the chippings and the other is to completely replace the chippings. £600 plus vat for the first and £1200 plus vat for the second option. The Councilors voted for the first option. It was proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Neville that the first option was accepted. Cllr Thomas said he would ask Mr Black for a price for spraying the weeds.

911: Date and Time of Next Meeting: The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm and wished everybody a good summer holiday. Next meeting will be on Wednesday September 4th in Arthog Village Hall.