

# ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019

**912: The Chairman Opened the Meeting:** The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm and thanked those attending.

**913: Present:** In the Chair Cllr Eves, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) H Neville, Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes, the Clerk Angela Thomas.

**914: Apologies Received:** Cllr Roberts, Cllr Haycock, Cllr (Mrs) Stott

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

**916: To Receive Any Special Announcements:** The accident in Arthog during the summer holidays involving a caravan being towed and a cyclist exiting the very narrow road in between the terraces which resulted in a fatality was discussed. The Councillors were extremely upset that this had happened. No one party was at fault, the caravan was not speeding. The cyclist's brakes failed so the accident was attributed to human error. Perhaps there should be a sign saying that the very narrow road is not suitable for cyclists other than walking their bikes down. It's a one in four. Because it was an RTA the first responders were not asked to attend. 2 Air ambulances attended.

**917: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019:** Proposed Cllr (Mrs) Woolley and Seconded Cllr B Woolley

**918: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 - Nil**

**919: Clerks Report:** The Clerk had sent a second letter of support and a copy of the original reports supporting Footpath 40 in front of the Mawddach Crescent. The Gwynedd Council notices were now all displayed along all access to the path, however, the gates at either end of the Crescent were still all locked. The Clerk reported that a remittance advice had been received from GC for the second half of the Precept and at the time of this meeting it should have gone into the bank. The Clerk had again written to Steffan Jones asking for an answer to the original letter sent early July referencing Overnight Caravans and the possibility of making a by-law for Fairbourne to prohibit overnight camping. The Clerk will continue to ask for an answer on a weekly basis. It was felt that a letter to Liz Saville Roberts might be in order. The Clerk had received a letter offering full and fast fibre to all areas. The Councillors were aware of this initiative but its cost prohibitive. The Clerk had received an email from Marie Curie requesting a donation. A polite reply will be sent saying unfortunately there is not budget now. A notice of works from GC had been circulated to all Councillors regarding re-surfacing works. This has already commenced. A round robin email had been received from Lisa Goodier announcing the presentation and follow up on the Master Plan, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October. Notices will be displayed by GC in the community later. An extra drop in meeting will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> to allow the community to fire questions. The Clerk had again written to Sian Williams NRW asking when and if any progress will be made on the completion of the new proposed footpath. The footpath had been promised to be completed in early 2018. No correspondence has been received at all. The Clerk reported that following a meeting with two AM members in the previous week, the Clerk has taken the AM's to view the breach in the old sea wall and the Friog Corner project that appears to have failed. The AM's were dismayed by the breach and Llyr Gruffydd asked the Clerk to send a report detailing all the NRW spend on Fairbourne to date. The Clerk reported that she had heard from Barry Davies about the 999 telephones. There was no breakdown as such, they each

cost £400 per year, hence the £1200. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to Liz Saville Roberts asking for assistance to resolve this matter. It was suggested that all three phones could run on the same number rather than three numbers then reducing the bill to £400 per year. A letter had been received from Keith Ivens reference flood risk in Fairbourne, he answered all the questions that had been asked by the ACC. This was the letter that referred to the pumps being put in Fairbourne as a "good will gesture". Cllr Eves said that the residents of the Caravan park have asked for Sheet Pilling. The Clerk had confirmed that she has applied for road closure for the 10<sup>th</sup> November for the Sunday Remembrance Day service. The Clerk also confirmed that the wreath has been ordered.

**920: Special Items Brought to Attention:** Cllr Eves pointed out to the meeting, that he had been told, that the pump in the Caravan Park had had to be re-instated last week when the tide was approximately 33 ft over a period of 4 days but also the wind was in the west quarter. Consequently, the Friog Corner Rock Armour Project had again failed.

**921: To deal with Any Correspondence:** A letter had been received from a member of the Community regarding the Tennis Courts/ Football pitch. Loose wiring around the fence had caused a young girl to injure herself. The letter was not a complaint but to draw attention to the problem. Cllr (Mrs) Neville will inspect and make a report. The Clerk would respond to the letter. An immediate repair could be made with plastic cable ties and the removal of the offending wire. Cllr Eves said that he had a letter from a resident about the state of the goal posts. He suggested that the CC look into purchasing new, metal ones that also include the nets. The Clerk was asked to contact the manufacturer and explore the possibility of purchase. The motion was passed to purchase Proposed by Cllr (Mrs) Neville and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Woolley. These could be paid from the Youth Fund. The equipment cabinet was also in a sad state and needed a repair. It was suggested that a wheelie bin with holes drilled in would be a better prospect. At the previous meeting the Clerk had been asked to write to the /church, Isgol Bro Idris and the Arthog Outdoor Centre about using these premises in the event of a flood. A positive letter had been received from the Arthog Outdoor Centre but nothing from the church or School. Criticism had been received from Lisa Goodier GC for taking this initiative. A letter had been sent by the Clerk to PM Boris Johnson about the situation in Whalley Bridge and his response to it. The letter asked if the PM would give the same response to Fairbourne residents. No reply had been received as of this meeting. A copy of the draft National Development Plan had been received asking for view to be submitted. Cllr Thomas took the English copy. A letter had been received from James Green and Leo Mantle expressing an interest in taking over the running of the Golf House and Course. The Golf Club must now be run as a business. Other interested parties must be invited to submit a business plan before any decisions are made and legal advice must be sought. The Clerk will speak to One Voice Wales. Whoever takes over must take on the title deed? A whole separate meeting will need to be held to discuss this question fully, perhaps an extra ordinary meeting. A solicitor must be sought who specializes in small council business. The Community Council cannot be seen to be involved in the running of the Golf Club and Gold House. The parties that take over must be residents of the Arthog Community Council area. A notice will not be displayed until the legalities are sorted out. Cllr Eves wrote to the CEO of Gwynedd Council as an individual regarding the state of the bins and dog poo bins over the holiday period. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes had also been contacted by individuals regarding the state of the bins in Barmouth as well.

**922: To receive Councillors Questions:** Following on from Lisa Goodier announcing that the Master Plan will be presented to the Community on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October, a great deal of discussion followed between all Councillors'. All Councillors' felt that the Community Council was heading for a hiding to nothing. Cllr Woolley and Cllr Thomas felt that the CC should pre-empt a backlash from the Community, as previously experienced, by issuing a statement saying that the Community Council has had no input, no sight and no consultation with GC regarding the upcoming document. Cllr

Thomas suggest that an open letter/notice be written and displayed/circulated to all parties. This was proposed by Cllr Woolley and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Neville. The vote was unanimous. The Clerk was asked to produce a document to that effect. Cllr Woolley also asked where the quarterly newsletter was, now late being distributed. It was felt by all the CC was being set up as fall guy. Cllr Woolley reminded the CC that there was an upcoming meeting of the Harbour Committee. He would again raise the matter of the Notice Boards and Flagpole. Cllr (Mrs) Neville congratulated Fairbourne Festival on their successful events.

**923: Financial Statement and Report:** The Clerk presented the monthly analysis sheet for both July and August, all the figures balanced, and cheques written in July had been presented. There were 5 cheques presented for signature. Came and Co. for Insurance - £1609.56, Clerks wages (2<sup>nd</sup> installment) £1500.00, L C Jones Grass Cutting £300.00 (3 cuts) and £90.05 for ink cartridges, paper and envelopes and postage. The first cheque from the Cemetery account was presented for signature. £720.00 for complete path clearance of the cemetery. £120.00 will be reclaimed via VAT.

The current balance is as follows: Current Account: £11992.63 as at 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
Reserve Account: £ 744.80  
Youth Account: £7726.06  
Cemetery Account: £3280.00

£1.00 cash had been received from the Golf Club for rent. The Clerk will purchase stamps with this cash. The bill for Vodaphone remained at £13.50 and £16.00 . A remittance advice had been received for the second half of the Precept which will show on Septembers statement.

**924: To deal with Planning Matters:** There were two planning applications received, Henddol Old Farm, Friog – restoration after fire damage and Caeau Henddol, Y Friog – extension to agricultural building – there were no objections raised.

**925: To Receive Councillors' Questions:** Cllr Thomas reported that the Defib for Arthog project is near completion. Cllr Woolley asked if the Press and TV had been invited to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. He also reported that one German reporter who had a meeting with Gwynedd Council had felt uncomfortable because the GC representatives had reverted to speaking Welsh and not English, which of course he did not understand. Cllr Eves reported that he had drafted a letter on behalf of the Fairbourne Amenities Trust asking to take control of all the ditches in house, a letter of endorsement from the ACC would be sent as well.

**926: Representatives Report:** Fairbourne Amenities Trust has not met for two months; a meeting will be held next week. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley passed to the chairman an idea for a fund raiser that the RNLI had used. To be discussed at the next meeting.

**927: Date and Time of Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October in the Fairbourne Village Hall commencing 7.00 pm. Guests have been invited: Catrin Wager and Gareth Evens.