

# ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL HELD WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2019

**928: The Chairman Opened the Meeting:** The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00 pm and welcomed the three guests. Huw Williams and Catrin Wager from Gwynedd Council and Gareth Evens from the NRW.

**929: Present:** In the Chair, Cllr Eves, Councillors' in attendance, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes, Cllr (Mrs) Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) H Neville and the Clerk Angela Thomas.

**930: Apologies Received:** No apologies received. Cllr (Mrs) Stott on maternity leave.

**931: Councillors' Declaration of Interest:** Nil interest.

**932: To Receive Any Special Announcements:** The Chairman welcomed the three guests.

**933: Guest speaker Catrin Wager** Gwynedd Council addressed the meeting saying she was quite new to the position but hoped to work closely with the Arthog Community Council and was happy to attend meetings as and when asked or required. **Huw Williams**, Gwynedd Council also gave a summary of where Gwynedd Council were with the task of unravelling climate change data and sea level rise. He gave several examples from the IPCC and showed various graphs and shared statistics. He then asked **Gareth Evens** from the NRW to address the Councilors regarding Friog Corner and the problem of seepage into the static Caravan Park and the use of the Selwood Pumps, he also addressed the concerns of the Councillors and residents regarding the breach made by the NRW into the older sea defense. He confirmed that, budget permitting, the NRW would continue to defend and make repairs to the sea wall until 2054 unless circumstances changed. He confirmed that the NRW are satisfied that Friog Corner is now defended as well as it can be, but that the NRW are investigating the seepage under the sea wall and trying to get to a conclusion. The Guests spoke for 1hr and 30 minutes. The Councillors' did not learn anything new but were encouraged by Catrin Wagers commitment to asking some questions on behalf of the Community Council and residents of various departments within Gwynedd Council. i.e. Flagpole, ramp, emergency phones and Council Tax Reduction. Discussion took place after the guests had left to analyze what the Arthog Community Council had learned from this session. One of the most pressing questions still unanswered is why the ditches are not being cleared properly and the diameter of the sluice gate which appears to be undersized. The ditches have not been de silted for 17 years.

**934: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on:** 4<sup>th</sup> September in Arthog Village Hall. Minuted proposed as accurate by Cllr (Mrs) Neville and seconded by Cllr Woolley. The minutes were signed off by the Chairman.

**935: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on:** 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Arthog Village Hall. No matters arising from the meeting

**936: Clerks Report:** The Clerk reported that Came and Co the Community Council Insurance Company, had once again been taken over by Stackhouse Poland. A notice had been sent to all Councillors' regarding the format of presentation of the new Framework meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. One Voice Wales had forwarded the declaration form regarding expenses claimed by Councillors. Arthog was a nil return, duly sent by the Clerk. The Clerk had received an acknowledgement to the letter sent to the NRW reference footpath 13. It will be dealt with soon by

the local office. The Clerk confirmed that all the paperwork for remembrance Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> November had been received. The One Voice Wales bulletin was circulated. The Clerk had received a letter from Catrin Wager giving clarification to the sale of land know as the “football field” in Fairbourne. The matter had been raised in 2016 by the CC. It confirmed that the whole thing had been conducted in a proper manner and was all legal. End of matter. The Clerk passed to Cllr Woolley the invitation to the Barmouth Harbour meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Cllr Woolley asked about the phones, flagpole and notice boards. The Clerk confirmed that Barry Davies, Harbour Master is aware of all and that ACC is still awaiting replies. ACC confirmed that they are prepared to adopt the Notice Boards. The Clerk wrote to Roger Pritchard congratulating him on a successful Festival. A letter had been received from Steffan Jones acknowledging the problem during the summer with the overflowing bins and dog waste bins. Steffan Jones is working towards a solution which might involve 2 visits a day for clearing the bins in the busy times. The Clerk had also contacted GC regarding the bin that had been removed from Penrhyn Corner. It was confirmed that it would be replaced. Steffan is still to address the issue of a by-law and overnight camping.

**937: Special Items Brought to Attention:** The Chairman said that on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October he and the Clerk and Mike Thrussell and Theresa Eves were attending a meeting in Aberystwyth at the Welsh Office, with Lowri Norrington-Davies and James Morris plus Gwynedd Council representatives. The CC Chairman would take the opportunity to ask some hard-hitting questions.

**938: To deal with Any Correspondence:** A letter had been received from Mabon ap Gwynfor asking for support to open a rapid Cancer Diagnostic Centre here in Gwynedd. The Councilors’ agreed without hesitation that a letter of support should be written. A letter had been received from Lesley Griffith AM, a reply to a CC letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Better late than never. It was the same old same old, 8 millions pounds spent of Fairbourne etc, insinuating that the Councilors are Country Hicks that don’t know what was happening, despite the fact that the CC know exactly what has been spend by the NRW and that both projects have flaws and failures. As the Clerk explained, same old same old stuff.

**939: To Deal with Planning Matters:** One Planning application had been received for an extension to a garage. Bendith, Friog LL38 2RZ. There were no objections from the Councillors.

**940: Financial Statement and Report:** The Clerk had circulated a copy of the monthly statement of financial affairs for the ACC. All cheques issued at the last meeting had been presented, Came & Co. £1609.56, Clerks wages £1500.00, L C Jones 3 cuts £300.00, Stationery £90.05. The cheque book was circulated for signatures, Ink and A4 paper plus stamps £50.95, L C Jones, 1 cut, £100.00, P Roberts £1000.00 for footpath cutting, a proportion of which will be recovered from Gwynedd Council. The monthly report was explained, and no questions were raised. The second half of the Precept had gone not the account.

The Goal Posts in the Playpark are to be replaced. An option will be sought and the best quote will be taken. Proposed by Cllr Eves, seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Neville.

Current Account:	£11992.63
Reserve Account:	£ 744.80
Cemetery Account:	£ 3280.00
Youth Account:	£ 7726.06

The Clerk presented the Annual Accounts which had been approved by BDO LLP to the Chairman for signature. The accounts were approved, proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Woolley as true and accurate. The CC failed on three points which were brought to attention. The completion

Notice was displayed in the three Notice Boards allowing any person to come and have a look at them. A copy of the accounts will now be displayed on the Website. They will be sent to Mr ap Gomer.

**941: To Receive Councillors' Questions:** Cllr Thomas raised the question of Arthog Hill drains, they are clogged with leaf matter. He also raised the question of the Arthog Hill Chapel. Gwynedd Council have a Lien against it (£30,000)? for nonpayment for re-instating the wall dating from some years ago. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to Highways stating that the Chapel is now in a dangerous state and needs attention. The Chapel is known as Wesleyan Chapel on Arthog Hill. Cllr Neville said that residents of Penrhyn Drive South were concerned about the amount of water being pumped from the Caravan Park into the ditch parallel to the road, which appeared to be flooding their gardens. The NRW are planning to dig a "French Drain" parallel to the road to alleviate the problem but not to cure it.

**942: Representatives Report:** Playpark Nil. Golf Club – The Keys will be handed back to the Community Council of the 1<sup>st</sup> February. Cllr Eves had a meeting with the present committee. The CC cannot take over control of the Golf Club, but the Fairbourne Amenities Trust would be better placed to take over the directorship on a temporary basis. FAT would sit on the Committee, but the new owners would take overall responsibility for the day to day running. Legal advice will be sought via Cllr Eves. The Mortgage and the Rates would be paid out of the revenue raised from the Telecommunications Masts. Cllr Roberts asked whether a pepper corn rent for the first 12 months would make sense. Cllr Eves said that the preferred method would be to give the first 3 months at no charge and from then on £300.00 per month would make sense. A business plan had been submitted to the Clerk from an interested party. Cllr Roberts said that the original membership had been well over 100 but was not down to about 24. It was thought that with a new attitude the membership could possibly increase considerably. It was agreed that Cllr Eves will seek legal advice with the approval of the Councillors'. Proposed by Cllr Roberts and Seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Woolley. Fairbourne Amenities Trust have not had a meeting. FAT had received the water bill for the Toilets for the 6 months period. It was felt that there may be a leak in the Village toilets water supply. Cllr Roberts reported that Mike Scott wanted the gate at Penrhyn Point repositioned. Cllr Eves said no to that suggestion. Cllr Roberts pointed out that it would in fact be a very expensive job. Cllr Thomas was reminded to speak to a contractor about the weeds in the Cemetery. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes made a report of local problems, some being quite sensitive and not to be reported as a matter of public interest.

**943: Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November in Arthog Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.