

# ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**1008: The Chairman Opened the Meeting:** The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.05 and welcomed all.

**1009: Present:** Cllr Eves, Roberts, Thomas, Haycock, Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) Hughes, Cllr (Mrs) Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) Stott, Cllr (Mrs) Neville, Cllr (Mrs) Darvill, Cllr Mrs Salt and Angela Thomas Clerk.

**1010: Apologies Received:** All in attendance. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes asked if she could make her presentation early as she had a full Council meeting to attend the following day. The Chairman said yes.

**1011: Councillors' Declaration of Interest:** Cllr (Mrs) Stott declared an interest in Arthog Village Hall.

**1012: To Receive Any Special Announcements:** No special announcements from the Chair

**1013: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020:** Minutes confirmed, proposed by Cllr Woolley and seconded by Cllr Haycock.

**1014: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020:** No matters arising.

**1015: Clerks Report:** The Clerk reported that she had received an email vis Cllr (Mrs) Stott regarding the defibrillator for Arthog. The Clerk was pleased to report that the fund had been raised, the telephone box secured, and it was all systems go. The email asked whether the Community Council would be able to add the telephone box to the list of assets and for it to be covered by the Annual Insurance, and for the Community Council to pay the annual electricity bill of approximately £30.00 towards the upkeep of the defib. The request was put to the Councillors and was unanimously agreed. Proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Neville. The Clerk reported receipt of an email from Gwynedd Council regarding a change to their Housing Policy. A banding system will be introduced rather than a points system. More emphasis being based on dwellers already in Gwynedd. The Clerk had received an email from Anna Zammit in Arthog regarding problems her gardener and she were having reference boundary matters. She asked that her telephone number be made available to anybody with issues and that they contact her as opposed to speaking with the gardener. The two topics covered in the January meeting with Huw Williams, ie feedback and comments and quotation for the decommissioning of Fairbourne had been chased. Huw said that both would be ready for the March meeting and the Clerk reported that they had been received. The quotation for the decommissioning of Fairbourne was not from Jones Bros but from UES. The quotation came in at £26,000.000. However, this quotation was not as extensive as the Community Council had been led to believe. By this the Clerk pointed out that all underground utility lines, pipes, drains etc. were not quoted as being removed. This surely beggars the question, does that comply with legislation about turning land back into wetland/marsh? The quotation was obviously at today's rate and not 10/20/30 years hence. The summary to the Fairbourne: Framework for the Future offered no answers, it was purely a summary of the questions raised by those who had submitted a reply. The Clerk had received an email requesting the Chairman's details for the Chair to talk to TedExAber. Dr Clive King. The Chair's details were passed on. Details of the next Harbour

Consultative Meeting were passed to Cllr Woolley who said he would be attending. Cllr Woolley asked had any body seen any new signs on the Promenade as had been promised. The answer was no. The Clerk reported that the Notice Board at Friog Corner had been destroyed in the last two storms. The Clerk reiterated that she had received a reply from Network Rail that de-vegetation work had started on the wall above the railway line, this would take approximately two weeks before the new work on the crash barrier and stone boundary could commence. The Clerk reported on the meeting held with Liz Saville Roberts at Tair Trem, with Cllr Eves, Roberts, Cllr (Mrs) Salt, Mike Thrussell, Clerk Angela Thomas and Mabon ap Gwynfor. It was felt that it had been very productive. Liz and Mabon made extensive notes and said that she would further our request for a reduction in Council Tax. She would also correspond with the NRW regarding the seepage question. She pointed out that although she is very concerned regarding the plight of Fairbourne because she is in opposition rather than in the cabinet there was very little that she could do but she could perhaps influence and raise. The question of wi-fi in Arthog was not discussed due to a lack of time. Cllr Haycock said that he had been pursuing this matter himself, but it was prohibitively expensive and probably would not proceed. There are no plans from Openreach to bring wi-fi to Arthog. The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Gareth Evens, during the two storms on February, asking how Fairbourne was coping. Gareth had been on duty during the storm period. The Clerk reported that she had receive several emails from Julian Kirkham regarding the extortionate cost of launch fees. Julian had been corresponding with AM Skates regarding the matter. The Community Council, although sympathetic, did not feel that it could offer and solutions. The fees are set my GC and there is no consultation involved. An email had been received from Beverley Wilkins regarding Friog Corner and the extensive flooding in the field adjoining her property. The Community Council had written to Sian Williams NRW copying in Clare Pillman CEO of NRW, voicing the concerns of residents and the pumping of sea water into the freshwater ditch system within the village and the extensive problems this was causing. The NRW as a result have now re-installed the pump to take the sea water back over the sea wall. Although greatly appreciated this can only be a temporary solution. A sustainable permanent solution must be found and sooner rather than later.

1016: Special Items Brought to Attention: No items brought

**1017: To deal with Any Correspondence:** A letter had been received from Global Solutions. The Clerk asked the Chairman if he would read it. It was a letter offering alternative solutions to sea level rise and although it made sense, it was too sensible for it ever to be acted upon. A letter had eventually been received from the Rev Tim Webb. His answer to the question of St Catherine's Church was not as had been hoped for. Basically, it is the intention of the church of Wales to close St Catharine's sooner rather than later come what may. The monies that had been raised for St Catherine's Church would disappear into the common coffers, which was not acceptable. It was decided that the Community council would write a letter to the entity, representative body, in Cardiff. Cllr (Mrs) Stott will provide the name and address to the Clerk and a letter will duly be sent. The Clerk will have a meeting with Cllr (Mrs) Stott and her father **before writing the letter**. (The Representative Body, 39 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9XF). An invoice had been received from One Voice Wales for the subscription of £237.00.

**1018: To Deal with Planning Matters:** Fishguard to Bangor Trunk Road plans had re-surfaced. A 46 Million pounds projected, the feeling of the Community Council is that it is a complete waste of money as no better solution had been found. **A letter should** be sent to Ken Skates AM to this end.

**1019: Financial Statement and Report:** The Clerk checked that all Councillors' had received their monthly analysis sheet. The Clerk reported that all monies balanced and that she would be ready by the next meeting to present the accounts for approval by the Councillors before sending off to

Gwynedd Council for the Internal Audit. Lengthy discussions took place regarding the donation to both Village Halls. Cllr (Mrs) Stott had declared an interest and did not take part. A figure of £500.00 each was decided upon, taking the total spend of the ACC to just under £12,000 for the financial year, which fits in line with the allocated Precept. A sum of just over £200.00 was available for allocation and this would be discussed at the next meeting and possibly allocated to the Fairbourne Amenities Trust to help with the building of the disabled toilet. The sum of money that is left in the current account is required for the possibility of an election ever being required. There were 6 cheques to be signed. One Voice Wales £237.00, subscription, Elfed ap Gomer £192, for the Community Council Website maintenance, Arthog Village Hall £500.00 donation, Friog and Fairbourne Village Hall £500.00 donation, Clerks 6 monthly wages £1500.00, Ink, Stamps and Microsoft renewal £128.39 (Clerk). There is still one cheque outstanding £21.76 to be presented to the bank. The Clerk requested that her salary be paid monthly, as at this moment in time she is paying tax well in advance of receiving her 6 monthly remuneration. All the Councillors' agreed to this. A letter will be presented to the bank to set up a standing order commencing April 2020. The letter will be signed by 3 signatories. Proposed by Cllr (Mrs) Stott and seconded by Cllr Roberts.

Current Account:	As at 20 <sup>th</sup> February	£10,014.43
Reserve Account:		£ 745.43
Youth Account:		£ 7352.38
Cemetery Account:		£ 3280.00

Current Account:	As at 20 <sup>th</sup> March	£ 7,421.78
Reserve Account:		£ 745.55
Youth Account:		£ 7,353.55
Cemetery Account:		£ 3,280.00

Accounts exactly as predicted, one Village Hall still to present its £500.00 cheque, shame it has to be carried forward, otherwise all is in order.

**1020: To Receive Councillors' Questions:** Cllr (Mrs) Hughes started by summarizing the meeting held in Arthog Village Hall the previous Thursday reference the change of speed signage through Arthog, edge of Fairbourne and Friog. The change was necessary because the speed limits were out of the law due to a temporary change to allow verge and road repairs, the temporary change lasting longer than it should have. The speed limits have now been put back to be within the law and this has caused much concern, especially through the Arthog Terrace up to the Village Hall. Andrew Gregson from Gwynedd Council attended the meeting and although sympathetic to the concerns said that the law had to be applied. The idea now is to get as many residents as are interested to write to Cllr (Mrs) Hughes with their concerns and she will forward the concerns to the Traffic Department for consideration. A site visit was also thought to be a good idea. The Community Council was asked to also **write a letter** of concern to the Traffic Department and North Wales Police. It should be noted that the new signage is also a danger to high sided vehicles, they must swerve out to miss hitting them. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes also reported that the telephone box in Friog could not be saved due to infrequent use. It will be duly removed. It was also reported that requests had been made to have the post box in Arthog moved to the other side of the road as its present position is a real danger to users. Cllr Hughes will speak to the Post Office about the danger the box is presenting. The two streetlights that were not working near the corner of the cenotaph have been repaired at long last. Cllr Hughes said the full Council Meeting that she will be attending on Thursday is to discuss the new Council Tax Rates. She said she would again raise the issue of Fairbourne, decommissioning, and the loss of up to 40% off housing values. Cllr Eves asked if Cllr

(Mrs) Hughes could raise a question regarding the Tourism Officer and why in all the time that he has lived in Fairbourne he has never seen one come to the Village or surrounding areas. Cllr Hughes reported that Liz Saville Roberts has again raised the question of the low flying aircraft from RAF Valley being a cause of annoyance to a very few residents. The Arthog Community Council in its entirety said that it did not have any issue with RAF Valley practicing low level flying and should the need ever arise for them to be mobilized then we should all be grateful that they did practice. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes asked of the Arthog Community Council could **send a letter** of support to RAF Valley. This was agreed by all present. An interesting discussion took place about the boundary of the Arthog Community Council. It was decided to try and establish exactly where the boundaries are. Lastly, Cllr (Mrs) Hughes said that at last it looked as though repair work was being carried out on the wall above the railway line leading to Llywngwriil, it has only taken 7 years. The Clerk reported that she also had been corresponding with Net Work rail regarding the same issue and had been told that work had commenced. Cllr Woolley asked about the ditch that has been dug along the A493 at Bwythgwyn land and whether there should be some bollards or crash barriers along the edge. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley asked about the pile of trees that had been cut down across the road from the Church. That land belongs to The Fairbourne Hotel and is private land. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley asked of she should proceed with the Green Land project grant. She said she would make enquires about the 2 stretches of land that would qualify. Cllr (Mrs) Neville brought to the attention of the ACC that an Ice Cream van was operating at Penrhyn Point Car Park. The ACC, assuming that they are Licensed, wish them every success.

**1021: Representatives Report:** Cllr (Mrs) Neville gave a report regarding the Playpark. In the Spring a work party will be formed to replace the plastic caps that are missing from covering the bolts etc and the plastic ties will be added to the fencing where needed.

Cllr Eves gave a report on the meeting held with James Green and Leo Mantle at the Golf Club the previous Thursday. A letter will be sent out to both James Green and Leo Mantle outlining the way forward for the Golf Club. Present were Cllr Roberts, Cllr (Mrs) Neville, the Clerk and Cllr Eves, with James and Leo both in attendance. A copy of the letter will be attached to these minutes. It was agreed that the first three months of the lease would be free, thereafter a set sum per month. There is good potential for a living to be made. Final facts and figures are still awaited from Mike Scott, Cllr Eves will ask for a meeting with Mike Scott in the very near future. A Lease will be drawn up in the very near future. The Clerk had typed up a form of the previous Lease and Cllr Eves and Cllr Roberts will check it over, before seeking a Solicitors confirmation and approval.

Cllr (Mrs) Woolley said that the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary festival for Victory in Europe will be held at the Spring Bank Holiday in May. Fairbourne will be arranging events on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. She asked that if anybody had any memorabilia available would they let her know.

Cllr Eves and Cllr Roberts – Fairbourne Amenities Trust. Fund raising will commence in the immediate future for the disabled toilet. 3 quotations had been received for the building of the disabled toilet and one had been settled upon, a local builder. The FAT will meet with Barry Davies reference the ramp in the following week. No other points to raised.

Cllr Thomas confirmed that L C Jones is happy to continue cutting the Cemetery and the Cenotaph at the same rate as last year and that de-weeding will commence in April and August.

Cllr Thomas asked whether it would be possible to **write to the North Wales Police** regarding the training up of 2 residents to be able to operate a non-liable/prosecutable speed gun in Arthog. A letter will be sent to the appropriate authority.

The Clerk reported that she had made contact the local CPSO's about communicating problems etc. but nothing had been agreed by way of keeping the Community informed of possible scams, burglaries, dubious sorts etc.

Cllr Roberts reported that the Arthog Banner and Mash evening had raised in excess of £500.00 half of which was being donated to the Air Ambulance. Congratulations to all concerned.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm

**1022: Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> at Arthog Village Hall, commencing 7.00 pm. THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BE PROPOSED AND SECONDED AS CORRECT