

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 13th OCTOBER 2021

1099: The Chairman Opened the Meeting: The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.05pm

1100: Present: Chair Cllr Roberts, Vice Chair Cllr (Mrs) G Salt, Cllr (Mrs) C Darvill, Cllr J Haycock, Cllr B Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes GCC, Clerk Angela Thomas

1101: Apologies Received: Cllr (Mrs) H Neville, Cllr S Eves, Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley

1102: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: No interest declared.

1103: Guest speaker: Gareth Evens from NRW moved his attendance from October to November as there was insufficient news to bring to the Community Council.

1104: To Receive Any Special Announcements: The Chairman, Cllr Roberts, paid tribute to Mr A Titley, who sadly passed away. Mr Titley was a good friend to the Arthog Community Council, he was forward thinking regarding the clearing of ditches and played an import role in ensuring that this work was always carried out on an annual basis. He will be sadly missed by all, and a debt of gratitude is owed to Alan. The Community Council's thoughts are with his family. The Chairman thanked Cllr (Mrs) Salt for the excellent presentation of the results of the questionnaire. They are presented in a way that everybody can clearly understand. He also congratulated Georgina on winning the adult flag design for Fairbourne competition. It was suggested that it would be nice to have an overall junior winner.

1105: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7th July and the EOM Meeting held on 4th August: Proposed by: Cllr J Haycock, seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Salt. The minutes were duly signed.

1106: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th July and 4th August. No Matters arising. Proposed by Cllr (Mrs) Salt and seconded by Cllr B Woolley.

1107: Clerks Report: The Clerk passed to Cllr Woolley the minutes from the last Harbour Committee meeting. Unfortunately Cllr Woolley had been unable to take part in, and a hospital appoint will clash with the next meeting. Cllr Woolley will send his apologies. The Clerk reported that all was in place for remembrance Sunday, the road closure had been requested, the wreath had been ordered and the Police had confirmed that they would be in attendance. Cllr Roberts said he would check on whether there was to be a church service. Cllr Haycock asked about the Bugler. The Church will arrange this. The Clerk said that she had observed quite a few visitors at the Cenotaph and put that down to the new app. The Clerk had been handed a notice by the Chairman, from NRW regarding access to land. Unfortunately, it had done the rounds as it was wrongly addressed and was received beyond the date of the actual work. A letter had been sent to that department of NRW to amend their records which were some 7 years out of date. Dr Graham Hall had sent a report in for the Community Council to consider. It was a report on the safeguarding of Fairbourne by various means. It was decided to invite Dr Hall to a meeting. Because NRW are attending the next ACC monthly meeting it was decided to call an EOM next Wednesday 20th, in Fairbourne Multi use room and invite Dr. Hall. The Clerk said that she would contact all concerned and then let the Councillors know if all had agreed. Cllr Woolley said that he had read the report and it read like a light at the end of the tunnel and it was the first bit of possible good news in a very long time. The Clerk told

the Councillors that Cllr (Mrs) Stott has asked to resign from the ACC for the foreseeable future. An email from Cllr (Mrs) Stott had been sent to the Clerk and this would be taken as her resignation. It had been thought that she would have attended this meeting to officially resign. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes once again said that she was embarrassed the way the GCC have treated the community of Fairbourne. The Clerk thanked Cllr (Mrs) Salt for completing a Welsh Government questionnaire. Two quotes had been received for the renovation of the railings around the Cenotaph, a vote was taken, and the job will be awarded to D J Hodson Painters and Decorators who are kindly treating the job as a community asset and have quoted a nominal price of £150.00 covering just materials. The Community Council is very grateful for this. The motion was proposed and seconded. The Clerk confirmed that she had put a notice in the Notice Board giving details of the visit of BBC Countryfile Film Crew's visit and gave a brief description of how it had been conducted. A request from Associated Press had been received and from SC4 for their version of Question Time. The Clerk told both parties that she would put their requests before the ACC meeting on Wednesday. Associated Press also contacted Cllr Eves directly and he had agreed to speak with them. An email declining the SC4 request will be sent. The Clerk had received the annual request for Salt bins to be checked. The Chair, Cllr Roberts had kindly checked them all and found that just one needed topping up. The Clerk will write back and let GCC know. A circular from Welsh Government regarding diversity was read and then filed. The Clerk had been asked to write a letter to Griffiths Construction and Barmouth Town Council inviting them to partake in an idea to put three recycled plastic weatherproof benches on the Barmouth Viaduct once it is completed. No replies of acknowledgements had been received. The Clerk will chase. The Clerk reported that the Basketball Hoop ordered from Networld Sports had been returned and a refund had been secured. There had been no parts listing or assembly instructions and it had proved impossible to put the equipment together without specialist tools. A different supplier will be sought. The Clerk said she will send comments and replies to the "Our Area 2035" document from the ACC. However, it was felt that there are much more important priorities.

ROSPA sent their report regarding the safety check of the Playpark and Tennis Courts. The main concern is the state of the fencing on the right hand side border of the playpark. The fence is rusty and could be easily de rusted and an anti-rust paint would hold it for several years. It was suggested that perhaps a work party of parents could be encouraged to help. Cllr (Mrs) Neville will hopefully be at the next meeting and the subject can be raised again.

1108: Special Items Brought to Attention: Cllr (Mrs) Hughes raised the subject of the loose sheep in the Village and asked what could be done about it. It was explained that this has been happening all summer, the Police, GCC, Highways and Byways have been involved but the situation remains unresolved. Cllr Roberts talked about the results from the Newsletter and Questionnaire. The Clerk thanked Cllr (Mrs) Salt for her analysis of the results. A simple analysis had been circulated to the Councillors', but the more detailed analysis was made available at the meeting. Cllr (Mrs) Salt said that she was very pleased with the return from the residents, and it gave a sound idea of what residents knew and did not know. A copy of the analysis will be displayed on the Website. What was clear was that there was an overwhelming mandate for the ACC and FPB to represent the community. A vote was taken, and it was agreed that copies of the Newsletter/Questionnaire and the analysis will be circulated to all interested parties, Welsh Government, Gwynedd County Council and all media and news outlets in time for COP 26. Also, copies should be sent to those other local Town and Community Council that are likely to face the same fate as us. Proposed by Cllr Haycock and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Darvill. Cllr (Mrs) Salt gave a full presentation regarding the answers received to the questionnaire. All Councillors in attendance gave their impressions and comments. Cllr Eves was not present to report on the last FMFPB. The report on the ramp from Barry Davies was circulated to all Councillors, it was discussed. The Clerk was asked to email Lindsey Ellis to progress the application to reinstall the ramp. It was felt that the hoops that the ACC and

Fairbourne Amenities Trust will have to jump through will be too many to expect this project to be passed, especially by NRW.

1109: To deal with Any Correspondence: The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Liz Saville-Roberts about an investigation into Jet Skis and the use of them. This was regarded as a very welcome investigation.

1110: To Deal with Planning Matters: The Clerk had been asked to write to the Planning Department regarding developments at the newly named Glan Y Mor Hotel, previously known as the Springfield. Barriers have been erected along the perimeter road and a camera for pay and display installed. An acknowledgement had been received from the planning department at GCC and they will investigate the licensing aspect of this. The clerk had received a planning application for a property of Glan Y Mor.

At the time of distribution, a majority reply was received that there were no concerns or objections. A later object was raised with Cllr (Mrs) Darvill at this meeting, but it was felt that the application should take its natural course and if GCC have any concerns they will obviously come back to the Community Council. A planning application had also been received from the SNP for No 1 Arthog Terrace, again there were no objections but because of the nature of the application it was felt that it would be refused by the SNP. The application was for double glazed windows which the government is encouraging for good insulation, however the SNP will probably refuse it because Arthog lies within the National Park. It all appears a bit counter intuitive.

1111: Financial Statement and Report: The Clerk had circulated the monthly analysis of the accounts to all Councillors. There were no queries. The Clerk had prepared a letter allowing her to transfer the sum of £720.00 from the current account to the cemetery account to bring the account back up to £4000.00. There were two cheques to be signed. £200.00 for L C Jones, cemetery grass cutting (2 cuts). There will probably be one more cut. The second cheque was for £1350.00 for all the footpath cutting during the Spring and Summer period once lock down had been eased, in the name of Mr P Roberts. A Discussion took place regarding the Cemetery located up the road leading to the Youth Hostel at Kings Corner. The Community Council had received a request tot take over the maintenance of this cemetery as it was not being maintained now. A vote was taken, and it was agreed that the ACC would take responsibility from the New Year for the cutting of the grass around the grave in the Cemetery. A Notice will be put in the Notice Boards asking for quotations to carry out this work. Three cuts a year was felt to be adequate. The Annua Accounts had still not been signed off by the Welsh Audit Office, however, the statutory notices had been put in the Notice Boards and on the Website as required.

Current Account balance:	£14,810.79
Cemetery Account balance:	£ 3,280.00
Election/Reserve balance:	£ 4,000.18
Youth/Playpark balance:	£ 6,076.31

More importantly, the Precept for the next Financial Year was discussed and agreed. The Councillors agreed that no increase was needed. The motion was proposed by Cllr (Mrs) Salt and seconded by Cllr J Haycock.

The Community Council was mindful of the effect that even a small increase in Council Tax would have on the residents of this ward. The Precept was set at £13,000.00. The Clerk had been asked to let the Arthog Community Council know that the Fairbourne Bowling Club was having trouble in continuing and had asked if the ACC could take it on. The Councillors discussed at length but agreed that it would not be feasible or possible within the remit of a Community Council to take the Bowling

Club under its umbrella. A possible solution would be to advertise the Club as a going concern and try to find a new owner.

1112: To Receive Councillors' Questions: Cllr B Woolley asked if the Lease had been signed for the Golf Club. Cllr Roberts said unfortunately not yet. The problem lay with the Community Council and not the Golf Club. It is proving difficult to get all parties together. Cllr Haycock said that that perhaps considering the number of Councillor absences it might be an idea to contact Councillors who have not attended and not sent apologies and ask what their intentions were. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes again raised the problem of the state of the hill running parallel to the railway line up to Llywngwriil. It looks as though something will now be done to make the road safer. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes will be attending a site meeting. The question was raised about the ditch in Glan Y Mor and who is responsible for the cleaning of it. It is a case with historical complications. Residents in Glan Y Mor have made it very difficult for NRW to access the ditch because residents have cabbaged garden end and erected fences. This issue will be taken up again with NRW and residents of Glan Y Mor. The Information Notice Boards within the Village and now quite out of date and Mike Scott is getting a price for the replacement. To be taken forward to the next meeting. Cllr Eves had dropped the Gold Club Accounts off to the Clerk. The Gold Club question will be carried forward to the next meeting.

1113: Representatives Report: Playpark – discussed as above. FAT – Cllr Roberts read a report sent it by Mike Scott. Quotations had been sought for replacement windows in the Promenade Toilets. Cllr Roberts has recommended Middleton Glass. Golf Club – carried forward to next meeting. Cemetery Account – Cllr Thomas was not in attendance. L C Jones is up to date with the cutting. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes gave her apologies she had to leave at this point. She did however give a report regarding Barmouth Viaduct and the progress on the work that is being carried out. Quite frankly it is stunning.

It was agreed that a recruitment drive for new Councillors was needed urgently.

1114: Date and Time of Next Meeting: The meeting closed at 9.15pm. The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 3rd November 2021.