

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2022, COMMENCING 7.00PM

1146: The Chairman Opened the Meeting: The Chairman Cllr Roberts opened the meeting at 7.05pm and welcomed the three guests, Huw Williams Gwynedd Council, Dafydd Gwynne (Health Board) and Meilys Heulfryn-Smith, Gwynedd Council.

1147: Present: Cllr P Roberts, Cllr S Eves, Cllr (Mrs) C Darville, Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley, Cllr B Woolley, Sylvia Stephenson, Ambassador, Clerk Angela Thomas, Huw Williams GC, Dafydd Gwynne Health Board, Meilys Heulfryn-Smith.

1148: Apologies Received: Cllr (Mrs) G Salt, Cllr (Mrs) H Neville, County Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes, Cllr J Haycock, Cllr P Thomas, Mike Thrussell Ambassador

1149: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: No interests declared.

1150: Huw Williams introduced Dafydd and Meilys and explained who they were and what their role on the evening would be. The purpose of the guests attending was to explain how and why an HIA for Fairbourne residents would work and what the possible benefits could be. Unfortunately, the overhead projector was unavailable, but Dafydd Gwynne had brought with him explanation handouts which were distributed. Each page was discussed in depth, questions were fielded by the Councillors and Ambassador, answers were offered by all three guests. It is accurate to say that there is still a huge suspicion as to why Fairbourne has been singled out for decommissioning and the need for an HIA. Cllr Mr Woolley asked on more than one occasion why Fairbourne is the only community to be singled out. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley and Cllr (Mrs) Darville also questioned why it is that Fairbourne is the target of Gwynedd Council to decommission. Fairbourne has been subjected to negative press since 2013 and is only now in the process of recovering, they felt that the HIA could again raise the prospect of negative press and affect the Village adversely. The Clerk asked whether the tender for a Consultancy to undertake the HIA would be restricted to Wales or would it be open to the whole of the UK. Huw Williams said that in fact there were no consultancies in Wales that could undertake the HIA. If an English consultancy is appointed, then an interpreter would be available for those residents preferring to speak Welsh. Cllr Eves and Ambassador Sylvia Stephenson both agreed that whoever is appointed will face a daunting task and should be prepared for some hostile reactions. The Clerk pointed out that whoever takes on this task should be prepared for hostility because in fact what is proposed for Fairbourne residents, some time in the future, is in fact making them homeless and unless you have been homeless then you cannot understand the effect it will have on a person. Huw Williams implied that the data that GC is working to is predicting a worst-case scenario than was previously thought, although 2054 is still the date that all are working to. Sylvia Stephenson pointed out that "Finance" had been missed off the general socio-economic, cultural, and environmental conditions, and a later addition from Mike Thrussell also pointed out that Leisure/Pleasure was also missing off the "wheel". The Chairman thanked all three guests for attending the meeting and for making the case for the HIA.

Once the HIA outcome has been established Gwynedd Council will await outcome of the OBC from Welsh Government, if positive then GC will move to full business case.

It is Gwynedd Council's intention to have the HIA finished by December 2022. Because of social distancing it was very difficult for all to hear exactly what was being said.

There is still huge skepticism from some of the Councillors. Total time taken 1.5 hours.

1151: To Receive Any Special Announcements: No announcements.

1152: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1st December 2021. Proposed as correct by Cllr (Mrs) Darville and seconded by Cllr Woolley.

1153: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 1st December 2021. No matters arising.

1154: Clerks Report: Because of time constraints the Clerk rolled all the following items into her report. A resident had been in touch with the Clerk to bring to her notice the amount of dog poo that is evident at Friog end of the promenade footpath. There is an absence of dog poo bins at that end of the prom. The Clerk said that she would raise the issue with the Street Clean Team, via Steffan Jones. Howard had contacted the Dog Warden and the warden had given him signs which Howard has attached to various fixing points. It is felt that the offenders are in fact residents as there are very, very few visitors in the village now and that until fixed penalty notices are issued it is a problem that will not go away. The Dog Warden suggested that people use their mobile phones to take picture of the offenders. The proposed meeting with Liz Saville-Roberts and Mabon ap Gwynfor has been cancelled and will be re-arranged for March 10th, providing all parties are available. The discussion on Council Tax will be addressed later. The sunken boat in the Estuary at Penrhyn Point had been reported to Barry Davies who confirmed that the Maritime department were aware of it and they have a duty of care to keep the channels open and will arrange for the removal. A thank you had been received from Mike Scott for the letter sent to him thanking him for all his service as Head Flood Warden. No correspondence had been received from NRW about the request for a 2022 maintenance programme for Fairbourne and although work had been carried out on the Village Hall ditch it was still to be completed. This was in the 2021 programme. The Arthog Community Council had received correspondence about the upcoming 2022 elections. The Clerk had contacted the sender asking for clarification and what the ACC would be expected to do. The Clerk was told that further correspondence would be forthcoming. – Nothing to date.

1155: Special Items Brought to Attention: No items brought to attention.

1156: To deal with Any Correspondence: A thank you letter had been received from Dail Dysynni for their donation.

1157: To Deal with Planning Matters: No Planning matters.

1158: Financial Statement and Report: The financial statement for December 2021 and January 2022 was sent out to each Councillor. The finances are in great shape. There are three major bills still to be paid before the end of the financial year. Two cheques to the Village Hall to support them and the bill from the Welsh Audit office for the accounts. Three cheques were submitted for signature. Payment for the rent of Friog/Fairbourne Village Hall, £54.40, Ink and Memory Stik for the Clerk, £36.89 and Website's maintenance Elfed ap Gomer £397.00. A decision must be made at the next meeting regarding the Cemetery Account – to convert it to a savings account and not a cheque book account. Currently it is costing £5.00 per month with no deposits going in, i.e., £60.00 per year in charges.

1159: To Receive Councillors' Questions: - No questions submitted.

1160: Representatives Report: No reports submitted. It was agreed however, that the two Directors of Fairbourne Golf Club Limited and the Clerk would have a meeting on Monday 7th February in the Glan Y Mor to discuss moving forward with the Agreement and to discuss the accounts.

1161: Date and Time of Next Meeting: Arthog Village Hall – Wednesday March 2nd commencing 7.00pm. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm