

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL 2022

1177: The Chairman Opened the Meeting: The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed all present.

1178: Present: Cllr Roberts, Cllr (Mrs) Salt, Cllr Eves, Cllr (Mrs) Woolley, Cllr Woolley, Cllr Haycock, Cllr (Mrs) Louise Hughes GC, Cllr (Ms) Darvill, Clerk Angela Thomas

1179: Apologies Received: No apologies received. The Clerk informed all present that Cllr (Mrs) Neville had decided not to submit her re-election papers and in effect resigned from the Community Council. The Clerk also informed those present that she had delivered Cllr Thomas's re-election papers. He said that he would make every effort to attend the next meeting, if he could not attend then it was to be taken that he had also resigned. Cllr Thomas did not submit his re-election papers. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to both Councillors' thanking them for all their hard work and input whilst sitting as a Councillor on the Arthog Community Council.

1180: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: No interest declared.

1181: To Receive Any Special Announcements:

1182: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2nd March 2022: Proposed as correct by Cllr. (Mrs) Salt and seconded by Cllr Haycock

1183: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd March 2022: The running water matter will be covered in the May meeting when the exact location has been confirmed.

1184: Clerks Report: The Clerk confirmed that she had been to the bank to talk about internet banking. The result was that it is far too complicated to be considered. Emails do not count as confirmation and even with internet banking 2 signatures would still be required for each transaction. We will have to continue with cheques. The NALC rules are complicated and unworkable for a Community Council. With Bank branches closing rapidly it means an uncertain future. We will have to put up with the 40p per cheque charge. The Clerk confirmed that the External Audit had been closed off at last, but the topic of the bill had not been resolved. The Clerk and Cllr (Mrs) Salt had had a meeting with GC Parking department about Fairbourne joining the 10% scheme. Fairbourne and Bangor are the only Councils that have not signed up. It was agreed that an agreement would be sent, and the scheme would start asap. There is no additional accounting procedures or auditing required. Payment would be made on a 6-month basis into the Bank Account. Cllr Eves had asked for a letter of support to be written for Murray Dodd's Fairbourne Railway regarding a grant for heritage railway equipment to be purchased and returned to Fairbourne where it originated. This was done. The Clerk confirmed that the first party of the Wynnstay order had been delivered and was in fact being used. This is the 4-seater picnic bench. The 3-seater bench will follow shortly. The 3-seater will be located also at Friog end. Cllr (Ms) Darvill reported that one of the original benches had disappeared from Friog end. It was not in great repair, but it is unknown who had removed it. The Clerk said that she had received a telephone call from a "party interested in Fairbourne and its future". This person had been led to believe by a solicitor/legal body that the electricity would be cut off in Fairbourne within 10 years. The Clerk assured the interested party that this was in fact nonsense and referred him to the documents contained within and around the "Fairbourne – Framework for the Future" and previous minutes from Gwynedd Council where it clearly states that all the stakeholders/utility companies have a duty of care to residents and that all the infrastructure will be maintained until the very last resident is "removed" from Fairbourne. There is so much fake news and misinformation on the www. and it can have a detrimental effect on the Village. A great deal of it has been generated by erroneous reporting by media/press/and academia.

1185: Special Items Brought to Attention:

- (a) The Accounts were presented to the Councillors', they were signed off. Proposed and seconded by Cllr Mrs Salt and Cllr Haycock.
- (b) The risk assessment was re-visited. No issues raised.

- (c) The Cemetery Account: The fees involved in running this account would amount to £60 per year. A discussion took place, and it was agreed that the Cemetery Account should be amalgamated back into the Current Account, which will be known as Current and Cemetery Account, as all the bills for the cemetery were paid from the Current Account. There will be expenses for the Cemetery this year, de-weeding, a tree inspection, and replacement of the edging boards. Cllr Roberts said that he would look at the state of the trees. The Reserve/Election Account will be maintained as follows: £2,000 for an election. The £2,000 excess will be transferred back to the current account to pay for playpark expenses incurred in 2022. Remembering that £5500.00 in the Playpark account cannot be spent due to the initial covenant stating that only interest incurred above the £5500.00 can be spent.
- (d) Re-visit the Councillors' code of Conduct: Councillors' were made aware that the Code of Conduct is available to all from the Clerk.
- (e) Register of interests was discussed. There was no interest declared.
- (f) Re-visit Standing Orders: Copies of The Standing Orders are available to all from the Clerk.
- (g) Re-visit Financial Regulations: Copies of The Financial Regulations are available to all from the Clerk.
- (h) Internet Banking and NALC regulations: Discussed above and felt to be unworkable for a Community Council. Banking will be maintained by Cheque.
- (i) Re-visit Asset Register. The Apple Mac Book Lite and the Promenade furniture will be added to the current Asset register, bringing the register totally up to date.
- (j) It was confirmed that all nomination papers for those present were taken to the Council offices in Dolgellau for re-election.
- (k) It was confirmed that all the Cemetery Documents were in fact with the Clerk, there was nothing to collect from Cllr Thomas. The Clerk thanked Cllr Roberts, and Cllr Thomas in his absence, for keeping the Cemetery maintained during the 2 years of Covid. There was only one applicant for maintaining the second Cemetery and that was from Peredur Roberts. It was proposed by Cllr Eves and seconded by Cllr Haycock that this tender be accepted.

1186: To deal with Any Correspondence: A request for financial assistance had been received from Alan Wilde, first responder, for a replacement box for the defibrillator, the original box has rusted away. Cllr Roberts had given the Clerk permission to go ahead as this is an important matter and not to be delayed, Cllr Roberts proposed, and Cllr Eves seconded. Cllr Eves said that it was important that the code for opening was known by all those who needed to know. The replacement will be polycarbonate and guaranteed for ten years. Proposed and seconded again on the evening.

1187: To Deal with Planning Matters: No Planning matters on the evening. The Clerk had been asked if any more information had been received regarding the Llaros Pods. Cllr Mrs Hughes said that she had been unable to get in touch with anybody in the Planning Department. An email will be sent to the Planning Department again. Cllr Eves said that this lax attitude regarding planning matters, will come back and bite the department on its bottom. Also, the inability to speak to an officer will also come back to bite them in years to come.

1188: Financial Statement and Report: Councillors declaration of not claiming expense was re-circulated for those absent at the last meeting and completed. The Clerk asked for a proposer and seconder that the Clerks wages continue to be paid by stranding order. Proposed by Cllr Ms Darvill and seconded by Cllr Haycock. The Clerk said that 4 cheques had still to be banked by both Village Halls, Arthog Village Hall had not banked the room hire cheque to the value of £165.00, Fairbourne Village Hall had not banked its donation for £500.00 and for room hire £54.40. Both treasurers will be contacted. The cheque for £883.00 for the Promenade furniture also had not been banked. All these amounts have been allocated to the 2021-2022 financial year. The Clerk confirmed that the Village Halls are currently charging different room hire rates. The Clerk will contact both secretaries and ask for confirmed figures. To be confirmed at the next meeting.

Current Account :	£4346.24
Reserve Account :	£4000.34
Cemetery Account :	£3265.00
Youth Account :	£6076.72

With the circulated accounts approved by the Councillors, proposed by Cllr (Mrs) Salt and seconded by Cllr Roberts, the Clerk said that she would start to prepare the current set of account for 2021 to 2022, for submission to the internal auditor and then the external auditor once the Bank Statement has been received by the 24th of April.

1189: To Receive Councillors' Questions: Cllr (Mrs) Salt, Cllr (Ms) Darvill, Cllr Eves, no questions. Cllr Mrs Hughes said that she had managed to speak to someone about the pavement at Francis Ave and Penrhyn Bar, and it had been looked at by Steffan Jones and his department, but she had not heard anything back. The Clerk also said that she had been informed that it was due for inspection. Cllr Mrs Hughes had been contacted by Julie Wilson regarding the state of the pavement and roadway in front of her home in Glan Y Mor, after much discussion it was agreed by GC that they would put hatching in front of her property. There had been no contact from Julia regarding a thank you. The Harbour Committee had met, and Cllr Louise Hughes had raised the issue of the ramp again. There is still no conclusion to the Ramp issue. Cllr Eves had also been made aware of a problem on Glan Y Mor concerning another resident. Cllr Eves will keep an eye on the situation. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley had no questions to raise. Cllr Woolley had a question to raise regarding the progress of Dr Halls report and whether there was any progress. The Clerk said that it had been agreed that no action would be taken until after the May 5th Election because there could well be a change of officers. After the Election ACC/FMFPB have asked for a meeting with Welsh Government (Lowri Norrington-Davies) and with Julie James MS, dates to be confirmed. Mabon ap Gwynfor and Liz Saville Roberts are fully appraised and on board. Dr Hall, Margaret Hall, Cllr Eves, Cllr (Mrs) Salt and the Clerk had a meeting with Mabon ap Gwynfor, firstly in the Village Hall and then a walk around the defenses in the Village. Mabon was made aware of the problem areas within the ditch system. It was also the first time that both Cllr and the Clerk had seen for themselves the problem areas. It was at this meeting that Mabon ap Gwynfor suggested that we ask for a meeting with Julie James MS. That same afternoon Mabon was meeting with Claire Pillman, NRW and he will have completed the circle of the parties involved, NRW, GC and Welsh Government. Each claiming that this situation was not their responsibility.

1190: Representatives Report: Cllr Roberts said that he had nearly had a head on collision with a motor bike that was stuck in the center road rut between the Cenotaph and Bryn Coch. Neither Cllr Roberts nor the Motor Bike rider were

speeding. Cllr Roberts was able to take evasive action because he knew the problem and the road layout. He asked that a letter be written to Highways department. Cllr (Mrs) Salt reported that she had a meeting next Monday to discuss the HIA point scoring system. Cllr Eves will be arranging a meeting with the Golf Club to sort out the lease problem. A lot of work has been carried out at the Golf Club and it is looking good and tidy. Cllr Roberts informed those present that the windows had been fitted in the Promenade Car Park and that the Tarmac had been laid at the Shops Toilets. Next project will be to upgrade the washing facilities in both toilets and to fit sensors for both sets of lights. L C Jones will start the cutting in the Cemetery. Cllr Woolley said that he has asked for buoys to be laid again off the Fairbourne Beach to make it clear that jet skis should not enter the area. The sunken boat at the Estuary has still not been removed despite the Maritime department saying that it would be because it is a danger.

1191: Date and Time of Next Meeting: Arthog Village Hall Wednesday 4th May 2022.