

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2023

1316: THE CHAIR OPENED THE MEETING: The Chair, Councillor Mrs Salt opened the meeting at 7.00pm

1317: PRESENT: Cllr (Mrs) Salt, Cllr (Mrs) Woolley, Cllr Wooley, Cllr (Ms) Darvill, Cllr (Mrs) Langford, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Green, Cllr Thomas, Cllr (Mrs) Hughes GC, Clerk Angela Thomas.

1318: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Haycock

1319: COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Cllr Green – Golf Club.

1320: SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR: The Chair said that the ACC had received a huge number of requests from Media, Tv etc., for statements and interviews and she felt that a definite distinction should be made by anyone taking part in an interview as to whether they are speaking as an individual or as a member of either the ACC or the Project Board. Cllr Roberts said that in his opinion anybody speaking to the media should be speaking as an individual unless they have been asked to speak on behalf of the ACC. He said that in the past a problem had arisen with a Cllr. not making it clear who he was speaking on behalf of, and it had eventually ended up with involvement from the ombudsman. A problem has arisen in an interview with North Wales Live, a current Councillor stated that the deployment of tetrapod's should be actioned, and if necessary, the Villages had said they would fund and carry out the work themselves. In fact, this statement had not been put before either the ACC or the Fairbourne Project Board, therefore the Councillor should not be speaking on behalf of either organisation, but as a long-term resident of Fairbourne, and this should have been made clear. Cllr Louise Hughes said that she had also been contacted by someone asking for an interview which she had politely declined. The Clerk said that she had also declined to take part in two further interviews. It is a very difficult situation because the ACC cannot be seen to "not comment". It was confirmed at the last Project Board Meeting by Cabinet Member Berwyn Parry-Jones that Gwynedd Council had never had a full council meeting to approve or sign off either the "2054" date or that Fairbourne was to be "decommissioned". In other words, it had never been adopted or voted upon and it was just idle chatter and very damaging, leaving residents of Fairbourne in distress for the last 10 years.

1321: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON: The minutes were confirmed as correct and voted as correct and seconded by Cllr Thomas and Cllr Green.

1322: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON: No matters arising.

1323: CLERKS REPORT: Stuart Marsh had sent to Cllr Eves a press report pack which Cllr Eves then brought to the Clerk. The Clerk confirmed that most of Stuart Marsh's comments had already been covered by the ACC. His interest is much appreciated. An email had been sent to Llyr Beaumont-Jones, Barry Davies and Llion Pritchard, regarding the proposed new tamped down footpath for the summer season talking about the way forward. It is very positive, and GC had agreed to fund an initial trial. The Clerk will ask for a further site meeting in early March, as February is very busy with the footpath enquiry and road closure until the end of February. A full summary from Waterco, reference Dr Graham Hall's report was circulated to the Councillors. It was neither dismissive or critical of either Graham Hall or Royal Haskoning. Minutes from the last Project Board Meeting were circulated. Points arising were as follows: The Village Hall car park appears to be subsiding. Ditch work has been completed except that there are still areas that probably need battens to stop subsidence. The Clerk had received an email from Mike Scott thanking all for the letter sent to him upon his retirement. A summary was given regarding the outstanding work on the toilets. All should be completed quite soon. He also included a copy of an article that he had sent to the Sibiryan for possible publication. Mike Scott would like a notice to be made explaining the sequence of events of the Fairbourne amenities trust taking over both sets of toilets on Fairbourne and stressing how important donations are. A notice had been received from the office of Mabon ap Gwynfor about a meeting to be held on Tywyn, to discuss Health Service Provision, 16th February 5.30 to be held at the Health Centre.

1324: SPECIAL ITEMS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION: Cllr Mrs Hughes said that she had attended a meeting regarding the Air Ambulance and proposed changes to the current way it is run. She said that there was no real conclusion from the meeting.

1325: CORRESPONDENCE: Two requests for financial assistance received, both politely declined.

1326: PLANNING MATTERS: One planning application in Arthog for a reduction in height of a hedge – no objections raised. The Chair said that a trench was being excavated in the Friog Caravan Park to probably alleviate flooding problems?

Its unsure who owns the land behind the ditch parallel to the road.

1327: FINANCIAL MATTERS: The Clerk had circulated the monthly analysis sheet; all was in order. There has still been no billing from the Welsh Audit Office for this year or last year. The precept application had been submitted online and had been received and accepted. One cheque was circulated for signature, for payment of the hire of Fairbourne Village Hall £136.00. The Councilors were once again asked to think of good causes within the three villages. Re-wilding areas with wildflower bombs are problematic because of the sheep and the salt air. It was again confirmed that the running boards in the Cemetery will have to be replaced in the Spring. The Arthog Room Hire invoice is still to be received. All the bookings for 2023-2024 room hire have been asked for.

1328: COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS: Cllr Louise Hughes asked about the Mawddach footpath enquiry and whether any of those present would be attending. The answer was yes from three attendees. Tuesday 14th to Friday 17th inclusive at the Sports Centre, Dolgellau. Cllr Hughes also mentioned about the road closure in Arthog and that it will hopefully be completed within the 10 days and will therefore not disrupt term time. Cllr Mrs Hughes had received a complaint of bonfires in Fairbourne and smoke filling a resident's house. It was a single complaint.

1329: REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

HIA: Cllr Georgina Salt confirmed that a first draft meeting will be held on Monday 6th. She is pushing for more timely meetings to be held as time is running fast.

FAT: Already discussed. Cllr Eves not present.

CEMETERY: As discussed

GOLF CLUB: Cllr Eves was not present.

HARBOUR COMMITTEE: Cllr Wooley said nothing to report.

1330: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 1st March to be held in Fairbourne, commencing 7.00pm