

## ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 - ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL

**1423: THE CHAIR OPENED THE MEETING:** The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.05pm.

**1424: PRESENT:** Cllr J Haycock, Cllr Roberts, Cllr B Thomas, Cllr Mr B Woolley, Cllr Mrs J Woolley, Cllr Mrs Rhian Langford, Cllr Ms C Darvill, Cllr Mrs G Salt, Cllr S Eves, and the Clerk

**1425: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies received from Cllr I Green and Louise Hughes

**1426: COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** No declarations

**1427: SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR:** No special announcements.

**1428: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The minutes were confirmed after a query raised by Cllr Mrs Salt was discussed and agreed upon.

**1429: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON:** Cllr Mrs Salt asked for two items to be amended by way of an addition and the removal of wording. The addition was agreed upon. After discussion it was agreed that the wording within the minute queried would remain the same, but the query would be added to the minutes as an addendum. The chairman duly signed the minutes and the addendum. Cllr Roberts said that without the project board and the attendees, ie Stuart, Mike, Sylvia and Angela there would be no confirmation that 2054 and decommissioning is off the table and that is the biggest achievement. The chair signed the minutes and the amendment. Proposed by Cllr Ms Darvill seconded Cllr Eves.

#### **1430: CLERKS REPORT:**

- (a) Continuous fake news/inaccurate reporting. Requests for interviews are still being received, however, ACC Councillors and the Clerk are now being very selective.
- (b) Movement of shingle and NRW attention to this matter – Ann Griffiths – The ACC has requested a meeting with Ann Griffiths the next time she is in the Village.
- (c) Playpark and Tennis Courts – replacing equipment and fencing. The Clerk is waiting for an email from Llion Pritchard confirming, or not, whether CG can offer any financial and/or physical help.
- (d) Matt Hodson – quote for painting fences in playpark. – The Clerk is still waiting to hear back from Matt Hodson.
- (e) Sheep fencing on Penrhyn Drive North – no planning application has been received to date.
- (f) Remembrance Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November – road closure and wreath – all is in order.
- (g) Meeting of the Flood Wardens Group – Matt Burrows – still waiting to hear back from Matt Burrow regarding the flood wardens proposed meeting. The question now is whether the plan is fit for purpose. Also, what is still desperately needed is a dedicated plan for Fairbourne.
- (h) Nothing back from SNP regarding signage for the Trail.
- (i) Wrecks at Penrhyn Point. The Harbour master said that he would do his best with the one wreck but the other two were on miniature railway land so he could not do anything to get them moved.
- (j) Footpath 13 Mawddach Terrace – the Terrace Residents won their case but did not get costs awarded. Case closed.
- (k) Dead creatures on the shingle. Two carcasses were removed but one was too large and would have to be removed by machinery.
- (l) Dog poo bin, Talbot Road, has been replaced, great news. Dog poo bin at Friog Corner is still being chased.
- (m) Slippage at Friog Corner. Network Rail will investigate.

**1331: To Deal with Any Correspondence/Phone Calls:** A letter had been received from the Welsh Air Ambulance asking for a donation. This was discussed and it was agreed to send £350.00 this year. Cllr Eves/Cllr Ms Darvill

**1432: SPECIAL ITEMS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION:** It was reported that the selling and distribution of drugs is rife in Fairbourne. There is a constant small of Cannabis around the Golf Club. The Police do not seem to be acting in curtailing this trade in drug distribution and selling.

**1433: PLANNING MATTERS:** No planning matters. There is still speculation about the Springfield Hotel and the land behind the tennis courts. No confirmation has been received regarding the 5 bungalows and the commencement of building. Still nothing from planning about the cattle grid.

**1434: FINANCIAL MATTERS:** The precept for the next financial 2024 to 2025 year was discussed and agreed. It was agreed unanimously that the precept would remain the same as this current financial year and that is £14,000.00. The Community Council

was not prepared to put more financial strain on already hard-pressed residents. The Clerk told all present that the Welsh Audit Office had signed off the 2022/2023 accounts with comments to take on board. The main comment was that the Welsh Audit Office felt that it was financially dangerous to have 4 Bank Accounts. What the Welsh Audit Office fails to realise is that the ACC has a cemetery to run, a youth account with money that is restricted by a covenant as well as a current account and a reserve account. The money in the cemetery account and the youth account must be ringfenced. If the monies contained within these two accounts were put into the current account, the ACC would be accused of having too much money in its main account. As all statements and expenditure are submitted to the Auditor it is plain to see that NO MONIES are going missing or being misused. It is also not understood why the ACC's accounts are passed by the Internal Auditor (CG) without the trauma that is encountered when the External Auditor acts.

One cheque was presented for signature, £125.00 for L C Jones, cemetery grass cutting. The Clerk has spoken to Bill Round about repairing the Friog Notice Board. The Clerk is still waiting for a reply from the Welsh Audit office regarding the bill from the previous financial year. An explanation was requested to explain the huge increase in the bill. When you take a car for service you get a breakdown, when you submit your accounts to the Welsh Audit Office you do not get a breakdown just a bill.

**1435: COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS:** Cllr Mr Woolley asked about the traffic lights in Arthog, Cllr Mrs Langford confirmed that they had now been removed. Cllr Mr Woolley also asked about the Friog Hill Traffic lights. It will be interesting to see whether the lights remain or are removed after the work has been completed at the end of December. Cllr Thomas asked if the clerk could write to CG about the road surface at Garth Angharad. There have been three incidents in the last month of cars coming off the road. Cllr Roberts also pointed out another stretch of road nearer the Cenotaph and asked if crash barriers would be an option.

**1436: REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:**

**FMFPB: No report**

**Cemetery:** No Report.

**FAT:** No report

**Harbour Committee:** No report.

**Golf Club:** No report.

**1437: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Cllr Mrs Georgina Salt handed in a letter of resignation. The Chairman asked if he could persuade her to stay but she was firm in her decision. The Chairman and Councillors thanked her for her contribution as Chairperson and Councillor.

**1438: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The meeting closed at twenty minutes to nine. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December Fairbourne Village Hall.