

## ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

**1439: THE CHAIR OPENED THE MEETING:** The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.05pm.

**1440: PRESENT:** Cllr Haycock, Cllr Eves, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Mrs Woolley, Cllr Ms Darvill, Cllr Mrs Langford, Cllr Mr Thomas, Cllr Green, GC Cllr Louise Hughes, and Angela Thomas – Clerk. Also in attendance were Jack Evans and Ernie Puddick, two prospective replacement Councillors.

**1441: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Mr Brian Woolley. A letter was handed to the Clerk by Cllr Mrs Woolley. The letter sadly reported that Cllr Mr Brian Woolley had made the decision to step down as a Councillor due to ill health. The Clerk read the letter aloud to all attendees. All present expressed their sadness at Cllr Woolley's decision but respected that his health took precedence over all other concerns. All present wish Brian well

**1442: COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** Cllr Green – Golf Club.

#### **1443: SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR:**

The Chairman welcomed Gavin Jones from Openreach, who was attending the meeting to give a report on the voucher scheme currently being offered to residents of Arthog, Friog and Fairbourne and Llwyngwriil for full fibre coverage. 994 properties are eligible. Currently the level of interest was over 50% of residents. Gavin gave his report and answered questions. Cllr Eves said that he would hang a banner that Gavin brought with, along the fence line leading into Fairbourne. Cllr Eves said that he would draft an explanation of facts for Residents. The Clerk said that she did not feel informed enough to draft a statement herself. After his report he left the meeting. A handout he brought with will be attached to the minutes. 39 minutes and 25 seconds.

**1444: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The minutes were reported as being correct, Cllr Roberts confirmed, and Cllr Eves seconded.

**1445: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON: No matter arising.**

**1446:** GC Cllr Louise Hughes asked if she could give her report as she wished to leave the meeting early because she was attending, in person, a full cabinet meeting the following day which was likely to take a minimum of 4 hours. Cllr Hughes confirmed that the railway project had been completed and the bridge will be opened. A ceremony will be held in the dragon theatre on the Friday. She also confirmed that the repair work being carried out on Friog Hill is actually maintaining the ground below from a slippage and not repairing the area where the bollards currently are. The meeting she will be attending the next day will be mainly to discuss the rise on Council Tax. There will be a chance for consultation. Also being discussed is proportional representation. There will also be a consultation period. However, if people decide to give it a go it will be in place for a period of two years. It will mean changing the boundary areas and also the number of sitting Councillors. The new Chair of the Betsi Cadwallader board will also be in attendance in the Chamber. Cllr Mrs Hughes asked for an explanation of what happened at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday with regard to the Griffiths employee that was exceedingly rude to members of the congregation in attendance. This employee completely ignored the road closure signs and was verbally aggressive and drove his way through the assembled. However, this was witnessed by another Griffiths employee who reported it first thing Monday morning to the person in charge. The aggressive employee had his contract terminated and was dismissed immediately. Cllr Eves also received a telephone call apologising for the upset.

**1447: CLERKS REPORT:** After comments from Cllr Eves about the wreath for the Remembrance Service, it was decided that a superior wreath would be purchased for next year rather than Cllr Eves making a wreath, after all the idea is that the funds raised from the sale of wreaths go to ex-servicemen. Due to illness etc. the Clerk said that she had not yet sent the £350.00 cheque to the Welsh Air Ambulance but that she would do so. The Clerk confirmed that Bill Round had repaired the Notice Board in Friog at a cost of £47.00. The Clerk read an email from the newly formed Mawddach Allotment Group who had requested help from the Community Council with regard to the existing Bowling Green Club, which has in fact been acquired by Cllr Ian Green. Potential Councillor Ernest Puddick declared an interest in this group. The Clerk asked whether she should direct the group to Cllr Ian Green and the answer was yes. The Clerk will email the group and say that Cllr Green will make direct contact with them. The two lake areas at the end of Marine Drive were also discussed but that will be raised again at a later date as NRW have not answered the suggestion of gifting it to the Community Council.

A vacancy had arisen at the last meeting and due to Cllr Brian Woolley resigning it meant that two vacancies existed at the start of this meeting. This in fact meant that there were two vacancies and two applicants. If both parties are still interested by the end of this meeting, then they will both be coopted onto the Council at the January 2024 meeting. The Clerk explained that this would require details of phone numbers, address and email address must be made available for The Notice Boards. It was explained that the meetings are once a month, two hours, alternating between Arthog and Fairbourne. The Springfield Hotel raised its head again about it being turned into an Asylum seekers hotel. Cllr Haycock, because of his previous contact with GC, made enquires with contacts that he still retained. There was neither confirmation nor denial, but what was established was that a very high standard is required. It was thought unlikely that this would in fact happen. The Clerk said that she had written to Mabon ap Gwynfor and Liz Saville Roberts, Liz had acknowledged receipt of the email, but Mabon had not replied or acknowledged. The Clerk confirmed that GC could find no problem with the road surface at Garth Angharad and other stretches of the A493 and that GC would take no further action.

**1348: To Deal with Any Correspondence/Phone Calls: No items**

**1449: SPECIAL ITEMS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION: No items**

**1450: PLANNING MATTERS:** The Springfield Hotel again was discussed with regard to the lack of planning applications for the discharge of black and grey water into the main sewer. Prospective Councillor Jack Evans said that Gews would be charging somewhere in the region of £800 for a connect such as this one. It was suggested that the ACC got back in touch with the enforcement department. The Clerk had also written to the Planning Department with regard to the 7ft fence that is due to be erected around the RAF MOD building in the Village of Fairbourne. The Clerk will try to make contact with the Caretaker. The ditch system had been cleared with the exception of the "Titley" ditch that Sara Pearson, NRW, said they would take on board. This will be taken forward to the next Project Board Meeting along with existing other concerns. The Clerk confirmed that there was nothing to report from SNP.

**1451: FINANCIAL MATTERS:** All Councillors had received a copy of the monthly financial report. All was in order. No explanation of the last billing had been received despite several requests by the Clerk. The Clerk confirmed that she had written to say that the ACC was not refusing to pay but required a breakdown, as the bill was much higher than the previous year without explanation. The Clerk confirmed that the Precept request for £14,000.00 had been submitted and confirmed.

**1452: COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS:** Cllr Ms Darvill/Cllr Mrs Langford asked about the proposed fence to be erected around the FAF MOD building in the center of Fairbourne Village. The Clerk had also written to the Planning Department with regard to the 7ft fence that is due to be erected around the RAF MOD building in the Village of Fairbourne. No reply.

**1453: REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:**

**FMFPB:**

**Cemetery:** A repair had been made to the road leading down to the Cemetery.

**FAT:** A meeting had been held on the Monday evening. Funds were slightly down from the previous year. No account had been submitted with regard to the collections from the donation boxes. CCTV will be in operation at the Promenade toilets due to the vandalism that had occurred.

**Harbour Committee:** A new representative will be elected at the next meeting.

**Golf Club:** A meeting was proposed by Cllr Eves with Cllr Roberts also in attendance. Cllr Eves asked Cllr Green to ask James Green for a date, Cllr Green said that Cllr Eves should contact James himself.

**1454: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Cllr Roberts gave an explanation as to why trees were being removed in Arthog, he also said that it was probably planned for the areas to be extend with more clearing. This is due to trees falling due to ask die back and high winds.

Cllr Eves had a meeting with 4 members of GC including Maritime, regarding the shingle path, barriers to prevent cars parking over the walkway, and a second flagpole. Neither Sylvia Stephenson nor the Clerk were available to attend the meeting this time. Cllr Eves told the GC representatives that barriers were not required to stop cars overparking and that signage would work. Unfortunately, at a previous meeting Barry Davies had spoken to the Supervisor that runs the Care home on Penrhyn Bar and Grill and promised her barriers to enable her wheelchair users access to the path down to Friog Corner. Cllr Eves was not aware of this. The original Notice Boards that were on the Promenade are due to be brought back into service. The SOS phones were also discussed, and Maritime said that replacements were not available. Maritime told Cllr Eves that they would be happy to supply a second flagpole and also a second shingle path. Prospective Cllr Jack Evans was engaged by Maritime to bury seal carcasses on Fairbourne Beach. He actually had to make a shingle path down to gain access and a discussion took place to possibly engage his firm for further work reference the two proposed shingle paths.

It was confirmed that the Storybook Café had closed, and the property was on Rightmove for sale. Everyone was wished a Happy Christmas and New Year.

**1455: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 – Arthog Village Hall.