

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 3RD JULY 2024

1555: THE CHAIR OPENED THE MEETING: The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.05pm. and welcomed all in attendance.

1556: PRESENT: All Councillors were present except for Cllr Ms Langford who sent apologies

1557: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: One apology

1558: COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Cllr Green – Golf Club

1559: SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR: No special announcements.

1560: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON, Wednesday 5th June 2024: The minutes were confirmed as correct Cllr Haycock and seconded by Cllr Claire Troman

1561: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 5th June 2024: No matters arising.

1562: CLERKS REPORT:

Welcome Sign. The Clerk reported that good progress has been made with the completion of the new Village Welcome sign and that it will be delivered directly to Cllr Jack Evans who will begin construction of the flower bed.

Fairborn Ohio - this appears to have gone very quiet. We are wondering if the expectation of the Americans had been dented by the last email that was sent by the Clerk. The Clerk had spoken to the Clerk at Dyffren and was told that there can be issues and it's a lot of hard work.

Sheep in the Village – The Clerk asked Cllr Jack Evans what progress had been made with the planning application for a cattle grid. The Clerk reported that many complaints had been received and that residents were getting nasty about sheep raiding their gardens. Cllr Evans basically said that residents would not shut the gate that had been fitted. Cllr Evans said that the only way to stop this was with a cattle grid being fitted. The Clerk said she was not amused when a resident said that the Community Council had let the fox into the chicken pen and that the Councillors were the laughingstock of the village. Cllr Roberts suggested that a site meeting might be helpful.

Friog Hill Traffic Lights – Again, many complaints had been received about the dangerous nature of the way the traffic lights were operating or more to the point not operating. Steffan Jones, Head of Highways and Adrian Williams CG had both been contacted by email on numerous occasions, Steffan reported that there may be some news by the end of June. The flower boxes had been planted up and the verges had been cut so the village was looking tidy and bright. The grass that had been cut opposite Penrhyn Point was still looking in good order and Cllr Evans said that it would be cutting again before the children break up for the summer holidays. The ROSPA safety report had taken place and Cllr Narraway would report later in the minutes. There were several complaints about overhanging brambles and hedges in the Village, this issue seems to have been resolved in some places. Number 5 Belgrave Road was also brought up as looking dreadful and making Belgrave Road look unkempt. The life buoy on the beach and Penrhyn Bar has been remounted. The man in the van on the Promenade was ticketed and has moved back to the Golf Club. The Clerk confirmed that she and Sylvia Stephenson had attended a regeneration meeting in Dolgellau. A young resident in the village reported a spillage coming from the outfall pipe on the beach opposite the golf club. Dwr Cymru sent a team from Cardiff to inspect, they said they could not find any issues. Pictures will be forwarded to Dwr Cymru by the young resident. A German radio reporter had requested an interview. The Clerk had written back to decline because of the change in the conversation however, the reporter still requested a meeting.

1563: TO DEAL WITH ANY CORRESPONDENCE OR PHONE CALLS: No correspondence.

1564: SPECIAL ITEMS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION: Covered in the Clerks report.

1565: PLANNING MATTERS: No new planning matters.

1566: FINANCIAL MATTERS: The first half of the precept and the VAT refund had been received into the Bank Account. The FAT cheque had been banked. The Clerk reported that the Accounts had been signed off by Cyngor Gwynedd and would now be forwarded to the Welsh Audit Office for the external audit. The Clerk asked if all Councillor had examined the monthly accounts and were happy with the figures. There were 4 cheques to be signed. L C Jones £250.00, Peredur Roberts £800.00, ROSPA safety check £. And Dail Dysynni £100.00. The Clerk informed all that HSBC was due to close for approximately 1 month for a refurb. Online banking was on hold again but will be taken up again in August once all the mandates have been completed. An estimate for the sign came in at £686.00 which all agreed was very reasonable. All 4 accounts were in good order. Because of issues with online banking combined with HSBC closing for a month for upgrading, the Clerks approved raise in salary dated from June will

have to be paid by cheque until the Bank reopens and online banking commences, June, July and August increase in salary amounts to £255.00. The Clerk has been given approval by Cllr Roberts and Cllr Mrs Langford to write a cheque.

1567: COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: Cllr Evans asked why Fairbourne was not allowed a replacement ramp. He was told by Cllr Roberts and the Clerk that **this issue is closed**. There is no way that NRW will allow Fairbourne a permanent structure on the beach, that is why we are allowed to have two shingle paths.

1568: REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

FP: The meeting will take place on Friday 5th.

Cemetery: Nothing to report, however, it is hoped that the replacement gravel on the paths would be replaced in the next couple of weeks.

FAT: Stuart Eves is going to call another meeting about work not being carried out properly. However, because all those involved are volunteers it will be no good banging the table. There has been a Facebook request for volunteers.

Harbour Committee: No agenda or minutes received.

Golf Club: A second meeting has been called for the 10th July at the Golf Club, 6.30. It was confirmed that the new windows and doors have arrived.

Playpark: Cllr Claire Troman said she was looking into raising funds for new equipment for the playpark. She asked if the ACC would be willing to contribute towards this. It was felt that equipment for 7+ years young people was lacking. The Clerk asked her how she was going to bank any monies that were raised as opening a bank account has become a minefield. Cllr Narraway said that there was another way to tackle this issue and that was via the FAT. The Clerk said to bear in mind that money for the ramp had been raised, some had been returned, but there is about £8000.00, set aside, and this could possibly be diverted to the playpark.

Cllr Narraway gave a rundown of the ROSPA report. The report did not highlight anything new. However, ROSPA had missed several issues on one piece of equipment that Cllr Narraway hopes to be able to rectify. It was suggested that maybe a plastic material be used to make the repair. The report did pick up on the spikes on the rigid replacement fencing which Cllr Narraway said he would invert. The leaning post on the front edge of the tennis court, it is hoped that this could be pulled back to an upright position. There are a lot of rusty bolts, nuts and screws but this is due to our salty environment. The mats also need some attention, Cllr Narraway hopes to be able to work on this area as well.

The metal container holding the tennis net is once again falling apart and it was felt it should be scrapped. Cllr Narraway will take the tennis net home to keep it available. Uprights would have to be purchased though. The Clerk said that she would speak to Mike Scott about putting the white lines back in as he holds the machine.

Cllr Evans said that he had a plastic storage bin on site that he would be happy to donate to the ACC. He also said that he would remove the metal bin.

Flood Warden: Progress has been made and blanks have been filed in. Cllr Puddick is working on the "at risk" register. However, recruitment for flood wardens is proving to be very difficult. Cllr Puddick is also trying to establish which homes have permanent residents and which are holiday home and second homes.

Keeping Fairbourne Looking Smart: Cllr Evans said that he thought that the hedging opposite the shops was looking awful and was becoming a haven for rubbish. The Clerk will contact Network Rail and ask if they could tidy it up. Cllr Evans asked if the ACC wanted the area that he is cutting in front of Penrhyn Bar extended. It was suggested that the new picnic bench be moved to the mowed area. However, it was felt that where it is at the moment affords some respite from heavy winds. Cllr Claire Troman said it might be best to see how it goes over this summer season. Cllr Roberts said that the winds this season are pretty awful.

Ditches and Waterways: NRW will commence reed cutting in September. The situation on Glan Y Mor is ongoing, however, Cllr Puddick is pressing this point home. Cllr Puddick is waiting for a walk around the whole ditch system possibly with NRW.

Village Hall and Murals: Cllr Mrs Woolley said that work was ongoing on the murals. She also mentioned about the edge of the Village Hall side of the ditch and that it is unsafe.

1569: ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Just a reminder that the ACC does not meet in August. Cllr Roberts also reported that a house had been broken into halfway up Arthog Hill. He reminded Cllrs and residents to keep vigilant.

1570: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday September 4th at Fairbourne Village Hall.