

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE
FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2018

608: Prior to opening the meeting the Chairman gave an address, to remember Julie Eves, who had served on the council, and sadly passed away. He made special reference to the Fairbourne First Responders and Air Ambulance who had been outstanding. He asked the Councillors' and Clerk to be upstanding.

609: The Chairman Opened the meeting at 7.10 pm

610: Present: Cllr's M Scott, J Kirkham, P Thomas, P Roberts, B Woolley Cllrs (Mrs) R Stott and (Mrs) J Woolley, Gwynedd Councillor (Mrs) L Hughes and Angela Thomas (Clerk)

611: Apologies Received: Cllr's Eves and Haycock

612: Declaration of Interest: Nil

613: To Receive Any Special Announcements: Nil

614: To Confirm Minutes of the Last Meeting: The Clerk apologised to those Councillors' who had not received their minutes. The minutes were proposed by Cllr B Woolley and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Stott.

615: Matters Arising from the Minutes of Wednesday 7th January. Cllr Scott confirmed that the litter pickers were now in his possession (**minute 599**). Hopefully work would start next week. Cllr Scott also confirmed that the clear litter bags would be collected by Gwynedd Council. Cllr Scott read a letter from Gwynedd Council, reference Traffic Calming Measures Arthog Hill. It was proposed and seconded that the Clerk would reply referencing the fact that the Council was disappointed at the decisions and hoped that in the future there are no occasions when Gwynedd Council would regret not taking further traffic calming measures, especially at holiday time with the influx of visitors traffic. It was pointed out that the village was now a site of "Community Concern". Proposed and seconded. Cllr Scott confirmed that the Fairbourne Amenities Trust would be writing a letter requesting a cheque for £1600 which relates to Cllr Scott's wages when acting as Clerk. This money will go into the Trusts Bank Account.

616: Clerks Report: A request to attend a Garden Party had been sent to OVW, and it was pleasing to note that the request was "in the draw". Hopefully Cllr Scott and his wife will be lucky. It was reported that the SNP offer of fruit trees was still ongoing and in fact Cllr Scott confirmed that he had heard that day that they are arriving Friday. The Woodland Trust had replied very quickly to the problem of flooding at Ffordd y Bryn. The Woodland Trust will act if possible to alleviate the problem. Blocked ditches are probably to blame.

617: Special Announcements brought to Attention.

(a) Fairbourne Amenities Trust - Cllr Scott. Cllr Scott reported that the Trust had had problems getting Insurance and at an affordable price. This was now resolved by going direct to the Insurance Company Zurich rather than through a broker and details had been sent to Gwynedd Council for consideration. First stage had been accepted. It is hoped that an event can be organised at Whitsun utilising the Train, Food Stalls etc. but again problems had arisen with Insurance and road closure, and could cost a considerable amount. The road from the Railway to the Springfield would be closed from 4.00 till 9.00 pm. This is ongoing.

(b) Penrhyn Point – Cllr Scott and Kirkham. On the 1st February Cllr Scott and Cllr Kirkham met with the Deputy Maritime Officer and his assistant Mr Arthur Jones as well as Mr Colin Jones of the Highways Department in the absence of Mr Iwan ap Trevor and had a very productive and helpful meeting. First point discussed was the correct positioning of the 30mph signs and removal of the sign close to the entrance of the Fairbourne Golf Club.

Parking bays are to be painted in at both Penrhyn Point Turning Circle and also at the Passing Loop of the Fairbourne Railway. The pot holes to be filled in and the existing yellow restrictions area at Penrhyn Point are to be repainted. No parking zig zag marks to be renewed. The span is too great for a height restricting barrier. They had talked about putting signage in the village indicating “no access” for large vehicles. The last item discussed was a Pay & Display Unit at £1.00 for 4 hours. The Maritime Officer broached the subject of the Community Council collecting the “launch” fees and keeping a percentage of this for the Community. Cllr Kirkham said that we needed a further meeting with him to discuss this more fully. Cllr Kirkham had made contact with the 3 Ferrymen but only received a reply from 1 person. Cllr Kirkham wished to establish if the implementation of Pay & Display would impact on the Ferrymen’s business. See attached reply (617b). Mr Davies would sort the means of collection of monies, launching of boats, slipway, insurance etc. The Gate at the Point is still being left open and it was agreed that Cllr Scott and Kirkham would ask for a meeting with Mr Dodds before getting too heavy handed by locking the gate etc.

(c) Friog Corner – Cllr Woolley. Cllr Woolley summarised the outcome of the meeting held with Fairbourne Moving Forward. NRW have approved a design which should be completed by mid-April. Contractors will be asked to tender during May/June 2018. The contract will be appointed at the end of July. Significant amounts of work will involve transporting stone from a North Wales Quarry. Actual work on the defence is expected to commence after the summer holidays. Work to be completed before the end of the year. The outline plan is dependent on gaining approval for outline consents. Planning permission is needed from Gwynedd Council for NRW to commence and a full environmental impact study is also required. A marine licence is also required and permission to move the Tank Traps. Cllr Woolley will push for both parts of the proposals to run concurrently. The remains of the ramp will be removed before Easter and not used as defence material because of steel in the structure. The bottom of the ramp will also be removed at the same time. FMF was made aware of the erosion of the beach further up exposing the original bank. A potential ramp made from coconut was proposed.

- (d) Afon Henddol/Fairbourne Ditches - Cllr Scott** – There has been no work done at all since the last meeting the fields have been too wet. The Golf Club has had to remain closed due to excess water. It is believed that the ditches are to blame. The Pig farm has given permission for the ditches to be cleared on their land but no reed cutter to be used. Cllr Scott was waiting for a reply from Ann Griffith. Cllr Thomas pointed out that the sluice gate is closed for the majority of the time because of the excessive amount of water. Cllr Woolley stated that the NRW do have the right to access all areas of land whether privately owned or not.
- (e) Assets Register – Cllr Scott.** Cllr Scott had produced a new asset register to conform to BDO requirements. Assets were now written down to £6500 and will be reduced each year by 10%.
- (f) Footpath 13 embankment – Cllr Scott.** Cllr Scott took photographs and sent them to the NRW, he confirmed that the problem is where the horses walk. The problem is now in the hands of Gwynedd Council to sort as the land is privately owned by Bwlchgwyn. The land at the Pig Farm is also in an atrocious state. The Land owner Mr Marsh (Heron Barn) is still waiting to hear from the SNP as to what they are going to do about it. The culvert on his side of the road is totally blocked. This can only be resolved by the ditches being cleared.
- (g) Dyfi Bridge Consultation – Cllr Scott.** Cllr Scott went through the report/letter received from James Healey, Welsh Government. In the letter, it was asked whether the Council wished to withdraw or sustain its objection. It was proposed and seconded that the Clerk write a letter saying that the Council's objection still remained. A bypass is the obvious answer.
- (h) Alleged Right of Way Mawddach Crescent (Footpath 13) Cllr Roberts.** After much discussion, it was decided that the Council itself take no further action. However, Cllr (Mrs) Hughes asked for guidance as to what she should do. It was pointed out that the Community Council had written a letter of support for the Application and that position had not changed. Therefore, Cllr (Mrs) Hughes stance should be one of support for the application. She, personally, was very much in support of the Application. It was pointed out that further discussion/decision had been deferred by Gwynedd Council to the meeting in Dolgellau on Monday 26th February.

618: To Deal with any Correspondence: The Council received a letter from Gwynedd Council, reference Digital Access for all. The letter was passed to Cllr. (Mrs) Woolley who would pass it to the Senior Citizens group in the Fairbourne Village Hall. Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales booklets were made available to anyone with an interest. A form was distributed to Cllr's to complete asking for various pieces of information. This was to comply with Local Government (Democracy) Wales. A letter was received from Mr J D Roberts indicating that he was retiring and he enclosed his invoice for work carried out. The Clerk will write a letter of thanks and well wishes. Gwynedd Council will appoint a replacement. A bill was received for the rental of the Village Hall, for the precept meeting. An invoice was also received for the new bin in the Playpark.

619: To Deal with Planning Matters: - Nil

620: Financial Statement and Report: A summary statement sheet of income and expenditure was handed to each Cllr. No questions were raised.

Current Account: £6085.74

Reserve Account: £4739.12 +19p interest

Youth Account: £7708

No income received this month.

3 Cheques were written and signed. £10.00 payment for Fairbourne Village Hall, £91.79 Wybone Playpark Bin and £50.00, J D Roberts, Accountant.

The question raised regarding the erecting of 2 headstones in the cemetery was researched and it was found that one had been paid for but Mrs Dora Roberts headstone had not been paid for. Cllr Thomas would speak to the family diplomatically.

621: To Receive Councillors Questions: Cllr Thomas presented a tender from Mr L C Jones reference grass cutting in the cemetery and War Memorial. It was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter of acceptance. £100 per session up to 14 sessions. Proposed and agreed. Cllr Woolley was asked by a resident who was responsible for pruning the trees in Arthog to Fairbourne Village. It was explained that it is down to the individual Land Owners. Gwynedd Council are pursuing some Land Owners who have not responded to a request to make safe. Inspections are made by Gwynedd Council on a haphazard basis. Cllr Scott proposed that a new website similar to that of Borth Community Council be set up which would have links to other websites within the local communities including Arthog Community Council, which could be financed by Fairbourne Community Interest Company. Presently the Community Council website is not suitable for the additions and changes.

622: Representatives Reports: Cllr Kirkham advised that there will be a Harbour Advisory Meeting sometime soon. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes said she would be unable to attend. She will also be away for the Fairbourne Moving Forward Meeting with Lisa Goodier. Cllr Kirkham will submit a report in due time. He also advised that all the archive material belonging to this council is now in the Archive Bank in Dolgellau. Cllr Thomas asked whether the Council should consider switching their Bank to one of the remaining Banks in Dolgellau. The Clerk will go into Barclays and assess the possibility.

623: Date and time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 7th March in Arthog commencing 7.00pm
Cllr (Mrs) Hughes offered her apologies in advance.