

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL HELD WEDNESDAY 8TH JANUARY 2020

976: The Chairman Opened the Meeting: Cllr Eves opened the meeting at 7.00 pm and welcomed all.

977: Present: Cllr Eves, Roberts, Thomas, Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) Neville, Cllr (Mrs) Darvill, Cllr (Mrs) Hughes, co-opted Cllr (Mrs) Salt, Clerk, Angela Thomas and Guest Huw Williams. Also present were 4 members of the public

978: Apologies Received: Cllr Haycock and Cllr (Mrs) Stott

979: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: Nil

980: Guest Speaker: Huw Williams YGC. Chairman Cllr Eves welcomed Huw Williams and invited him to make his presentation.

This part of the minutes has been taken directly from the tape recording and the Clerk has tried to transcribe it as it was spoken. There was some difficulty because of coughing and sometimes overtalking to exactly hear what was said. The Clerk asks for Councillors to read this part carefully and if there are any inconsistencies to please let her know. Likewise, if Huw Williams has any concerns to please let the Clerk know.

Huw Williams opened his presentation by thanking the Arthog Community Council for inviting him to attend this meeting and said it was a pleasure to be there. Cllr Eves asked Huw how Lisa Goodier was, and Huw stated that she had just got back into the swing of things after electioneering. Huw indicated that he would start his presentation with the Consultation and would follow on with the Project Board and would also discuss the moving of shingle by the NRW in the area that had eroded during last month's continuous high winds. HW said that he had been surprised that it was in fact just sand dune and not shingle against the sea wall. Cllr Eves said that the ACC were extremely grateful for the speed in which, (via Gareth Eves), the NRW had responded to this problem. More high tides are expected in late January and February. Cllr Eves expressed thanks that a digger had been left in situ just in case.

In terms of the Consultation HW was thankful for those residents who had responded. He had expected a larger response but had in fact received less than 40 responses. Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes said that considering previous attitude from Gwynedd Council, many residents felt that it was a waste of time responding because GC did not listen or respond to what they had to say. HW said he could respect that view. HW said that responses and action were linked to funds being available. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes said that a reported amount of in excess of £400,000 had already been made available for meetings/consultations/publications and 6 years later there were still no answers. A report/summary into the submissions received was being compiled by his department at this moment and completion would be expected by 17th February. This would then go out to all Stakeholders. The Clerk asked HW to confirm that ACC would be included, which he did. Lisa Goodier will put responses against all the points raised. HW said the way that actions will be tackled will be via the work groups, yet to be formed. A major point raised from the responses was the lack of communication between GC and ACC and residents, followed by points regarding governance and stakeholder involvement. The wording of the working groups could be changed depending on the outcome of the consultation report. Funds had been made available by Welsh Government to

monitor the ground water levels. That money had in fact gone out to 3rd parties and the information gained was available to all, YGC were not precious about sharing that information.

Cllr Eves said that as a result of the meeting chaired by the ACC at the end of November, one of the main points raised was that the money spent on the glossy brochure had been a complete and utter waste of money because it gave no answers at all. Graphs and charts do not answer residents' questions. Cllr Eves said 6 years down the line, that what the residents of Fairbourne were looking for was some type of closure. He said that residents cannot live for the next 30 years in this state of flux and uncertainty. What was needed was more than a "time frame". Cllr Eves said that even the evacuation/flood document answered no questions. It was a long winded document written for all by the North Wales Response Group, a pro forma format, but did not fit Fairbourne at all, and that was why the ACC took it upon themselves to find three dedicated locations within a mile boundary, on high ground, to which residents could be transported in the event of a major incident. Places like Bala, Barmouth, Portmadog, Tywyn etc were not workable. HW agreed that numbers alone would preclude some of those places. HW said that Lisa Goodier had put a great deal of work into the document, which Cllr Eves did acknowledge. Cllr Eves said that an evacuation document should be no more than 4 pages, stapled and distributed to each household. Cllr Eves asked who we could write to, to get the document re-written. HW reminded that in 2017 there had been an evacuation exercise that had been successfully carried out.

Cllr Woolley said that in 2013 GC held a meeting in Fairbourne and that was the first time that the SMP2 was mentioned, in 2014 the whole Country experienced the big storm, at which time the then leader of the Council stood up and said "the people of Fairbourne need to wake up and smell the coffee", which residents had found insulting. The Leader then went on to say that Fairbourne would be protected for the next 40 years, which in fact was a decision to be made by the NRW not GC. At that same time, it was suggested that the best way to protect Fairbourne would be to strengthen Friog Corner. Approximately £90,000 was spent on consultation, none of which was accepted. 4 years later Gregor Guthrie of Royal Haskoning re invented the wheel and said that what was needed was rock armour for Friog Corner. A report costing a further approx. £100,000, a report written to impress stakeholders and not the residents of Fairbourne, was then produced. Cllr Woolley again said that here we are 6 years later and still no solutions/answers are available. Cllr Woolley said that it is now time for GC to start coming up with some answers. Cllr Woolley's final question to HW was, how much is it going to cost GC to decommission Fairbourne and how much would it cost to defend Fairbourne. Cllr Woolley was embarrassed that, when residents asked him questions, all he could answer with was "we don't know". Cllr (Mrs) Neville said that residents that had spoken to her had asked if owners of holiday homes and second homes would be treated in the same way as residents who owned their homes and lived in them. If any form of financial help or compensation was available, then it should go to actual residents in the first instance and not second homeowners. Residents felt very strongly about this point. Cllr (Mrs) Darvill asked if other affected villages would be treated the same as Fairbourne or differently regarding decommissioning. Cllr Thomas said from this point forward whatever information was supplied by GC, NRW or any other interested parties it should be, short, succinct and to the point and nothing else. Any photographs used should be an accurate depiction of Fairbourne, which has not flooded to date. Cllr Eves said that if any further work is carried out in Fairbourne by the NRW or its contractors could that work be fit for purpose because the two major works carried out in Fairbourne have both revealed faults and not been fit for purpose, especially the Galliford Try project. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley pointed out that local extensive knowledge and experience had in both cases been totally ignored and not considered. This lack of using local knowhow was mentioned in the report produced by JAB/ICARUS, The Fairbourne Learning Project, commissioned by the Welsh Government. A consequence of not considering the possibility of seepage under the Friog Corner Works designed by Greg Guthrie and Royal Haskoning has resulted in a large pump being left on site for nearly a year. Cllr Thomas asked at what cost?

HW asked for time to answer some of the questions just raised: He started by saying that if the Leader of the Council at that time had caused offense by his remark about waking up and smelling the coffee, he apologized on his behalf. Cllr Woolley acknowledged this but said that it had felt that GC were under prepared and that answers that were given appeared to be “off the back of a fag packet”. Emotional outburst has a devastating effect.

HW said that in terms of the shingle bank, the responsibility lies with the NRW not GC. The Councillors acknowledged that point. Cllr Thomas wondered why the NRW and GC could not tackle the problem faced by Fairbourne in the same way that the Nederland’s managed their lowlands? Royal Haskoning being a Dutch Company.

HW said that the second point was that NRW is funded by Welsh Government and they must make a bid for their projects. HW felt that in order to fully protect Fairbourne the work carried out at Friog Corner will have to travel North and fresh bids will have to be made for that work to be done. Cllr Eves said that the tetrapod solution should be considered. Cllr Thomas said that when NRW/GC talk about funding they talk as though the funds were theirs and theirs alone, when in fact those funds are provided by the working public of Wales of which Fairbourne is a part. What makes funding complicated is the way in which it is tackled by those in the driving seat. Cllr Thomas said that had Cllr Eves idea been adopted then Fairbourne would not be in the situation that it now faces. He acknowledged that that was not a GC solution and that it is/was an NRW decision.

Cllr (Mrs) Hughes asked HW who makes the decision on funding, was it a committee, Welsh Government etc. NRW have their own governing committee. Regarding North Wales, Sian Williams was the decision maker. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes acknowledged that in Fairbourne there are no National Monuments etc., but you cannot put a price on people’s homes and wellbeing that they have invested their whole life into.

Cllr Roberts made the following point: He said that resident’s capital was tied up in their home and that that was now gone, he asked who was going to re-house them and where. Cllr Roberts said it was not just a case of costing decommission against defending, in the case of decommission those costings would go on and on and would continue to do so until those residents eventually passed away.

Cllr Woolley pointed out that due to the statement made by GC and the statement in the SMP2 that Fairbourne would be decommissioned, it was now no longer possible to raise equity release in a home for instance, to help with care home costs. Residents are unable to get a mortgage, equity release, etc. and this was affecting their lives NOW. Surveyors are refusing to even come to Fairbourne.

Conversation moved on to the Railway line and Network Rail. At this point in time NR say they will hold the line. The Councillors’ asked HW to comment, he said that it was purely a Network Rail decision. He did say however, that if the railway line failed then the arterial road would also fail and then GC would have to consider managed realignment. HW said that he thought the “political classes” had not yet woken up rising sea levels and climate change and that Politicians of all colour in the UK had a “great deal of catching up to do”.

HW clearly stated that the NRW have said that they will maintain the sea wall until 2054.

Talk went back to the loss of shingle on Penrhyn Drive South. It was pointed out that shingle had been removed from that exact point during the Friog Corner project. Cllr Eves also asked what had

happened to all the shingle that was obviously removed and replaced with rock armour. That shingle should have been left on Fairbourne beach, but it is not known what happened to it. There would have been 100's of tons.

HW then went back to the question of the cost of demolishing the village. He stated that an estimate of £15 million had been quoted. He was asked if he meant £50 million to which he replied no. The Councillors all agreed that that figure was not realistic. Cllr Thomas asked if it was an HS2 estimate? HW then went on to say that Jones Bros had been asked to provide a quote for the decommissioning of Fairbourne. All Councillors thought that that was a very sensible idea. HW acknowledged that the quote of £15 million was looking on the light side. Cllr Roberts said "tongue in cheek" more like £1.5 billion. Cllr (Mrs) Darvill then said that GC would have to "get us out of our homes first" and asked how that would be done. HW replied that at this time there was no legislation in place to force residents to leave. Cllr Thomas raised the point that GC would have to enforce compulsory purchase in that case. If a house is paid for and the land registered with the land registry then that land belongs to the owner. HW replied that legal advice received said that if there was a breach then the land in Fairbourne would become foreshore and foreshore is owned by the Crown. Cllr Thomas disputed that fact. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley said didn't we have a Magna Carta???. Some parts of the foreshore are owned by individuals and not always the Crown. One example being the foreshore in Arthog owned by Miss Roberts. It would be a very contentious argument to have.

HW then went on to re-iterate that the Consultation comments and feedback summary should be ready by mid-February and will be shown to the ACC before public release to residents of Fairbourne. The ACC will have the right to comment. HW acknowledged that some of the workgroups will have to be tweaked.

Cllr (Mrs) Hughes asked about the slipway. She said surely for the estimated cost of £30,000 for replacing it, would it not be a great good will gesture from GC to get the job done. HW said that Barry Davies would have the ultimate decision. Cllr Woolley relayed comment to HW from the previous Harbour Committee meeting, which in fact were reported in the December minutes, Cllr (Mrs) Hughes also in attendance. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes said that HW was a man of influence and could he not wield some of the influence. Cllr (Mrs) Salt than asked HW about the Coastal Adaption Master Plan, within the plan it states that the loss of the slipway resulted in a loss of tourism to the area. Her point being that it was pointed out in the GC plan that the loss of the slipway has had an adverse effect on the village. If the vitality of the village is to be maintained, then surely the reinstatement of the slipway would be a positive move. HW acknowledged that Cllr (Mrs) Hughes and raised the issue of the slipway on numerous occasions. It would also be covered by the Health and Wellbeing Act, except of course" it doesn't seem to apply to Fairbourne". (Tongue in cheek.) Cllr (Mrs) Darvill also asked why the Notice Boards and the flag were removed. The Chairman told her that this was a subject that had been discussed at many, many previous meetings. HW said that Catrin Wager had attended meetings with the Tourism Office and had discussed this subject. Cllr Eves asked for the name and contact number for that person as she had never been to Fairbourne. HW said he would send the information on to the Clerk. At a meeting attended by Catrin Wager the situation regarding the 999 phones had been discussed and it had been decided that one phone would be retained. Cllr Eves asked could it not be possible to keep all 3 located phones on just the one line and one number but list them as A, B and C.

HW acknowledges that a lot of negative comment had been received reference the Glossy Brochure. Cllr (Mrs) Salt asked who the intended audience had been to which HW replied "everyone". He acknowledged that the "Master Plan" which in fact was not a plan, was a huge complicated document

That even people with a technical background could not understand it easily. Cllr (Mrs) Salt asked if HW was intending that the Fairbourne: Framework for the Future Brochure was in fact going to be the future blueprint for other communities that would be facing the same as Fairbourne. HW stated that Fairbourne is not on its own, Newgale, Pembrokeshire is neck and neck with Fairbourne. The problems in Newgale are different but just as severe. There are plans in place for Newgale, but HW again acknowledged that local knowledge and experience was not being listened to regarding a solution. Cllr Thomas asked HW to please write down and underline the point that local knowledge is of the utmost importance. Cllr Thomas said that people like Mike Thrussell, Alan Titley and Stuart Eves had extensive local knowledge and were not being listened to, to name but three. So called experts, Cllr (Mrs) Woolley said, especially those who live in Peterborough (tongue in cheek) did not always know best. HW acknowledged that an employee of GC who lived locally had in fact been consulted and was participating.

HW started to talk about the Fairbourne Learning Project and the involvement of JAB/ICARUS. The Clerk said that she would like to ask him some questions first. The first question being who had commissioned the reports and why had no one from this body been to Fairbourne and engaged with the ACC and residents. HW reported that the reports had been commissioned by Welsh Government and suggested that the Clerk write to the Authors and ask why they had not engaged with Fairbourne. HW said that he had a bit of a beef about these reports because they basically replicated work that Lisa Goodier had carried out. He confirmed that Welsh Government has commissioned them, they did not come via GC. It had taken three years for the reports to be published, the cost unknown. The reports talk about consultation but with whom, certainly not with the ACC or residents. HW could comment no further as he not been involved. Again, HW suggested that if the ACC were not happy then they should contact Welsh Government, ICARUS and JAB directly. The Clerk will do that. The reports were supposed to help Welsh Government learn lessons. Cllr Thomas and Cllr Eves at this point both stated that in 2013 when the SMP2 was published that GC had no plan in place whatsoever, and that the ACC was in no position to consult/educate with the Residents of Fairbourne and the ACC were totally unprepared or qualified to deal with this. HW said that consultation in Fairbourne had begun in 2011 but not one current Councillor was aware of that meeting. The Councillors' asked HW to consider for the future, the ways and means of ensuring that all residents and the ACC were full aware of when and if a meeting is to be held, and to do this in a concise and meaningful way and as cheaply as possible with the costings made public. HW said he could not promise that this would happen.

Up to 2017 HW said that he though a figure of up to £300,00 from Welsh Government, had been spent on works/projects, but from 2017 to now Welsh Government had not allocated any funds. HW asked if he could interpret that request as asking how much the Fairbourne: Framework for the Future document had cost. Cllr Thomas said yes. Cllr Eves again said that he hoped HW would take from the meeting the fact that the residents of Fairbourne need closure/some lines drawn. HW said that the way that YGC were looking at this was like an engineering project, and that for instance timelines were dependent upon climate change, rising sea levels etc and that there is no certainty there. At this moment there is, with Welsh Government, no appetite for conversation. Cllr Thomas said in that case in the next document issued HW should write that there is no certain time frame, there is no funding and GC have no answers, to make in blindingly obvious to all who read it. However, Cllr (Mrs)Salt said that there is a contingency under law that in the case of being homeless your local authority has to within 24 hours find a home for those affected. That is statute and GC have no choice. HW then said that this was the purpose of the workstreams, to work on that very subject. Social Housing for instance would require a great deal of funding from Welsh Government. HW said that his whole budget annually was only £85,000 for the whole of Gwynedd which would not go very far. Cllr Eves asked HW the specific question of "what would cause Fairbourne to be abandoned"? Is it a breach, is it a storm in the mountains, is it a case of once the Village gets wet

that's it?" HW replied. HW said it could be either. If it was a huge breach like Llanbedr, then depending on the magnitude then it could be game over, if it was a small breach and NRW repair then life would carry on. HW said that as the storms increase in magnitude and ferocity there will be more overtopping. The Councillors said they understood that. Cllr Eves said in the case of a severe overtopping or breach it would not be possible to demolish some of the Village and leave bits in place, otherwise it will turn into a Gypsy town. HW then went on to say that he would ask for some patience in terms of the Project Board, ideally being limited to 12 persons, and it is becoming a decision-making board. The groups will be tackling a topic at a time, subject to funding of course. Flood risk management plan being one of the first topics to be discussed and it was important to have ACC involvement as well as the residents/community involvement, and decisions will be made such as "we will do A, B and C." Cllr Louise Hughes said that she sincerely hoped that in another 6 years' time we would not be sat in Fairbourne Village Hall, talking about the same thing. Cllr Thomas said that GC should now put in writing, in black and white, that in the worst-case scenario such as a serious breach (and that to be defined), prior to 2054, GC would start decommissioning. The Clerk said that currently there was a strong rumour circulating in the Village that GC proposed to start decommissioning as early as 2025, that statement having been made by a GC employee. HW said categorically that the date that GC is working to is 2054.

The Clerk said that she would let HW know as soon as possible the names of the 2 ambassadors to represent Fairbourne on the Project Board. The original number of participants on the board was 42 which became unworkable, the plan now is to limit it to a possible 12.

HW then went back to the worst-case scenario. If Welsh Government refuse to give GC money, for whatever reason on bids submitted, then there is not a lot that HW can do about it. Welsh government is saying that this will be the remit of the public service board which deal with local issues but the PSB quite rightly says that this a national/international problem so therefore everybody should sit around the table. Cllr Hughes said that she did not see how the Welsh Government could refuse to be involved as this is surely an international problem, and Fairbourne being the UK's first decommissioning, then absolutely it should be got right in the first instance.

Cllr Woolley asked HW if the data from the monitor on Barmouth Bridge was now accurate and had it been calibrated. HW confirmed that it had been calibrated in line with Holyhead, and that data indicated was in line with predictions, and on average the sea level rise per year was 4.7mm.

Cllr Eves asked HW if the cleaning of the ditches in the last month of 2019 had made a difference to the ground water monitoring levels. HW did not know that answer but said he would find out. It was planned to make the data available on the website to all.

The Clerk thanked HW for officially investigating the problem experienced by some residents submitting their comments and feedback electronically to YGC.

HW encouraged the ACC to look at the Welsh Government document entitled Prosperity for All, Fairbourne being there by reference. The ACC were not aware of that document. HW said that GC had commented that it was a document listing lots of problems, with no solutions offered.

Cllr (Mrs) Salt asked HW if the suggestions made in the original large "Master Plan" were actually going to be taken on board, the documents was produced for the Project Board, HW replied that it was a complex document and that it had been accepted and signed off. HW referred to Pembrokeshire National Park and the way that they were handling sea level rise. Reference being made to a statement that if a property was deemed to not be in place in 20 years' time then a plot of land with deemed planning consent would be made available which at least gives you something

to assist you to move elsewhere. Cllr Thomas asked if that would apply to the SNP. HW suggested that ACC research the Pembrokeshire National Park strategy document. Cllr Roberts said that the SNP are scrapping the 106 clauses on local housing, ie local occupancy.

HW was thanked by all for his time as guest speaker and in turn he thanked the ACC for the very measured way the meeting had been conducted. He acknowledged that it cannot be easy for the ACC and or the residents of Fairbourne

This part of the meeting concluded at 8.33 pm.

981: To Receive Any Special Announcements: The Chairman welcomed Georgina Salt to the Arthog Community Council. Cllr (Mrs) Salt was duly co-opted to the ACC. The Clerk asked for permission to add Cllr (Mrs) Salt's details on to the website and into the Notice Boards. Permission granted. Proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Woolley.

982: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on December 4th December 2019: Minutes were confirmed and signed. Proposed by Cllr Woolley and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Neville.

983: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th December 2019: Nil

984: Clerks Report: The Clerk reported that she had spoken to One Voice Wales regarding the funds required to be left in the Bank Account in the event of an election. The NALC legislation had been sent to the Clerk relating to this subject. The Clerk reported that a piece of reporting on the internet had implied that a politically diverse council gave better service to its constituents than a Council that is dominated by one political party. Gwynedd Council being an example of a Council dominated by one political party. The Guardian Newspaper had written a follow up on Fairbourne also listing the plight of other communities such as Looe and Norfolk. It was an accurate piece written by Tom Wall. Notice had been received from GC regarding an overnight road closure to enable re-surfacing work to be carried out on the A493 Arthog, 16th January. It had been circulated to all. The diversion was over the mountain. The Clerk brought to the attention of the Councillors' 3 email received from 3 different parties, requesting access to speak to residents and the ACC for further coverage of the plight of Fairbourne and its residents. There was one objection, but the motion was carried by the majority to co-operate with these parties. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley thought that it was better to co-operate and work with the people concerned, that way you would hope to get an accurate portrayal of what is happening. Proposed by Cllr (Mrs) Neville, seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Woolley. A subject discussed at the last meeting, that of St Catherine's Church in Arthog was raised again. Cllr Thomas handed a letter to the Clerk that had been written by a resident of Arthog. It was proposed that the letter be written and sent on Arthog Community Council letter head endorsing the proposal that the Ministry should reconsider the selling of St Catherine's Church. The Clerk said she would type and send it. The Clerk reported that new poles ready to accommodate the new speed limits in Arthog had appeared, but the signage had not yet been put up.

985: Special Items Brought to Attention:

Fairbourne Christmas Day: The Arthog Community Council acknowledge that the incident in Francis Avenue had been very, very sad. The Clerk also raised the fact that it appeared that there had been some undesirables in Fairbourne and other communities who had been breaking and entering over a period of about a month. It appears that there is a problem letting the public know of these incidents as there is no longer a desk open at the Police Station in Dolgellau and there are no Police

on the beat. Unless you use Facebook, it is unlikely that residents will get to know of incidents like this.

A meeting with Liz Saville Roberts has been arranged for Friday 17th January to discuss how Liz will bring to the fore the position of Fairbourne to the Westminster parliament and what she can do to help with the situation. It will be a small delegation not a full ACC meeting. Council Tax also being a topic that LSR wishes to raise with the ACC. Liz will be accompanied by Mabon Ap Trefor, who had been in the area in recent days. He was reputed, we are led to believe, to have said that Plaid wanted to bring in factory work and workers to the area, the person engaged in conversation with Mabon ap Trefor said, well where are you going to put them in an area already lacking housing, and in fact I do not want my daughter to only have the option of working in a factory, to which Mabon ap Trefor replied, "it reflects the education in the area". That is a very sad indictment of the ability of Gwynedd Council, ie, Plaid Cymru, to offer a good standard of education through the Gwynedd Area. An own goal I would have said. The actual number of people in Fairbourne who speak Welsh according to statistics is 60%. All children in Fairbourne to the age of 40 plus speak Welsh. Cllr Thomas again raised the question of broadband availability on Arthog and for it to be raised with LSR at that meeting.

A meeting has been arranged to take place in the Council Offices in Dolgellau with Bleddyn Edwards Jones, Head of Council Tax later this month. Cllr Eves and the Clerk will attend.

986: To deal with Any Correspondence: A bill had been received for the continued maintenance of the Website and a bill for the use of the Fairbourne Village Hall for meetings. Cheques would be raised. A letter had been received from Anna Zammit, Arthog, asking if the ACC could help her with what she perceived as a parking problem on the verge opposite, but back, from her property. The Clerk spoke to the Traffic Department in GC and outlined the situation. Having spoken at length with the officer concerned it was established that the parking on the verge had been going on for decades and that no actual law was being broken and there was no perceived danger to the public. The Clerk passed the details on to Mrs Zammit with the contact details of the person to speak to at GC. An email had been received from Eileen Griffiths Community Wellbeing Projects, Dolgellau, asking if it would be possible to attend and observe the January 8th meeting. Eileen had been concerned that the new organized Project Board Meeting would not include anybody representing mental health wellbeing, however, it now seemed that somebody would be sitting on the board in that capacity. Leading on from this conversation Cllr Thomas suggested that one of the new Fairbourne Ambassadors should be Mike Thrussell. Cllr Thomas said that with his wealth of knowledge he would be a great asset. The Clerk said she would ask him if he would stand. It was suggested the Sylvia Stephenson would a great asset because of her previous involvement with FFC and her extensive knowledge of how local government works. An email had been read at the previous meeting regarding a memorial bench to be possibly sighted on the Brackenhurst Hill. The Clerk had liaised with Roger Duke who was also at the meeting. The Clerk asked if Roger could bring the ACC up to date with what had transpired. Roger said that after consultation with other residents it would not be possible to accommodate a bench at that site. He would go back to the lady concerned and suggest alternative sites. A second email had been received asking for a memorial bench to be located at St Mary's Terrace in Arthog. The Clerk said she would investigate. There is a bench already there, but it is in a poor state. The question of maintenance was raised and who was responsible.

987: To Deal with Planning Matters: Nil

988: Financial Statement and Report: The financial statement had been circulated to all the Councillors. All the figures balanced and there were no queries. Two cheques were circulated for

signature. There were no outstanding matters. Payment for the hire of Fairbourne Village Hall £78.00 and Website Maintenance £187.00.

989: To Receive Councillors' Questions: Cllr (Mrs) Woolley asked if it was possible to tidy the left side of the Notice Board. The Clerk said she would be most grateful if Cllr (Mrs) Woolley would do that. The Clerk reported that the Arthog Notice Board was in a bad state. Cllr Thomas said he would speak to Bill Round and ask him to have a look at it. It was suggested that a small roof structure would be a good idea. Cllr Roberts reported that the bridge on Arthog next to St Catherine's Church had a structural failure and asked the Clerk to let GC know as soon as possible. The clerk said that she would make it the first job on Thursday morning. It is not sure if the bridge had been hit or whether the weight of traffic had damaged it, but it needs urgent attention. Cllr Roberts also brought to attention that the signage in the Penmaenpool Toll Bridge Car Park had been changed to the effect that Camper Vans were now not permitted to park overnight and it was suggested that they look for authorized/licensed camp sights on which to stay. This is a SNP decision. It is a way of supporting the local economy. Cllr (Mrs) Darvill reported two broken or damaged waste bins and dog waste bins. The Clerk said she would notify GC of the problems. The bins are situated at Talbot Road top and on the promenade at the top of Beach Road.

990: Representatives Report: Cllr (Mrs) Neville to check the Play Park Area.

Cllr Eves asked Cllr Roberts if he was still happy to go on the Board of Directors for the Golf Club to which he replied yes. A meeting will take place on Thursday with Bill Round to further the smooth hand over of keys at the end of January.

Cllr Thomas said that it was a shame that the Cemetery was underutilized. It is difficult to advertise the fact that places are available. It is, however, a beautiful spot.

991: Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 5th February 2020

HW – Huw Williams

ACC – Arthog Community Council

GC – Gwynedd Council

NRW – Natural Resources Wales

SNP – Snowdonia National Park

ICARUS – JAB – commissioned by Welsh Government to produce the Fairbourne Learning Project