

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, HELD AT THE FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH 2025

1671: THE CHAIR OPENED THE MEETING: The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed all present.

1672: PRESENT: Cllr Roberts, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Green, Cllr Narraway, Cllr Mrs Langford, Cllr Mrs Woolley, Cllr Puddick, the Clerk and CG Cllr Louise Hughes.

1673 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Evans, Cllr Haycock and Cllr Mrs Molloy

1674: COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Cllr Green declared an interest in the Golf Club.

1675: SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR: Stuart Eves had been invited to attend this meeting to discuss Golf Club matters but had declined, he did however meet the Clerk at her home before the meeting. He said that he was holding a meeting on Friday 7th March at the Golf Club and that matters would be sorted at that point. Cllr Roberts had yet to be invited. The Clerk confirmed to Stuart Eves that the Lease Agreement between the ACC and FGCL was near completion. Guthrie Jones and Jones would be sending it back to CG after it had been signed by the ACC. It has been established that if FGCL was dissolved it would need the approval of the two other Directors and that if this happened the Golf Club would have to be offered back to the ACC for either approval or for a new Directorship.

CG Councillor Louise Hughes spoke next as she needed to leave early so that she could get back up Friog Hill before it closed for the nights work. She reported that a full council meeting was being held the next day to discuss amongst other things the rise in Council Tax for 2025/2026. She said that she would be voting against the proposed 8.6% rise. She also mentioned that a discussion would take place on the proposed changing of green bin collections to monthly from three weeks. Again, she was not in favour of this change. Cllr Mrs Hughes said she would chase up any news on the future use of the MOD RAF Centre. Cllr Mrs Hughes then left the meeting.

1676: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON, Wednesday 5th February 2025. Confirmed as correct by Cllr Mrs Langford, Cllr Narraway.

1677: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 5th February 2025: No matters arising.

1678: CLERKS REPORT: The Clerk reported the following: - The rectification work on Friog Hill was ahead of schedule and going well. The FOC planter had been delivered and had been placed opposite the shops and was planted up. Fairborn Ohio had been back in touch with regard to the Sister City relationship. It was felt that with the upcoming local and national elections in Wales and the uncertainty of officers still being in place it was going to be difficult to proceed. The Clerk would write to the Mayor and explain. The National Infrastructure Committee Wales will be visiting Fairbourne on the 28th March, they will be here for a couple of hours for a frank discussion as to how Fairbourne had weathered the whole debacle of 2054 and decommissioning. They also wish to understand how the Partnership now functions. The costings for the repair of the Church windows were discussed. It was felt that at this moment in time it would be difficult to grant funding as both Churches repair costings are quite considerable. This will be looked at again at the end of the Financial Year. The Partnership Meeting at the end of February was really constructive. One point to report is that the shingle shelf which was maintained back in 2020 will go through the same rectification again this year, before Easter. It was anticipated that this would probably be carried out on a 5-year cycle. This exercise keeps Fairbourne safe. What it does mean is that the shingle scrape may have to wait this year.

1680: TO DEAL WITH ANY CORRESPONDENCE OR PHONE CALLS: Nothing to report

1681: SPECIAL ITEMS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION: Nil

1682: PLANNING MATTERS: No new planning matters.

1683: FINANCIAL MATTERS: The Clerk circulated the financial paperwork to all present. The Clerk was given permission to pay by Bacs the following. Guthrie Jones and Jones £712.00, and Cyngor Gwynedd £675.00 by BACS for Solicitors work on the Golf Club Lease. Defib Store replacement pads and battery £312.00 by BACS, and a second order for pads costing £73.20 by BACS. The defibrillators will have to be added to the Asset Register. 3 machine replacement costs of approximately £1000.00 each. Elfed ap Gomer had submitted his two bills for the maintenance of the Websites, approval given for payment of £467.76 by BACS, One Voice Wales subscription will also need to be paid before 1st April, approval given, approval also given for the Grant to Arthog Village Hall and payment of the room hire totaling £562.50 by cheque. Richard Narraway to be paid £95.76 by cheque for the last items needed to install the new nest swing. A letter had been received from Friog and Fairbourne Village Hall notifying the ACC of an increase in hire fees. Big Dug were paid by BACS the sum of £449.75 for the safety matting. All Councillors present agreed to all the payments.

1684: COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: Cllr Thomas confirmed that CG will be repairing the wall at the bottom of Arthog Hill. Cllr Narraway asked if a right turn sign could be added to the new Fairbourne Welcome sign. The Clerk said that there were the usual brown tourist signs indicating a right turn to the beach. Cllr Narraway also asked if there was an agreement for children particularly to use the Penrhyn Bar and Grill toilets, was this agreed when the planning application was granted for the extension to the Bar and Grill. The question of sheep in the Village was also raised again. Cllr Roberts pointed out that issues with sheep on the road in Arthog is due to gates being left open. It was felt that this needed to be taken forward by Cllr Evans. The Chair gave permission for Cllr Narraway to pursue this issue. Cllr Narraway had also been in touch with one of the road safety charities who seemed interested in discussing a possible way of reducing the speed of motorists through the Arthog Terrace. Grants were available. Cllr Narraway said he would pursue this and was given permission.

1685: REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

- (a) Fairbourne Partnership – Clerk -
- (b) Golf Club Report – Cllr Roberts/Cllr Evans – No report submitted.
- (c) Fairbourne Amenities Trust Report – Cllr Roberts – There had been a meeting the previous Friday. It was noticeable that the Disabled toilets were not getting anywhere near the same donations as the other toilets. The FAT would also organize an Easter raffle. Neil Pocock had given permission for the old butcher shop to be used to do this. There was no financial statement as a new Treasure had been appointed and was yet to start.
- (d) Cemetery Report – Cllr Thomas/Clerk – A quotation had been received for cutting the grass. The Clerk would write to the interested party. Footpath work should commence soon.
- (e) Flood Wardens Report – Cllr Puddick – Work is progressing. New residents were being contacted with positive results.
- (f) Playpark Representative – Cllr Narraway. Net swing legs ¾ concreted in 4th hole nearly complete. Wood for safety mat surround purchased. Matting arrived very promptly.
- (g) Keeping Fairbourne Looking Smart – Cllr Narraway/Cllr Evans. Friog bench and planter in place and planted up, Two new picnic benches arrived and in place on the sea front, both immediately in use. Small planter in place opposite the shop and planted up. Litter acceptable except for the Church straight and corner, however the daffodils are exceptional. 80m of progress of path clearing on the prom north of the Beach Road flag.
- (h) Ditches and Waterways – All Councillors – No report
- (i) Village Hall and Signs/Murals – Cllr Mrs Woolley. No report
- (j) Harbour Committee – No report submitted.

1686: ANY OTHER BUSINESS: No other business. The Arthog Community Council would like to clarify a statement made in the February minutes regarding a question raised by CG Cllr Louise Hughes and the answer given by the ACC regarding ditch clearing at Fford Corsen. Please see the following statement from Ms Titley. The ACC offers an apology for a misleading statement attributed to information received from NRW.

“I own the land to the south of Fford Corsen. I am obliged to pay an annual fee to NRW to dredge the ditches adjacent to my land. I must pay, whether they dredge them or not, so it is in my interest to have NRW complete the work. However, last year, NRW requested to access the fields after a period of sustained heavy rain, when the fields were completely waterlogged. I asked if they could delay dredging until the land had dried up, to prevent extensive damage to the fields, the response from NRW was no, either we do it now or we don't do it.

Had I granted access to NRW, my fields would have been churned up and turned to mud with no chance recovering before winter.

Due to their inflexibility, I had no choice but to deny access in order to safeguard my fields to provide winter grazing for the flock.

In future, if my name or my farm is discussed or referred to within ACC meetings, please give me the opportunity to respond to misleading statements.

*Many thanks
Karen Titley. “*

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

1687: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 2nd April 2025 in Arthog Village Hall.