ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, HELD AT THE ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 2nd April 2025

1688: THE CHAIR OPENED THE MEETING: The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed all present.

1689: PRESENT: Cllr Roberts, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Green, Cllr Narraway, Cllr Mrs Langford, Cllr Mrs Woolley, Cllr Puddick, Cllr Evans, Cllr Haycock the Clerk.

1690 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Mrs Molloy

1691: COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Cllr Green declared an interest in the Golf Club.

1692: SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR: The Chairman used this part of the meeting to let the Councillors present know that the ACC had received a complaint about the conduct of one of the Councillors. Complaints are always taken seriously. The complainant's email was read out for all to hear. The Councillor was then asked to comment on the matter. A full and frank detailed explanation was given regarding an encounter on the sea wall between the complainant and the Councillor concerned, and a dog that was off the lead that ran towards the Councillor. The Councillor shushed the dog away not physically touching it. The Councillor concerned was not representing the ACC at the time but completing a personal responsibility and making their way home. The Councillor concerned was then asked to leave the room for a discussion to take place between those Councillors present. The Clerk makes no comment. Again, a full and frank discussion took place with all present asked to comment. The Chairman and the Clerk have no vote in matters unless there is a tied vote, the Chair then has the deciding vote, however, all Councillors agreed that no further action was required after considering the complaint. The Councillor concerned was then asked to return to the room and the decision of the Councillors was given. The Chairman commented that all Councillors must be aware of the Code of Conduct and whether on ACC business or not, to be mindful of the contents of the Code of Conduct. The Chair asked the Clerk to let the complainant know of the decision taken by the ACC in this matter, which was now considered closed. A full 25 minutes was given to this matter.

1693: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON, Wednesday 5th March 2025. Confirmed as correct by Cllr Mrs Langford, Cllr Narraway.

1694: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 5th March 2025: The Clerk explained the addendum to the minutes to all those present. This was printed to clarify a statement made in the previous minutes to expand on the issue of the ditch clearance behind Fford Corsen. Apologies were offered to Ms Titley.

1695: CLERKS REPORT:

(a) Fairborn, Ohio. Visit postponed until further notice

(b) NICW visit to Fairbourne – Report given. A very constructive meeting. Most encouraging point being that Dr Hall's reports were given correct consideration.

(c) Golf Club CG/ACC Lease renewal progress. The lease has still to be sent back to the ACC. Both CG and Guthrie Jones and Jones seem unable to give a proper answer as to where the Lease is. Both bills have been paid in full.

(d) Church window donation – discuss again in the new financial year

(e) Internal and External Audit papers received. The Clerk will start work on the Audit.

(f) Glan Y More Ditch progress. Mike Scott will be invited to the May meeting to give a progress report.

(g) MOD/RAF Centre – update. No news available from MP Liz Saville-Roberts but she had had confirmation that there would be a consultation period if it was proposed to use it for asylum seekers.

(h) The AGM will be held in May this year.

(i) It is impossible to remove all fake news and lazy reporting from the Internet.

(j) The ROSPA annual safety check will be brought forward to before Easter at a cost of over £420.00 plus VAT, because of a complaint that had been sent to CG Councillor Louise Hughes regarding the recycled plastic play boat in the playpark. A parent had complained that her child had bruised her leg. If the complaint had been brought directly to the ACC, it happened in January but was reported at the end of March, it could have been sorted much sooner. The results will be made available to all Councillor as soon as it is received. The Clerk and Cllr Narraway will meet the inspector and get a verbal understanding of what is needed. Cllr Narraway at this point told those present that he had been contacted by Cyngor Gwynedd with a concern regarding the nest swing, from an anonymous complainer. Cllr Roberts said that CG should not be contacting Cllr Narraway with an anonymous complaint. It should be pointed out that the nest swing has not yet been commissioned, so is not in use. It is interesting to note that complaints are made but no thank you is ever received for all the work carried out by Councillors who are volunteers. A further notice will be placed in the Notice Board, and a generic safety notice will be ordered and placed on the fencing at the playpark.

(k) A request had been made from member of the public for permissi0on to scatter his father ashes on Fairbourne beach. The new Harbour Master Kane Triggs corresponded with the person concerned.

1696: **TO DEAL WITH ANY CORRESONDENCE OR PHONE CALLS:** A request had been received for a donation towards the annual Eisteddfod. Unfortunately, no funds are available. A request was also received for donations towards a children's Cancer Charity. Again, it was politely pointed out that no donations funds are available.

1697: SPECIAL ITEMS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION: Nil

1698: PLANNING MATTERS: The only planning applications received were for air source heat pumps in the three villages. No objections raised.

1699: FINANCIAL MATTERS: The Clerk circulated the monthly accounts to all present. All accounts are in good shape and everything balances. Permission was given to pay any outstanding bills. The annual donation to the Friog/Fairbourne Village Hall of £500.00 was approved by all. One Voice Wales could not be paid by BACS so a cheque will be sent, approved by all. The FAT donation request has not been received yet.

1700: COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: Cllr Narraway asked Cllr Evans about the cattle grid situation. Cllr Narraway asked Cllr Evans if he would mind if he pursued the matter further. Cllr Puddick mentioned that a post had been made on a Fairbourne Facebook Website about a provocative remark made, which he insisted was removed or else his next action would be to contact the Police. The remark was removed.

1701: REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

(a) Fairbourne Partnership – Clerk – no report submitted.
(b) Golf Club Report – Cllr Roberts/Cllr Evans – Cllr Evans confirmed that there had been a meeting and that the suggestion of amalgamating the Golf Club and FAT was thrown out. Other matters were discussed.
(c) Fairbourne Amenities Trust Report – Cllr Roberts –
(d) Cemetery Report – Cllr Thomas/Clerk – The first cut was due, and permission was given to pay the £125.00 to the contractor.
(e) Flood Wardens Report – Cllr Puddick – Steady progress. New residents were being contacted with positive results.
(f) Playpark Representative – Cllr Narraway.
(g) Keeping Fairbourne Looking Smart – Cllr Narraway/Cllr Evans. All the planters are looking good, and litter is at an all-time low.
(h) Ditches and Waterways – All Councillors – No report
(i) Village Hall and Signs/Murals – Cllr Mrs Woolley. There is going to be a VE day celebration.
(j) Harbour Committee – No report submitted.

1702: ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Cllr Rhian Langford pointed out that one of the sentry boxes on the Mawddach Crescent was in a poor state. She asked the Clerk to try and find out who needed to be made aware. The Clerk said she would write to CADW. The Clerk confirmed that she had rewritten the Biodiversity Notice and the Equality and Diversity statement as well as updating the Asset register and Training Programme and the Risk assessment.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

1703: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 7th May Fairbourne Village Hall.