

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, HELD AT THE ARTHOG
VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY 2026

1866: Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed all present: Cllr Thomas, Cllr Puddick, Cllr Narraway, Cllr Mrs Langford, Cllr Evans, Cllr Green. Two applicants for the vacant positions, Lauren Baynes, and Chris Horton and one observer, Jo Griffiths.

1867: Apologies for Absence: No apologies had been received.

1868: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: Cllr Green – The Golf Club

1869: To Receive Any Special Announcements from the Chair: The Chairman asked for the two candidates and one observer to step outside for this item. The Chairman said he had two letters from residents of Fairbourne raising concerns about maintenance of equipment in the Playpark and how behaviour in the Playpark should be managed.

The delay to basketball installation was also queried. This was due to quotations being requested in accordance with normal local government procedures but not received.

There was lengthy and wide ranging discussion of the concerns raised. It was re-affirmed in particular that

- (a) anyone acting on behalf of the Council must abide by legal and policy requirements, particularly Safeguarding as the Playpark is designed for use by children;
- (b) the installation and maintenance of equipment must be in line with procurement and safety requirements and recommendations of Play Wales, One Voice Wales and other government and quasi-governmental bodies;
- (c) there should be a record of inspections and incidents.

The candidates and observer returned to the room.

1870: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday April 1st, 2026, confirmed by Cllr Mrs Langford and seconded by Cllr Puddick. The Chairman signed the minutes.

1871: Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday April 1st, 2026. There were none.

1872: Potential candidates for the two vacant Councillor positions were invited to present themselves.

Lauren Baynes was invited to make a presentation. She detailed her lifelong association with Fairbourne and surrounding area. Lauren described herself as hardworking and being an active member of the community. She spoke for approximately 5 minutes. All Councillors thanked her.

Chris Horton was invited to make a presentation. He said that he had lived in Arthog for just over 5 years but his family had had a long association with the Villages. He said that at this stage in life he could bring a great deal of experience. He had worked as an In-house Lawyer and Company Secretary. He is very much involved in Charitable concerns. He hoped that with his different experiences he would be able to make a difference within the community. His presentation lasted for approximately 5 minutes.

The Chairman asked for the two candidates and the observer to step outside. A discussion and voting took place. By a unanimous decision of all present Lauren Baynes would be offered the position of Cllr for Friog/Fairbourne and by a majority decision Chris Horton would be offered the position of Cllr for Arthog. The candidates and observer were then invited back into the room.

The Chairman had great pleasure in then telling both candidates that the Arthog Community Council was pleased to be able to offer them the vacant positions of Councillors. The Clerk confirmed that she would write to both candidates and offer them the positions vacant.

1873: Clerk's Report and Special Items Brought to Attention:

A site meeting was held in Arthog to discuss possible hard standing material to be laid down on the ground opposite Penrhodyn where up to 12 cars currently park. The meeting was attended by the Clerk, Cllr Mrs Langford, several residents and Adrian Williams, Cyngor Gwynedd together with two colleagues. After much discussion it was agreed that Adrian Williams would kindly look at costings of grasscrete or a similar product and he was hopeful that Cyngor Gwynedd might also be able to absorb the labour costings. However, the

residents would have to be responsible for the purchase of the material. He said to give him a couple of weeks to obtain suitable quotes. All present thanked Cyngor Gwynedd for attending the meeting and for their help.

The clerk updated all on the delivery of the tennis court box. It had been delivered to Wynnstay but would be delivered to Fairbourne next Thursday. There needed to be a discussion about whether a lock should be put on it. Whether it should be left open and an element of trust apply. A Councillor might not always be available to hand over a key, or to have a combination lock with a code. Cllr Mrs Young suggested a registration system. The ROSPA safety check is booked for June. No date available yet. The MUGA fencing will always be the main concern as it is now quite rusty and rough, although still very secure. When a date is known the Clerk will advise all.

The Clerk has received a request from Barmouth Town Clerk to ask Network Rail to clear the path at Morfa Mawddach, Fairbourne side. It is once again completely sanded over making it impossible for wheelchairs, pushcarts and prams to negotiate it. The Clerk said she would contact Kevin Giles NR. The Dwr Cymru asset opposite the Golf Club had been reported as needing attention. The Clerk contacted Dwr Cymru, who were grateful, and subsequently a repair has been made. The Clerk informed all present that Maritime had repaired the life buoys and flagpole, and new signage had been added to the Promenade indicating just how pristine the Fairbourne Beach is presently. A thank you email had been sent to all maritime personnel. The potholes mentioned in the April meeting have been repaired. The Clerk said that a bench had been brought down from the Promenade and placed in the tennis court to replace that two that were housed there temporarily. The Clerk had received a Civility and Respect from One Voice Wales which she would complete appropriately. The Chairman confirmed his approval. The proposed Newsletter coming out from the Fairbourne Partnership was nearly ready for circulation. Llion Pritchard was just waiting for comment from Cllr Puddick regarding the rewording of the section concerning the Fairbourne Flood Plan, to be renamed the Fairbourne resilience plan. Cllr Puddick said he would get it finished. The Clerk said she had received an email from Cllr Puddick regarding a caravan parked on the drive of a property in Heol Seithendre. She reminded all Councillors that this had been raised a few years ago with the Planning Department and that no rules were being broken. The Clerk felt that it would be a waste of time writing again. Cyngor Gwynedd Cllr Louise Hughes confirmed the same. The Clerk said that she was still receiving requests for comment on the future of Fairbourne from the Press, Media and Academics, currently one from Australia. The asked Councillors to reply to emails from the Clerk (other than for information).

1874. To Deal with Any Correspondence/Phone Calls: email from a resident. An email had been sent to Cyngor Gwynedd, copied to the ACC, asking for CG to do something about the number of Motor Homes parked at the point, and noting that fires, BBQ's, and furniture were also causing an issue. The Clerk did not reply as the ACC was only copied in. However, the Clerk explained, for the two new Councillor candidates, that there is nothing legally that CG can do to stop overnight camping. There are signs that say no overnight parking, however, these are ignored. It is the same in every part of Gwynedd.

1875. To Deal with Planning Matters: - No planning applications.

1876. Financial Statement and Report: See minute 1879 for report.

1877: To Receive Councillors' Questions: Cllr Alyson Young to make a presentation about the possible purchase and installation of a basketball hoop. Cllr Mrs Young said that unfortunately Helen Roberts contact in Barmouth had let her down, so Helen had nothing to report. Cllr Young looked at companies offering suitable equipment, meeting all safety standards. She is still waiting for further companies to send quotes to her. Cllr Mrs Young will take this forward to the next meeting, when she hopes to have three quotations. CG Cllr Louise Hughes said that she is back in the saddle after a medical issue.

1878: Representatives Report:

- (a) Fairbourne Partnership – Clerk/ Cllr Puddick. Cllr Puddick to supply new wording for the Newsletter. The next meeting will be held in September.
- (b) Golf Club Report – Cllr Evans. Cllr Evans said that the Lease has still not be signed but the mortgage has been paid off. All golf club matters are pertinent to the Fairbourne Golf Club Limited and not the responsibility of the Arthog Community Council. Cllr Evans is NOT being invited to meetings that are being held.
- (c) Fairbourne Amenities Trust Report – Cllr Alyson Young. Cllr Mrs Young has been in touch with the Chairman but has not received a reply to date. The Clerk said that she would send Cllr Mrs Young Eleanor Bartram's email address.
- (d) Cemetery Report – Cllr Thomas/Clerk - The grass had been cut, and the cemetery is looking really tidy.

- (e) Flood Wardens Report – Cllr Puddick – nothing to report.
- (f) Playpark Representative – Cllr Narraway. See report below
- (g) Keeping Fairbourne Looking Smart – Cllr Narraway see report below
- (h) Ditches and Waterways – All councilors

Park Report

- Weeding, oiling and painting continue.
- Happily, no more smashed ceramics.
- Moderate levels of litter in both park areas.
- Very high levels of use of both areas.
- Net swing: Serious levels of damage done to the heavy-duty chains and steel cables via twisting early in the month. The swing with its suspension was removed and placed in a jig for 2 weeks where gradually counter torque was added. Many thanks were received when the repaired swing was replaced.
- The net swing matting was also attacked this month: carved, torn and ripped out of the retaining frame. This has been replaced and can be reversed once the carving craze is over. One mat will have to be replaced.
- Tennis net, posts, hole plugs and tensioners were tested independently by Lee and Bradley - 20 something lads keen to run a tournament this summer. Their view was that the kit was easy to use but needed some muscle to tension the net.
- Fencing was mended at the west end of MUGA. (just in time for the last storm)
- The protective tubing over the highly corroded swing bar at the top of the slide needs a more permanent cover. The corroded bolts will take some reshaping.
- Fencing now loose due to corroded old steel clips - southeast corner above single gate. New heavy duty zip ties needed.
- The single gate has corroded mesh - pushed aside rendering the gate pointless at present. New mesh needs buying and fitting.
- The fencing around the play park now needs to be replaced panel by panel over time. The sections probably do not need to be the full 2m tall.

• **Fairbourne Looking Good Report**

- The southern flagpole has been mended! I've added a flag.
- Most of the life buoys have been re-sited and a post set ready for the last one. New information signs too.
- Litter still normal - 2/3 from the fishing industry. The Friog loop is very good.
- The bin that was missing opposite the Golf club has been replaced.
- Two cuts around the sea front picnic benches and a cut have been done by Joyces boat.
- The bench nearest to the Beach Road flagpole has loose wooden slats into concrete side pieces. A little mischief/vibration due to use, here could lead to an accident.

Questions: setting an annual budget for the youth account?

At this point the two candidates and observer were asked to leave the meeting and correspondence, and financial matters were then discussed.

A letter had been received regarding the removal of a seagull's nest from a neighbour's roof. It was determined that this is a neighbour-to-neighbour dispute and not an ACC issue. The Clerk will reply explaining the ACC's stance.

1879: Financial Report. The Clerk asked the Chairman to sign the English and Welsh completed Annual Financial Return for the financial year 2024 to 2025. This could then be sent to the Internal Auditor at Cyngor Gwynedd. The VAT Claim had been paid into the bank account to the value of £1004.57. The 10% parking scheme payment had been received; this was for a 9-month period not the usual 6-month period. A sum to the value of £1230.15 was paid into the Current Account. The first half of the precept had been paid into the bank account, the sum of £9000.00. The Clerk confirmed that the statement of remuneration had been sent and acknowledged as having been received. The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations have been updated as of May 2026. The Code of Conduct has also been adopted. The Clerk confirmed that she had made an error in completing the Precept application and had asked for £18,000.00 instead of £16,000.00 as agreed in the minutes. The CG Officer concerned suggested that an adjustment be made next year when considering the Precept application.

Cllr Narraway asked if an amount could be sent to the Youth Account annually. The Clerk presented the finances as at the end of April 2026. Current Account £14966. Youth Account £4044 09, Cemetery Account £ 6187.10, Reserve Account £ 4235.57. The Clerk is expecting costs to rise with regard to the grass cutting. All costs are rising. It was suggested that the Clerk transfer the VAT refund and the 10% Parking fee to the Youth Account. All present unanimously agreed.

1880: Resignation of the Clerk

The Clerk explained that she had decided to resign due to ill health. The notice period will end on the 5th of June 2026, just after the AGM. However, the Clerk may not be well enough to attend as she is facing major surgery. The Clerk suggested that two Councillors go to the bank and complete new mandates for online banking and signature for cheque payments. The clerk had completed a Job Description for the Clerk's Job and a resignation letter, which she distributed to all Councillors in attendance. CG Councillor Louise Hughes said that she was very sorry to hear of the Clerk's resignation, and the current Chair also thanked the Clerk for making his first year as Chair probably easier than it could have been. It was suggested that the signatories will be Cllr Rhian Langford, Cllr Haycock, existing, with two new signatories of Cllr Puddick and Cllr Mrs Young. All present agreed to the two new signatories and the Clerk handed out new mandates to be completed. These minutes will have to be confirmed at the AGM as being correct.

1881: Any other Business: Cllr Ally Young followed up her suggestion for communicating with residents. She said that One Voice Wales suggest using social media including Facebook for getting information out there to the communities. Cllr Mrs Young said that she would be prepared to create the necessary avenues. The chairman said that he has reservations about Facebook. It will have to be set up with no comments being allowed. The Chairman asked for a vote for Cllr Mrs Young to set up a Facebook account. There was a majority in agreement with this going ahead. All posts will be approved at the meeting before being posted.

1882: Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 3rd JUNE 2026 FAIRBOURNE Village Hall. This will be the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.