

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE GANOLFAN, ARTHOG, ON 3/2/2016

311. Present: Cllr J. Kirkham (Chairman), Cllr P. Parker, Cllr M. Scott, Cllr P. Thomas, Cllr P. Roberts, Cllr D. Hughes, Cllr J. Haycock, Cllr S. Eves, Cllr M. Wiles, Mrs. S. Williams (Clerk)

In Attendance: Charlotte Beattie, JBA Consulting

312. Apologies: Cllr L Hughes

313 Presentation: Charlotte Beattie JBA Consulting

Briefing note attached. The Research project will go on until November 2017 with public meetings held at regular intervals during that time. The Researchers will be in Fairbourne on 25th and 26th February. The Cllr Eves agreed that it was good to speak to the resident of Fairbourne. Cllr Haycock requested that the Field Researches come back to give a further update in May/June.

314. Declaration of Interests: - Cllr Scott as Treasurer of Fairbourne Golf Club.

315. To Receive Special Announcement from the Chair.

The Chairman informed the councillors that he had received some complaints concerning the Closed meeting item on the agenda, the Chair gave his unreserved apologies. Following observations made regarding the 'closed' item on the Agenda, items 14&15 will be removed and dealt with under 'correspondence'. There were no objections to this.

The Chair gave an update on Cllr Rees and a card will be sent on behalf of ACC.

316. Minutes of Meeting Held on 6th January 2016

The minutes were agreed by the Council as being correct.

317. Matters arising from minutes:-

303 Cllr Scott reported that the re-painting work to the playground will be carried out by 1st April 2106.

308 Cllr Parker would put the sub –Committee 'on hold' until further notice.

318. Clerks Report

The Clerk thanked Councillor Parker for his work in getting and setting up the IT equipment for the use of the Council Clerk.

The Clerk has been contacted by Vodafone regarding the upgrade of the Clerk's telephone. The choices given are as follows :-

Upgrade phone for the same price £27, which allows 600 minutes, unlimited texts and 1GB.

12 month SIM only – keep same phone, 600 mins and unlimited texts £12.60

per month. Or £8.56 per month 300 mins and 500 texts.

The Council agreed to the £12.60 option.

Jon Anderson, Tree Surgeon, has confirmed that he will get to work as soon as possible on the required works at Arthog Cemetery.

The Clerk has decided to resign from the position of Clerk to the Council and the next meeting in March will be the last. The Clerk will ensure that an advert is placed in the Cambrian News as soon as possible. Bi-lingual notices will also be placed in the Community Council notice boards.

319. Specific Items Brought to Attention

a) Councillors Attendance and Requirement for Apologies

Could Councillors let the Clerk or Chairman know if they are unable to attend meetings. It is appreciated that sometimes there are good and valid reasons for non attendance.

b) Flood Warden Update

Cll Scott attended a meeting in Llandudno Thursday 28th January arranged by NRW for Head Flood Wardens etc. of Communities in North Wales. Among the items discussed was that Kinmel Bay had set up a website for their Community as a way of conveying information to their residents and for the Volunteer Wardens to convey private information from residents to the Head Warden.

Cllr Scott and Mr M Burrows have floated the idea of setting up a website for Fairbourne so that people with computers can access the information online and this would assist Cllr Scott and other volunteers. Residents without access to a computer would still receive paper information. This website would not be part of ACC and therefore to set up a website from one of Matt Burrows contacts, he thinks would cost in the region of £200 - £250 with annual running costs of £50 - £75.

Cllr Scott proposed '*Would ACC consider supporting a website?*'

Seconded by Cllr D. Hughes.

Cllr Parker asked if the Flood wardens had considered using Facebook. Issues of security were raised with using public and private pages.

A further meeting of the Flood Wardens was held on Friday 29th and all wardens will be revisiting those properties that have not registered. A further update will be given at the next meeting.

Cllr Kirkham thanked Cllr Scott for all his hard work with the Fairbourne Flood Wardens.

c) Publicity Notice Board

Cllr Scott had a costing for the Notice Board which comes to approx £525.

Cllr Scott said at the last meeting that he would like it to be self funded as

much as possible by one off fees. Cllr Scott's thought is for a photograph and writing to be £50 and a one line of writing of £10 - £15. The businesses that take out a £50 could pay over two years if possible. The Councillors agreed that the prices were fair and that Arthog could advertise on the notice board as well.

Cllr Scott suggested, as a guide, the size of the board to be 195cm x 125cm. Cllr Scott will give an update at the meeting to be held in March.

d)Penrhyn Drive Fencing

Cllr Scott followed up the information given to him by Cllr Thomas and has rung several numbers from the Princes Trust. All had been located to private numbers and other businesses which had nothing to do with the Princes Trust. Cllr Scott received a written reply from the Princes Trust and it confirmed that they only give money now to start up groups and new projects.

Cllr Scott had a reply from Barry Davies, who suggested that all the fencing be completely removed. Cllr Scott suggested removing the rotten fencing first, to remove all would be a major project.

e)Afon Henddol/Ditches update

Cllr Scott reported that there have been no further issues since the last meeting. Cllr Scott has asked for the NRW to check one of the 'back flaps' that leads from the fields into the stream at the back of Ffordd Corsen. Cllr Scott was informed at a meeting held last Friday (29th Jan) that it will be a further 6 months before NRW gets North Wales back to normality and therefore it will be early Summer before they clear the stream below the new sluice gate. Cllr Scott is still awaiting further news at the outfall of Afon Henddol, into the basin at the back of the Golf Course.

f)Network Rail & Landslip

Cllr Scott informed the Council that a reply has been received from Network Rail regarding the landslip and that no further action is required. They have however, indicated that perhaps warning notices may have to be put up warning the public to the possibility of falling rock.

g)IDD – Internal Drainage District

Cllr Scott has attended three meetings recently on behalf of the Golf Club arranged by the NRW to discuss the managing of the rivers and ditches in the Mawddach and Wnion district. The fees for drainage were set in 1992 by the River Board and it is only in the last 3yrs that the NRW has started collecting drainage rates. Golf Club pays £5.88 annually but these rates will rise by 20% this year. NRW will also receive grants from Welsh Government. The committee in this district will decide as to which ditches need clearing as a priority. Cllr Scott expressed an opinion that ACC should have representation on this. The Council agreed that Cllr Scott should go onto the Committee.

Cllr Eves agreed to e-mail Cllr Scott regarding some concerns that had been

raised by some residents.

Cllr Roberts reminded the Council that this had been brought up at the public meeting.

Cllr Parker suggested that Cllr Scott enquires about the diameter of the pipe on the embankment. Dafydd Roberts will be contacted for an answer.

320 Correspondence

(See 315)The Chairman had received some e-mail correspondence with regards to the agenda item marked 'Closed Meeting' Cllr Parker thought this closed meeting could be prejudicial- Cllr Kirkham apologised.

Cllr Haycock, said that any committee can be closed, but should be agreed as a resolution. In this case, the meeting should be open.

SMP2 was discussed at great length by the Councillors. In previous meetings from Gwynedd Council, there had been no mention of decommissioning and abandonment of Fairbourne, however this was mentioned in the last meeting. SMP2 states 'Managed Retreat' and it was agreed that the phrases decommissioning and abandonment were highly emotive. It was agreed that incorrect information about Fairbourne was destroying the village and there was a risk of residents leaving the village.

The Councillors were concerned that the SMP2 had a fundamental flaw there was a dependency on dates and the councillors thought that it should be on sea level rise.

SMP2 suggests that Penrhyn point will 'go into managed retreat' within the next 10 years

Cllrs Parker and Wiles pointed out the implications of voting for or against SMP2. If ACC vote against SMP2 then their voting rights maybe lost on the project board and the councillors thought this was an overriding consideration when deciding whether to vote.

Cllr Eves suggested abstaining, as he felt that there was not enough information available. Cllr Scott suggested that as ACC were representing the residents of the Community then they should be asked what they want.

Cllr Eves was concerned about the negative publicity Fairbourne had received and that ACC should put pressure on the Project Board to correct the negative views.

The council abstained with regards to voting for or against SMP2.

FFC and ACC should work together as their aims are the same with wanting the best outcome for Fairbourne. ACC have speaking and voting rights on the Project Board unlike FFC therefore the two groups could compliment each other.

FFC-the Community Action Group had hosted meetings and are disagreeing with SMP2.

Cllrs Kirkham, Thomas and Haycock pointed out that the FFC Newsletter stating that ACC supported SMP2 article was in fact incorrect and ACC have not supported SMP2.

Correspondence received by the Clerk

Letter received from Contractor -asking for retrospective VAT payments. Councillors agreed that they cannot pay VAT retrospectively as the contractor was not VAT registered at time of works carried out. The Clerk was to write to the contractor with their reasons.

Letter from WAG regarding \$137 expenditure: limits for 2016/17.

Letter from Mid Wales Health Care Collaborative/ Community Meeting.

Unllais Cymru- Membership payment - Councillors agreed to this payment.

Thank You letter received from Wales Air Ambulance for donation of £350.

Thank you letter received from CAB Gwynedd for donation of £150.

Unllais letter with training dates for February - Cllr Hughes reminded the Council that members of Unllais Cymru can attend Community Council Meetings to assist with training.

Queens 90th Birthday Beacons.

Fairbourne Golf Club- requesting contribution towards purchase of Coffee Machine £109.99.

The purchase towards this item was Proposed by Cllr Thomas and Seconded Cllr Roberts.

321. Planning Applications

SNPA -Application NP5/52/42J -Craig Wen, Arthog LL39 1BQ.-Siting of one compost toilet on camping site and siting of one compost toilet with shower on yurt site. No observations were made and the Council did not oppose the application.

NP5/52/367A Bron Llety Ifan, Arthog, proposed Hydro- Electric Scheme. Permission granted by SNPA.

322. Financial Report and Payments Made

Trust Account – The interest on this account is reserved for the village youth.

Cllr Kirkham suggested the Village Hall could be used for activities such as badminton and other events for the youth of Fairbourne and Arthog, once the village hall has been refurbished.

A letter from a contractor asking for the council to reclaim VAT retrospectively was discussed. ACC will not reclaim this retrospectively from contractors who fail to submit correct invoices including VAT numbers. In future all invoices will need to be set out correctly and include VAT numbers.

Payments made:-

IT equipment for Clerk £329.99.

Sean's Lawns- Work on Cenotaph (November 2015) £72.

L. Hunt -Supply of Galvanised post for dog waste bin £35.

Barmouth Printers- Flyers for Public Meeting £30.
Postage:- £21.42.
Flood Warden Postage £2.36.

Current Account Balance (as at 29/1/16) £3753.66
Reserve Account Balance (as at 29/1/16) £4736.47
Trust Account Balance (as at 29/1/16) £7704.43

323. Representatives Reports

Neighbourhood Watch

A Public meeting was held in the Village Hall yesterday with over 50 people attending as well as PCSO Meirion Jones. The aim was to revive the old Scheme which had faded away about 3 – 4yrs ago due to lack of support. Volunteer Co-ordinators came forward and Meirion Jones will be setting up a meeting for them later this month. Cllr Scott is grateful to the Chairman for attending and volunteering to be one of the coordinators.

Fairbourne Village Hall-

Cllr Kirkham discussed storage and the stage.

Fairbourne Moving Forward Multi-Agency Project meetings

summary by Cllr Parker

Buy to Let Scheme feasibility study – 12 January 2016

Draft Fairbourne Prospectus prepared by Manon Fflur Pritchard, RAP Associates Ltd

Working Group – 19 January 2016

Mainly concerned with planning for the Public Meeting scheduled for Friday 22 January 2016

FMF Public Meeting - 22 January 2016

Very well attended capacity meeting but nothing really new to present apart from the Management Plan. 39 new questions recorded.

Masterplan meeting – 2 February 2016

(Network Rail to be represented at future Fairbourne Project Board meetings.)

Masterplan to be based on Sea Level Rise rather than epochs.

2 of Wales SMP's prepared by Greg Guthrie used more aggressive sea level rise predictions. The more optimistic forecasts used in the other SMPs are to be "plugged in" to the Fairbourne scenario to see the effect on the timeline.

The Project will now engage with the utility companies.

It was agreed that the headings to be used in the Masterplan for the Adaptation Strategy are as follows:

- Communication
- Social
- Emergency Planning

- Environmental
- Legal
- Opportunities

Headings for the Risk Management Strategy are:

- Existing Risk
- Monitoring
- Threshold Study
- Interventions

Lisa Marshall to prepare a definition for each Heading.

The next meeting is to prepare a framework for the Plan.

324. To Receive Councillors Questions

Cllr Hughes reminded the Council that the wreaths will need to be removed from the Cenotaph by the end of September.

The Chairman thanked the Council for their work.

325. Date of Next Meeting.

Wednesday 2nd March 2016

Meeting Closed 9.25pm