

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE GANOLFAN, ARTHOG, ON 6/4/2016

342. Present: Cllr J. Kirkham (Chairman), Cllr P. Parker, Cllr P. Thomas, Cllr P. Roberts, Cllr J. Haycock, Mrs. S. Williams (Clerk)

In Attendance: Gill Bonser & Joyce Woolley, - Fairbourne Festival Committee
Rueben Woodford- Natural Resources Wales

343. Apologies: Cllr M. Scott, Cllr M. Wiles, Cllr D. Hughes

344. Presentation: Gill Bonser and Joyce Woolley gave a very interesting re-cap of last year's festival. Such was the showcase for the village, the Festival Committee have been asked to organise and hold another event this year. The Festival Committee have applied to various sources for financial assistance for this year's event. The Committee have asked if the Community Council could contribute towards insurance and first aid supplies, a sum of £150 was asked to be considered by the Council. The members asked for this request to be submitted formally, in writing, to the Clerk.

The Council was also asked to consider 3 'Finger posts' pointing 'To Beach, To Village Hall and To Bowls'. The Council also to consider contributing towards a seating area on the sea front.

345. Presentation: Rueben Woodford, gave a welcome and explained his position within NRW. (item 10 on the Agenda was brought forward to coincide with this presentation) Cllr Kirkham questioned if NRW were going for the cheapest option with regards to Friog Cliffs and had a reef/break ever been considered? NRW have already chosen the preferred option, which is still about taking the energy out of the waves. Rueben Woodford reminded the meeting that NRW have thought about other options and they have to consider and justify their decisions.

Cllr Parker reminded the meeting that there had already been a storm which highlighted Friog Corner as being a weak spot, which could flood Fairbourne.

The width of the rock armour will be increased from 75m to 100m. 1-1.5 tons of armour adding 5 ton blocks. Rock armour to be sourced locally if possible.

A discussion with Network Rail will take place regarding a financial contribution. Cllr Parker stated that Network Rail have already spent over £1m.

Rueben Woodford will be overseeing the work, which will not be completed before the Autumn.

Cllr Thomas made an observation to the meeting, that Fairbourne residents had put up with a lot in recent years, and as such NRW should move this forward.

Rueben Woodford, stated that as soon as consent is given to start the work, then this will commence. NRW are trying to secure the long term safety of the area. The extraction of material from the north end was discussed and further geographical consultations will need to take place. The estimated time scale for the works was between 6-8 weeks however, this was of course dependent on tides and the weather.

Rueben Woodford was invited to attend future meetings and to e-mail the Clerk on progress. NRW website will also have progress updates.

The members thanked Rueben Woodford for his presentation and attendance.

346. Declaration of Interests: - None

347. To Receive Special Announcement from the Chair:- None

348. Minutes of Meeting Held on 2nd March 2016

The minutes were agreed by the Council as being correct except item 339 'Ysgol Y Friog' 2nd paragraph delete 'Head'. This was done and minutes duly signed as being correct.

349. Matters arising from minutes:-

335.- SMP2 – Letter read out by Clerk and Lisa Marshall's response.

336- A Tender for Arthog Cemetery and War Memorial has been received. The Clerk to write to confirm.

350. Clerks Report

Instructions from internal auditor J.D. Roberts, accounts have to be with him by 31 May. On receipt of most current bank statements (Business reserve and Youth Account) for end of financial year, I will send all relevant paperwork to him. As time may be of the essence it may be that an EGM be called for accounts to be signed. I will be in a better position once I have received correspondence from the external auditors.

I have registered ACC with the planning inspectorate so that the Community Council will be kept informed of any Developments of National Significance made by the Welsh Government.

351. Specific Items Brought to Attention

a) Proposed Works Friog Corner- see item 345

b) Community Flood Plan update

Cllr Scott- informed the meeting that there were still 61 residents that have yet to sign up to receiving flood warnings. This figure is down from 130 in February. A number of these properties are holiday homes and the number could well be reduced by the next meeting. Cllr Scott will be meeting with Matt Burrows to discuss the website, a figure of £300 has been quoted. An alternative quote from the website designer of the Fairbourne Railway website is not now possible. Cllr Scott will meet up with Mr Elfed ap Gomer following the meeting with Matt Burrows.

c) Morfa Mawddach Sign

Cllr Scott informed the meeting that the sign is up and hopefully it will be of great benefit to the local businesses.

d) Fairbourne Information Board

Cllr Scott stated that, to date, he had received pledges of £690. However until permission has been granted from Gwynedd Council to erect the board in the station car park, he is unable to proceed further. The Clerk will submit another letter to Gwynedd Council.

352. SMP2

Environmental Data and Decommissioning

CLlr Parker stated that all forecasts will have an upper and lower level on data. CLlr Parker will discuss with CLlr Wiles a response to the questions raised by Lisa Marshall.

CLlr Parker will present a 'draft' response at the next meeting.

The phraseology 'Long Term Plan' was suggested instead of 'Decommissioning' however, this would be discussed in more detail when more members are present.

Legal Challenge

Fairbourne Facing Change are not making a legal challenge, they are currently looking into the prospect if there is a case for making a challenge. This to be put back on the Agenda for the May meeting.

353. Correspondence

GCC- Ynys Faig Wall- Gwynedd Council to confirm who is responsible for maintaining the wall.

GCC- The Gwynedd council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Street Parking Places) (Meirionnydd Area) Order 2016.

Huw Roberts Consultancy -re overgrown public footpath No.13. CLlrs Roberts and Thomas state that this path has had little use for a number of years. Item to be looked at again.

GCC- Re The Gwynedd Council (Penrhyn Drive North, Fairbourne) (Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic) Order 2016.

GCC -Salt Bins – fees for filling. To be discussed at next meeting.

Un Llais Cymru – Confirmation of renewal of membership.

YFC- Meirionnydd Young Farmers- requesting financial support- To be discussed at next meeting.

354. Planning Applications

SNPA- NP5/52/373- Construction of single storey extension, Hazel Garth, School Road Friog. LL38 2RJ. No observations or objections raised.

SNPA- NP/5/52/42J- Permit to development of 1x compost toilet on Camping site and siting of 1x compost with shower on Yurt site – Graig Wen Arthog.

SNPA- NP/5/52/100A- Permit to development-listed building consent for works already executed including re-roofing, adding roof lights to rear, new rainwater goods, alterations to roofs of rear extensions; replacement doors and windows; re-pointing; and internal works including adding new concrete floor, and new bathroom and kitchen fittings.-Old Toll House, Friog.

SNPA-NP/5/52/LB100B- Permit to add roof lights to rear and alterations to roof of rear extensions (Retrospective application)- Old Toll House Friog.

SNPA- Refusal- Removal of condition No3 (which currently restricts use to short term holiday lets) of planning Consent NP/5/52/47B dated 18/2/1994 to allow use of property as residential- Beudy Uchaf, Tyddyn Mawr, Islaw'r dref, Dolgellau.

355. Financial Report and Payments Made

Current Account balance at 29/3/16 £1700.57

Reserve Account balance at 29/2/16 £4736.67

Youth Account balance at 29/2/1 £7704.78 (Capital cannot be used in this account -only the interest)

Payments made:- Auditor J.D. Roberts £45.00

HMRC- VAT Repayment £ 557.00

356. Representatives Reports

Penrhyn Point

Cllr Kirkham reported that there would be fewer moorings at Penrhyn creek and all vessels will be checked for insurance.

Golf Club

Cllr Scott reported that the Golf club has reopened for business after being closed due to water logging, but had a quiet Easter due to the poor weather.

Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Scott was due to meet the PCSO this afternoon (6th April 2016). Unfortunately due to ill health the meeting will have to be rearranged.

Fairbourne Moving Forward

Cllr Parker reported on his meetings:

Masterplan Session – 2 March 2016

15 people attended from 30 invites.

Meeting objective to identify what problems and issues we are likely to face in the process of decommissioning Fairbourne. Possible solutions would then be identified.

2 breakout sessions followed which were managed very differently.

Session 1 stated that “Certainty about what will be done when people are suffering is needed. People have lack of knowledge of what/when will anything happen.

The groups then listed various concerns according to 6 categories.(Social & Economic; Environmental & Emergency Planning; Communication; Opportunities; Legal).

The results were a brain storm and need to be reviewed for validity.

Board Meeting – 23 March 2016

The additional FAQ's resulting from the public meeting are now answered and will be placed on the Fairbourne Moving Forward website when approved. The results will be classified in sections (Policy; Environmental/Technical: Implementation; Infrastructure; Responsibilities; Other) Sites for hard copies was discussed. Funding is available for all initiatives. (BTL; Self sufficiency & Monitoring damaging effects)m A bid has been made to WG for £72k to fund the FMF management for 2016/17. Also an additional bid for the BTL

scheme of £36k for Property condition surveys.

Feedback from working Group:

Mortgage situation: Barclays Regional Manager is unsure of the “60 year” rule for mortgages. He asked for an example of someone applying to Barclays for a Fairbourne mortgage which was rejected. (How?) He will discuss with their policy department. Nothing from HSBC.

No feedback from RICS re property values before and after SMP2 announcement.

Council Tax – no progress. We could consider lobbying for a reduction for Fairbourne residents but what would be the basis?

Friog Corner: covered elsewhere.

Public Meeting:

The move to reporting in Sea level Rise rather than dates to be supported and used in Masterplan. The latest questions appeared to show a better public understanding of what the SMP2 was forecasting. It is accepted that it is part of the continuous process to explain change

Master plan: See above and below.

Buy to Let. Draft prospectus to be circulated.

Lisa Marshal has various appointments with Housing Associations, Care and construction companies. Interested parties are requested to volunteer for a Property Condition Survey to be completed by the Council Surveyor's department. There is no obligation associated with having a survey done. Gwynedd Council still holds the Housing List which all Housing Association refer to prior to letting a property. There are currently 4 Social Housing properties in Fairbourne (Private renters unknown). Demand is 17 wishing to live in Fairbourne which is not considered very high. Transport is seen as a constraint also.

Network Rail:

Kevin Giles (NR) attended this and will attend future Board meetings.

Network Rail are committed to the Cambrian Line and do not have any plans to curtail and are have a rolling 5 year planning horizon. They are reviewing various NR funded schemes. £1m spent on monitoring Friog Cliffs. £20m on Pont Briwet and planned work on Barmouth viaduct. £8m has been spent on Coastal assets. Schemes are now being table to the 2019- 2025 period.

Kevin went on to explain that there is currently no works strategy post 2055, but felt sure this was purely due to the way that Network Rail operate, (ie, not looking that far ahead) as opposed to a case of not maintaining the line after that time. It was also likely to be a political decision in terms of funding.

NR actively work with NRW. Welsh Government to take over Franchise from 2018 so political decisions may be required.

AOB

A draft Annual Report will be prepared for early May.

Masterplan Session – 5 April 2016

Only 3 attended this meeting so little was actually resolved although progress was made with a method of presentation for the Masterplan.

357. To Receive Councillors Questions

Cllr Scott- In view of the whole of Fairbourne being at risk of flooding should the NRW put pressure on landowners/farmers to keep ditches free from silt and rubbish, in order for them to drain properly after flooding. A couple of residents at the seaward end of Glan Y Mor have expressed an interest of having the ditch cleared that borders their property.

Cllr Roberts- questioned how would this be done. Cllr Scott to look into the situation

Cllr Parker- The ditches in question are the responsibility of the owners and they have agreed to pay for this work.

Cllr Haycock reported that their appeared to be a lot of water coming over the road from a drain between Brynhyfryd and the quarry.

As no one had responded to the Clerk's vacancy- it was agreed by Councillors that two more adverts be placed in the Cambrian news on consecutive weeks.

358. Date of Next Meeting.

Wednesday 4th May 2016

Meeting Closed 9.00pm