

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE GANOLFAN, ARTHOG 1st February 2017

468. Present: Cllr J Haycock, Cllr (Mrs) Hughes, Cllr P Thomas, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr P Parker, Cllr S Eves, Cllr M Scott (Acting Clerk).

469. Apologies: Cllr J Kirkham, Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes – Gwynedd Councillor.

470. Declaration of Interest: None

Before the main meeting took place, The Chairman introduced Lisa Marshall as the Guest Speaker from Gwynedd Council Consultancy (GCC). Lisa came to talk about facing the issues now facing the Fairbourne Moving Forward Project. The Welsh Government were no longer going to continue to fund the administration costs and that this should now be funded by Gwynedd Council but they have constraints as well. Funding for other projects such as The Technical Group, The Community Interest Company for property investment and the Master Plan will still be funded by Welsh Government.

Governance: Following recommendations from JBA the Welsh Government researchers, GC are reviewing Governance of the Project, and Huw Williams (Chair) has offered the Community 4 seats on the Board. These spaces are available to members of FFC, ACC and other non-member residents. Gwynedd Council are happy to do all the 'leg work'. Arthog Community Council will promote the idea and seek out those people who they think would support the project on behalf of the village and be objective in the process and not be negative as well as conducting themselves in a proper manner. If not they would be removed from the Board and replaced by another person. She hoped that ACC would try and resolve this by the time of the Workshop on March 2nd.

Governance Workshop: Representatives being invited to the meeting include: Welsh Government, NRW, Gwynedd Council. SNP, Network Rail, Royal Haskoning, Arthog CC, and FFC. It had been suggested that the meeting be held in Caernarfon which met with strong opposition from councillors due to travel costs. Both the Springfield Hotel and Arthog Village Hall were suggested as alternatives. Subsequently Lisa Marshall visited Fairbourne on Friday February 3rd and decided that Fairbourne Golf Club would be of a suitable size. This workshop is not open to members of the public.

Friog Corner: NRW are concerned that further work needs to be done to support the defences at Friog Corner but were unsure as to how to solve the problems. Cllr Parker asked about the £60k spent by the NRW to identify possibilities for improving the damaged area. He was told the report did not properly assess the solutions presented.

The Chairman thanked Lisa for coming to the meeting.

The meeting continued at 20.15

471. To receive any Special Announcements from the Chairman: None

472. To Confirm: Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th January 2017. The minutes were approved as being a true record. Proposed by Cllr Parker and seconded by Cllr Roberts.

472. Clerks Report The Clerk had written to Gwynedd Council regarding 'Fly Tipping' of a mattress on the shore line above Beach Road Car Park. It has since been removed. He had however received a complaint by a resident of 'fly tipping' in a field next to Friog Caravan Park off Penrhyn Drive South. He supplied the meeting with copies of material that had been dumped. He was to send the pictures etc to Gwynedd Council and for them to sort it out.

He had written to Highways regarding the subsidence on Arthog bridge after an Arthog resident had pointed it out. A picture was sent as well. An acknowledgement had been received from Highways who will investigate.

The Clerk had also written to Highways regarding a 'kerbstone' that had fallen into the road on Penrhyn Drive North. It had since been repaired within a week!

Following the repair to the Play Park Fencing, the Clerk asked Cllr Parker to check out the work carried out. His opinion backed up that of the clerk who had a site meeting with the chairman and he was also of an opinion that the mesh fencing was not straight enough and the contractor should effect a proper repair. The clerk asked him about replacing a section 'like for like' and he said no, and that he would straighten it up. He had been paid to do the job. It was felt that he should have been paid a percentage of the repair with the final amount being paid on successful completion. Mr Hunt was to be asked to complete the outstanding repair as soon as possible.

GL Jones had inspected the Play Park and sent in a full report which on all the apparatus had indicated that all be repainted and the timber edging be replaced. Due to the inclement weather at the end of 2016 and this year so far, other jobs have been put back.

The Clerk had written to Highways again regarding the Station Road Car Park and the state of the walls and the shrubbery. As yet no reply.

The Clerk had still not heard back from the Highways Department regarding the Double Yellow Lines issue on Beach Road and Penrhyn Drive North. Cars continue to flout the law and the Clerk received a visit from a Police Officer from Tywyn and this had been followed up with a letter from him as to where the law stands regarding taking notices down etc. The Clerk asked if this information could sent on to the Highways Department for their observations.

473a. Specific Items brought to Attention: Footpath 13. Cllrs Haycock, Roberts and Scott met Up with a Wyn Williams (GC) and Liz Haynes who is in charge of the footpaths in Meirionnydd at the Passing Loop of the Fairbourne Railway. They were informed that the state of the footpath was a Health & Safety issue and that we were responsible for its upkeep. After having walked over the area, this included where the

bank was eroding close to the highway and also where the breach had been made into the historical embankment on the estuary side. The Arthog Councillors stressed that the only way the problem could be solved, would be by filling in the breach. This would allow the area to be reclaimed again by the bird life and walkers and it would also allow the Bwlch Gwyn Trekking Centre to take their rides over land which they had done so since the 1960's. At present they are unable to take any rides over the area and this has devastated their business and particular the 'Riding for the Disabled'.

The two officers were given a copy of the Terms of the License which they had not seen before. They will study it and get in touch with the NRW and report back to this Council before the March meeting.

473b. Penrhyn Drive South Slipway Collapse: Cllr Scott informed Councillors of what had happened just 5 days after sending Barry Davies pictures of the slipway having dropped about 6 – 10 inches. Less than a week later, it had collapsed just leaving the section closest to Friog Corner intact, thanks to the 'longshore drift' of the material from Friog Corner being dragged down to the slipway.

Barry Davies' department responded the same day from him being shown new photographs by putting up barriers and notices asking members of the public to stay clear. Cllr Scott said it was still being used as a means of getting on to the beach despite the notices. Barry Davies also asked if ACC could make any financial contribution and he was to be informed that this was not possible. Cllr Scott suggested that we should make some kind of contribution and this could be found by restricting any donations that we make to those that ask for support. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes felt strongly that we should continue supporting organisations such as the local Village Halls. It was suggested that other Agencies should be approached for funding in particular the Disabled Agencies, as that this was the only way they can gain access to the beach. Cllr Thomas said that the hole should be filled in with concrete, as a short term fix. In view of the problems at Friog Corner, a solution needs to be found before the long term future of the slipway was decided.

It has been brought up before, that another slipway needed to be built opposite Beach Road Car Park. At present there is very little movement of shingle in this area and at present, it is an extreme inconvenience for members of the public to have to walk a further 300 metres along the promenade before gaining access to the beach.

473c. Penrhyn Point Update: Cllr Scott had been in touch with Barry Davies regarding putting a gate on the 'rise' just before the slipway. The Fairbourne Railway are still having 'off roaders' gaining access to the Point and are fully supportive of having a gate. Barry Davies had been asked and had offered financial support despite the ongoing problem at Penrhyn Drive South Slipway. Costs were given to the Council and these would be forwarded on to Barry Davies. The costs were as follows: Gate & Fittings £70, Posts £82, Chain & Padlock £29.70. All these items + Vat Erecting everything to be in the region of £150 (No Vat).

Barry Davies had said that the Legal Officer is presently off ill but was due back shortly and that he would forward on the information regarding the 'overnight camping'. Cllr Scott believed that with the 30mph being extended beyond the Golf

Club down to the Turning Circle, then certain traffic regulations may come into force regarding parking on the highway.

473d. Fairbourne Community Flood Plan. This has now been signed off by the NRW and all Flood wardens have a copy. It will be reviewed again at the end of this year.

473e. Flood Plan Website Update: The website has been finished but still needs to be 'tweaked' in certain areas. When it is 100% finished it will be announced to the Community by way of the Sibrydion magazine etc. Those people that do not have a computer will have a printed version given to them. The website has been forwarded to the NRW, NW Police & Fire Service for their observations. Until their responses have been received, it cannot go 'live'.

Councillors would have noticed a 'logo' on the Home page. This is something that Elfed ap Gomer had put on. Cllr Scott would like to adopt a logo for the Council by utilising something from the local Communities. He will seek ideas from other Councillors once the Website etc has been completed.

473f. Information Board: Cllr Scott brought an updated version for Cllrs to see. This version will be given to the Planning Officer for his perusal and then passed on to a Welsh Translator in order to make it more bilingual.

473g. Correspondence: A letter had been received from Gwynedd Council regarding to the Traffic Calming measures on the A493 coming in the direction of Arthog from Dolgellau that this Council had suggested. The contents of the letter were disappointing especially as they had said that there were no recent reported traffic collisions. The Clerk was to write back and say there were two collisions in recent weeks. The Clerk was to write to the North Wales Police and would enclose a copy of the reply etc from Highways.

Notification had been received from Highways regarding the extending of the 30mph from the Golf Club to Penrhyn Point, and installing a 40mph from the junction of Beach Road and the A493 until it joins up with the 30mph just below the Hen Ysgol in Arthog. There were no objections.

A letter had been received from BT regarding the closure and removal of various Pay Phones stretching from Bangor down to the Aberdyfi area. It included three within this community – Beach Road -outside the Corner shop, Friog / Henddol Bridge and opposite Arthog Terrace. The Clerk was instructed to write back to BT and object to the closures on the basis that we are very much a rural area where signal is at times poor to non existent and in case of emergency in certain areas, it is essential that the Pay phones are retained.

A survey had been received regarding Gwynedd Council Planning Process Scrutiny Investigation. The Chairman filled in the form and the Councillors comments on the form were generally of a poor satisfaction.

A letter had been received as to whether this Council would wish to celebrate the Centenary of the ending of the First World War in 2018. A Beacon had been

suggested and it was proposed by Cllr Eves that the Fairbourne Railway be approached and to involve running to the Point whether a large bonfire could be erected. Cllr Eves to approach Murray Dods. If they were supportive, then they were to return the form.

473h. To Deal with any Planning Applications: A application had been made to Gwynedd Council regarding the demolition of Seacoft in Penrhyn Drive North and to erect a replacement in its place. The owner had to remove vast quantities of asbestos in the property before putting in new tenants. There were no objections.

473i. Financial Report:

Current Account as at 27th January 2017 **3725.68**

To Pay out : GL Jones Playground Inspection £222.00

Elfed ap Gomer (Website Fee) £460.00

Vodaphone (Rental) 12.60

674.60

£3051.08

A Payment of £703.13 has been received from Gwynedd Council regarding a 75% refund on £1000 for Footpaths maintainance.

Business Reserve Account: £ 4738.37

Fairbourne Youth Account: £ 7,707.55

The Clerk had managed to access the Vodaphone website regarding the mobile phone bills etc. It would seem that we are able to claim back the monthly Vat which in this financial year would amount to £25.20. No Vat as far as the Clerk could see had ever been claimed back. Cllr Thomas was under the impression that we would not be able to claim back any previous years unclaimed tax.

473j. Representative Reports: Pyg y Rhaut Cllr Haycock had been to a meeting in Llwygwrl after having one applicant to the Charity. It was decided that as there was only one applicant, then the total of roughly £80 that they had received per year from the investment by the Charity Commisioner during the previous three years, then one whole years income (£80) should be given to the sole applicant.

The Clerk informed Councillors that the Fairbourne Festival this year would be held over the two days of the August Bank Holiday 27th - 28th August. He advised the Editor of The Welsh Coastal Life Magazine of this event and also the events in May when the Village Hall refurbishment would be completed.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10.

Date of Next Meeting; Wednesday 1st March @7pm

Date of Next Meeting: xxxxxxxx @ 7pm

Meeting closed at nn.nn