

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE GANOLFAN, ARTHOG on Wednesday 6th September 2017

534. Chairman's Welcome

535. Present: Cllr M Scott (Chairman); Cllr J Kirkham; Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley; Cllr B Woolley; Cllr S Eves; Cllr P Thomas; Cllr (Mrs) R Stott.

536. Apologies: Cllr J Haycock; Cllr P Roberts; Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes (Gwynedd Councillor).

537. The Chairman then welcomed Lisa Goodier (Ne Marshall) of YMG / FMF) to give an update on the Buy to let Scheme in Fairbourne and also Friog Corner and Penrhyn Drive South Ramp.

Lisa began by asking if there was anything in particular they wished her to talk about.

Cllr Eves began with the access to the Beach off Penrhyn Drive South Car Park as presently any young children and elderly are not able to access the Beach which would not be good for the economy of Fairbourne. Lisa said that a wooden ramp has been earmarked as a replacement which would cost in the region of £15K - £20k. The Maritime Officer does not have that kind of money but by December and January there may be money available and certainly before the end of the financial year there may well be money that needs to be spent. When the ramp was removed to the top of the Promenade, all the concrete was supposed to have been taken away before the tourist season started and the precarious tank traps removed to the top on the mountain side of the promenade.

Greg Guthrie is presently talking about restructuring Friog Corner such as putting in groynes to prevent 'long shore' drift and also coming up with a design which will be shown to the 'walk by session' on September 29th where the NRW, GC and other agencies plus invited residents will be able to give their input. Cllr B Woolley mentioned that in some seaside areas, they roll out wooden ramps / mats down at the start of the season and then rolled them back up at the end of the season.

Cllr Woolley pointed out that approximately £90k had been spent on Friog Corner over the last 3.5yrs and still nothing concrete has been done and it is all money totally wasted.

Cllr Thomas asked as to who would be responsible if something happened in the near future at Friog Corner. Lisa said that not NRW as they do not have a duty of care, to which Cllr Thomas said that Gwynedd Council had said they would defend Fairbourne for a further 36.5yrs and maybe they are responsible. Various suggestions were made as to what to do with Friog Corner and maybe NRW etc should look at some of these suggestions.

Another item that Lisa came to talk about was the 'Buy to Let' etc. Until recently no

organisation was willing to commit large sums of money for such a scheme however an organisation called Nesta has now come up with the funding for such a project and this would commence from April 2018. They do wish to do carry out research and look at the make-up of the village, social behaviours and potential incoming residents who would rent out the properties from the Community Interest Company. There is up to 1million pounds set aside for the project and the income from the rentals would then be put back into the CIC. Potential residents wishing to rent properties @ £800 per month could come from all over the Country. Properties would have to be made available for CIC and the cost would have to come out of the main Fund. Discussion took place regarding children coming into the area and being intergrated into the Welsh system. There will no doubt be many hurdles to cross but one thing is that Fairbourne has all the shops to enable people to live here and not travel, unlike many other communities in the area. Lisa did point out that she had organised two meetings in Fairbourne for businesses, the first of which was quite well attended but the second there were only two people attending one of whom was Cllr Scott. Information Boards are up around Fairbourne and there is aslo the Facebook site 'We are Fairbourne' where all businesses can advertise their businesses but very few people do this and they should be encouraged to do so. She also said that there is a 'Flat Screen' now in the Village Hall and there is an idea that a Doctors Surgery could be linked via a webcam direct to Barmouth Sugery and not have a need to travel over to Barmouth for a consultation. Lisa also touched on the Flooding Exercise due to happen in a couple of weeks and that a newsletter would be sent out to every household informing of the event and to be reassured that a flood was not going to happen etc. Lisa was thanked for coming to the meeting and she left at 19.45hrs.

538. Coucillors Declaration of Interest. None were declared.

539. To recieve any Special Announcements from The Chairman. The Clerk informed the meting that we had no Clerk and asked as to whether Cllr Thomas had heard anything further to what he had heard. Apart from saying he had been told that she had applied for a full time work, the Chairman said that he had had an email from her that she had now taken on a full time post. The Chairman wished her luck in her new employment.

540. To confirm the Minutes of Wednesday 5th July 2017.

Before the minutes were accepted, Cllrs asked about the Reserve (Youth) Account and how it worked. Cllr Thomas said that it had provided money for the purchase of items up at the local school as well golf clubs for the Junior Golf Club section. The interest can only be used from this account but compared with many years ago when interest rates were favourable, now there is very little. No money from this account had been spent on the Playground. Who were BDO? The Chairman explained that they are the main auditors for all the Town Councils and Community Councils in Wales in Wales. Previously they had been Hacker Young from Chester. The minutes were proposed by Cllr Eves and seconded by Cllr B Woolley. All in favour.

541. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Chairman had spoken with Sion Wilkes regarding the state of the footpath

(shrubbery) between the Telephone Exchange and the old Petrol Station and he will contact the two landowners, NRW and Mr A Titley. His team had made a temporary repair on a BT manhole cover at the junction of Stanley Road and Belgrave Road. BT had since made an effective repair. Nothing further to report on the Station Road Car Park entrance. The Play Park had been finally repaired and Cllrs Kirkham and Roberts had vouched for the repair. The bin may be replaced by GL Jones if he has a spare one. Cllr Eves thought that the Fairbourne Railway could put a new base on it. Ongoing now. The Chairman had met and spoken with the MD of GL Jones regarding the state of repair of the Play Park. This will come up later on the Agenda.

The Chairman wished to thank Cllr Hughes for her efforts in clearing the A493 from the layby close to Llwyngwrl and the Old Toll House on what is a very dangerous road. I have also asked for a Gwynedd Council official (Steffan Williams) to look at the damaged wall as a result of a landrover accident and have it repaired. The driver of the Range Rover is now deceased.

Rubbish seems to be a problem in the area at the moment especially down at Penrhyn Point where the Chairman has written to the Council regarding the emptying of the dog waste bin at the Point. Cllr Scott spoke to a Bin man over the Fairbourne Festival Weekend regarding the emptying. He was not tasked to go down there but to turn around at the Golf Club but would do us a favour. It overflows on to the ground around the bin and then bin bags of rubbish are added. Cllr Kikham gave the history of the rubbish down at the Point. It has been a success with only one mishap. Cllr Scott has asked for a meeting with Steffan Jones and find out what their policy is on emptying at The Point. As yet no reply. Pictures have appeared on Social Media and one picture from Cllr Kirkham was printed in the Cambrian News. The Chairman wished to remind Cllr Kirkham and any other Cllrs that when putting any article in the press they should do it privately and not under Arthog Community Council unless the article has been sanctioned by ACC. The Chairman did say however that had Cllr Kirkham not put Arthog Community Council at the end of his article, then the Cambrian News might not have published the article. He was thanked for his efforts in keeping an eye on the rubbish at the Point.

Mr Roger Duke had sent an email about the rubbish around Fairbourne and asked as to whether there were any organised litter picking sessions arranged to clear up the Community. He is quite willing to help out and the Chairman would contact Barry Davies for further information and help.

542. Clerk's Report

The Chairman had written to Dyfrig Siencyn inviting him to come to Fairbourne, but as yet no reply.

He had heard back from Wyn Williams regarding Footpath 13 who said that he still had not heard back from the NRW, but suggested that at this meeting with the NRW that in addition to Gwynedd Council and ACC that the Welsh Ramblers be invited. I have also suggested that Gemma Evans be invited and her only to the meeting.

The Clerk had posted on the website the Accounts for 2014 – 2015, 2015 – 2016 but

as yet 2016 – 2017 have not yet been signed off due to some anomalies but many of these have been addressed. The Fairbourne Youth Account has had to be brought into the Audit system. I had only copied on what the internal auditor had furnished me with. Code of Conduct and Registering Councillors interests was discussed and these were due to be published on the Councils Website. The information would be sent to the Cllrs absent from this meeting and well as additional information furnished by BDO. The Clerk with the Councillors approval would be signed tonight and sent off to BDO in the morning. **Approved.**

The issue of the vacancy of the Clerk was brought up again and Cllr Thomas suggested that Angela Thomas be contacted again and asked if she would reconsider her decision. The increase in the salary from £1600 to £3000 would make a huge dent in our budget but if we are to function as a Council we have to have Clerk. If Angela Thomas declines, then we will have to advertise locally and One Voice Wales.

A resident of Fairbourne contacted me at the beginning of August to report a camper from the Old Stables land on Penrhyn Drive South that they had seen them taking a wheelbarrow in the direction of the Public Toilets containing a cassette containing effluent from one of the 4 caravans present at the time. Emptying cassettes at the Station Road toilets has been seen in the past. It is a Health hazard. Cllr Eves and Cllr Kirkham were consulted and later Cllr Roberts as to their views. The chairman went to the site and explained the situation. The landowner said that he did not as yet have a septic tank. The Chairman told him in that case all cassettes should be taken to recognised campsite to empty the contents. He was asked as to where he obtained his water. He had an 'occasional' arrangement with a local homeowner. This homeowner was contacted to confirm this, but it was only occasionally. It is suspected that 'fresh' water was being obtained at ratepayers expense from the toilets. This system may have been in use for some time. The Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Dept and inform them as to what has been happening. All Council members in favour.

All further items in the Clerk's report will appear Agenda items.

543. Special Items brought to Attention.

a) Fairbourne Public Toilets.

After the Community Council meeting in July the Chairman and Cllr Eves called a meeting of some of the residents within Fairbourne and Friog. A committee has been formed. Whilst there are two Cllrs on the Committee, it has to be stressed that they are residents on the committee and not Councillors. The committee is made up of Chairman – Mike Scott, Vice Chairman Stuart Eves, Howard Salt – Treasurer and Allan Wild as Secretary. Contributions from the boxes outside the toilets and the Corner Shop amounts to over £500. No further meeting has taken place with Gwynedd Council but is scheduled to do so in the next week or so after our next meeting. We have had a surveyor has had a cursory look over both the toilets. The Station Road toilets are fine and nothing but a coat of paint would make them very presentable. Penrhyn Drive South has a couple of problems. It has had a few roof repairs and there are a couple of leaks, one within the ladies and also above the porch of the ladies due to subsidence outside. These would have to be fixed by GC should

we take them over.

Cllr Eves briefed the Council on a couple of issues that we have come across. Gwynedd Council has raised the issue of TUPE, this is where GC pass on to us the position of a cleaner and that we would then take care of that persons pension etc. Cllr Eves has been in touch with ACAS and explained the problem to them. They have said they do not have a problem with our Group taking over the toilets having been told that we are a new group taking over the toilets and the cleaning would be done by vounteers who would not be subject to PAYE etc.

Cllr Eves has sent a letter to Bethan Hughes explaining the latest situation and quoted what ACAS have said and she in turn has said the letter has been passed on to GC's legal department for comment. Cllr Eves has also spoken to the present cleaner who has said that he has told GC that he is expecting redundancy payment once his employment ceases. We are now awaiting reply from Bethan Hughes as we will seek to have a meeting with Mr Gwyn Morris Jones in Caernarfon regarding the Station toilets being kept open until a legal agreement is reached by April 2018.

b) Penrhyn Point.

Cllr Kirkham gave an update over the last 4 months and said the installation of a gate had been a success although the gate had been left open on a few occasions and has made suggestions to Murray Dods of the Fairbourne Railway. Much co-operation had taken place from them. We need to have a permanent sign on the gate. Photographs have shown Camper Vans taking most parking spaces at the turning circle and some now using the spaces at the Passing Loop for overnight stops. There is plenty of room for alot of cars now that it is a Public Highway The Highways department should consider putting a height restriction barrier just before the turning circle with access only for cars. Cllr Kirkham produced several photographs of how PP could be managed with 'artists' impressions of what it could look like. These Camper Vans bring nothing to the local economy. Notices to be erected beyond the Penrhyn Grill etc informing Camper Vans etc of no parking beyond this point etc.

Cllr Scott had contacted the Legal Dept of GC to speak with Dafydd Gibbard regarding having a by-law put in place for these overnight campers but he seems to be off sick at the moment.

Camper Vans are now parking up at Creggennan Lakes and also at the SNP Car Park at Penmaenpwll. The autorites must be aware of what is happening.

c) Fairbourne Community Flood Plan Exercise.

This is still planned to go ahead on Thursday 21st September in the Fairbourne Village Hall. A joint letter from Fairbourne Moving Forward and the Chairman is being hand delivered to every household in Fairbourne a few days before the event. It is based in the Village Hall 4pm – 8pm. A vulnerable person in the village has been visited by the Emergency Services and is quite happy to be visited by them on the night. Meetings have been held regarding the Planning of the event in Caernarfon and Blaenau Ffestiniog. I felt it was too far to go to Caernarfon but the final meeting will be at Coed y Brenin in a few days time.

d).Information Boards.

They are now all up and being well received and all invoices have been raised and the last businesses should be visited for their payment to be made in the next couple of days.

e). Fairbourne Play Park

During the recess, I spoke with the Vice Chairman regarding the sea-saw breaking following a call from Sion Wilkes of GC. He put cones around whilst the sea- saw and GL Jones were contacted to repair the equipment. . Cllr Roberts and myself met up on Sunday to discuss the work carried out by GL Jones following our last meeting. Cllr Roberts backed up my opinion of the work and I duly show you the photos that I have taken to back up our opinion, that we are still not satisfied. We may be 'splitting hairs' but if a job is to be done properly then they need to fill in the cracks and use a black masonry paint to cover the 'light coloured' cement. The Chairman was going to send the pictures that he had taken to GL Jones and to say we are still not happy. Cllr Thomas said that as we have our Insurance Policy through for 2017/2018, that GL Jones should be informed of this and that should there be an accident as a result of their work which we are not happy with, then this information would be sent to our insurers.

544. To Deal with any correspondence.

The Insurance Policy and quote for 2017 / 2018 was now through and it was decided that we go with the quote from Came & Company for £1532.53 should be accepted.

A letter from One Voice Wales / NRW regarding free Back Packs for the Great Outdoors. Letter passed to Cllr Stott.

Letter regarding 'Legacy Trees'. Passed on to Cllr Stott. No reply from Gwynedd Council regarding placing the 'Free Fruit' trees from the SNP.

Letter from Alun Griffiths Ltd (Contractors) regarding the Dyfi Bridge proposals. Still no change and there will be a Public Exhibition 3rd / 4th October. Not been studied yet as only arrived today. Will report back for the next meeting. This Council still maintains our stance as before that there should be a bypass around Machynlleth.

A letter from NaWest Bank regarding the complaint that I made to NatWest regarding the setting up of a 'Cemetery Account' with the Bank. The Chairman was given poor service. He passed on the papers for the new account to Cllr Thomas.

545. To Deal with any Planning Matters.

There were no new planning applications, but the chairman produced the Planning application details for the conversion of the run down and collapsed old Barn adjacent to the New Inn. The property is intended as a holiday let and Mr Alan Titley has to have maintained access into his fields through their courtyard. There were no objections from Cllrs as the decision had to be made during the August recess,

546. Financial Statement and Report. Balances as at 6th September:

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| Current Account | £15,212.84 (includes Precept of £4,625) |
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|---|-----------|-----------------------|
| Business Reserve Account | | £4,738.65 |
| Business Reserve (Youth) Account | | £7,708.01 |
| To Pay Out: | LC Jones | £294.00 |
| | GL Jones | £4,4288.94 (Not made) |
| | Vodaphone | £13.60 |
| | Came & Co | £1532.53 |

The Chairman would like some help from the CC towards the Fairbourne Amenity Group admin costs of ink etc for producing information about the toilets etc. As there were only two signatories at the meeting, Cllr Scott did not make a claim for this month.

547. To receive any Councillors Questions.

Cllr B Woolley asked as to why Gwynedd Council are not replying to letters that the Clerk had been sending to respective departments. Many years ago a reply was made within 3 – 5 days then it went to three weeks and now not at all. The Clerk would speak to the Clerk in Llwyngwril as to how they resolve their problems.

There had been a Planning application from Airwave asking to erect a mast at Dolgedr. Cllr Thomas was not sure as to whether it was in our Community Council boundary but it turns out it is right on our boundary, but as it was for the Emergency Services there no objections. The Golf Club has a similar mast on their land.

Cllr Stott had replied to a competition as best kept small community village. She had an interview over the phone and went through to the next round where she was asked further questions but sadly was unable to proceed further. She was congratulated for her efforts. Cllr Eves said that the recent event over the Bank Holiday was a massive success, with the Race The Train being held on the Saturday and a lot of visitors to the village. Cllr Scott said that publicity for the events at the Village Hall, Church, Bowling Club and Golf Club was poor as there was nothing on the leaflets that were all around the village attached to poles etc. The Golf Club over the two days took £4, last year over 3 days £72. The Chairman of the Golf Club expressed his feelings to the Chairman of the Festival. Cllrs felt that the publicity should have been much better. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley said there would be an AGM in November to iron out these problems.

548. Representative Reports

Cllr (Mrs) Woolley said the Village Hall was being re-opened by the local vicar on Saturday 16th September at 2pm after all the refurbishments. Cllr Scott said there was due to be a Governance meeting on Thursday October 5th but to date there has been a poor response and may be cancelled. Cllr Scott also asked for the forms to be returned that night to comply with BDO.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 4th October @ 7pm

Meeting closed at 21.10hrs