

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE GANOLFAN, ARTHOG, WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2017

565. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00 pm

566. Present: Cllr's M Scott, J Kirkham, B Woolley, P Thomas, J Haycock, P Roberts, Cllr's (Mrs) J Woolley (Mrs) L Hughes (Gwynedd Councillor) and Angela Thomas, Clerk.

567. Apologies were received from Cllr (Mrs) R Stott and Cllr S Eves

568. Declarations of Interest – Nil

569. To Receive any special announcements from the Chairman. The Chairman let the Cllr's know that the laptop was out of commission at the moment and he is trying to get it repaired.

570. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th October 2017. Proposed by Cllr B Woolley, seconded by Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley. All in favour.

571. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 4th October.

The Chairman asked that all Cllr's attend to their emails on a regular basis. Cllr Haycock and Cllr Thomas said that they had not received emails reference to Arthog Hill traffic calming measures. This may be due to the ongoing problem with the laptop. Cllr Scott will send paper copies on to the Arthog Councillors.

572. Clerks Report: No report. The Chairman did however raise the pill box on Penrhyn Drive South and reports of people urinating inside and against it. It was felt that no action was required.

573. Special Items brought to Attention:

(a) Fairbourne Public Toilets. Cllr Scott. The name of the group has been changed from "group" to Fairbourne Amenities "Trust". The take-over will begin on Monday 6th November. This way it will be a little friendlier with regard when requesting grants etc. Cllr Scott has sent all papers to Companies House and the same plus a copy of insurance to Bethan Hughes. GC will still pay for the lighting and water until such time a legal document is drawn up for March next year for full hand over. Penrhyn Drive South toilets will remain open probably until late March 2018. The disabled toilets are key holder only. The donation box will remain at the toilets located at the shops. Penrhyn Drive South donation box will be removed. The traders have not as yet made a contribution.

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(b) Penrhyn Point. Murray Dodds was contacted by Cllr Kirkham and Scott with regard to a very large trailer offloading some rails.

The new gate post had been removed. Mr. Dodds apologised and said it might have been the railway. The Railway have been approached to purchase a gate and Cllr Roberts will install it. The gate has been a success. The notice had blown down and it was suggested that a new and stronger one be put up once the gate has been installed. Cllr Roberts suggested we scrape the shingle to follow a more obvious route, without such a tight turn into it. Cllr Scott thanked Cllr Roberts for offering his services free of charge. We just need to make sure the gate has been ordered.

(c) Friog Corner. Cllr Scott has spoken with Barry Davies who was in Fairbourne last week and looked at Friog Corner. The old concrete has been dumped on Penrhyn Drive South car park and is still to be moved. Under emergency powers it is possible to shift shingle from Morfa Friog and place it in position, which might last until next Spring. Rock Armour is available from local quarries but it is nowhere near as substantial as the rock armour from France which has a life span of 36 years. Cllr Thomas thought it was madness to bring rock armour from Spain. Tywyn rock armour came, it is thought, from France. Cllr Scott spoke to Lisa Goodier and she backed up what has been suggested that the NRW have emergency power to shift shingle when necessary. Barry Davies was going to be a bit cheeky and ask the trucks when they come down if they would shift the concrete. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes asked if the rock would come in by road. Talks are still progressing between Network Rail and the NRW as to what the best solution is. The Dragons Teeth that have slipped down the shore were due to be lifted on to the Promenade,

(d) Afon Henddol/Fairbourne Ditches – Cllr Scott said that the NRW were called away from Fairbourne and they are now down at the Dysynni due to the sea trying to reclaim what the NRW stopped it from doing. Once they have finished they will resume in Fairbourne. It is interesting to note that even this afternoon the ditches are clear from the Friog Corner Caravan Park thus enabling a clearer pathway out to the sea into the Afon Henddol at the rear of Ffordd Corsen.

(e) Footpath 13 – Cllr Scott. Wyn Williams spoke to Cllr Scott and said that the NRW are contemplating that maybe a pathway would go around the side of the road. Lisa Goodyear suggested to Cllr Scott that he involve Dafydd Elis-Thomas with the situation and suggested that if all were happy with this he would get together the relevant documents etc. and send them to Councillor Dafydd Elis-Thomas. It was decided not to involve the local MP. Cllr Scott will draft a letter out and send by land mail.

(f) Approval of the Precept – 2018/ 2019. Cllr Scott handed out a predicted expenditure sheet. The current balance is £7508.17. The expenditure up until the end of March is predicted to be £8039.43. The total expenditure exceeds income by approx. £531.00. These figures are based on the Village Halls still receiving a donation of £500.00 each, which may have to be paid in instalments. These figures do not take into account the Clerks Wages.

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Cllr Kirkham commented that the Village Halls will have to realise that the Council has to tighten its belt the same as all authorities. He felt that the Village Halls should try and generate some income for themselves. It was also agreed that the Secretary of each Village Hall should be asked to supply a copy of their current balance sheets. Cllr Roberts made a plea on behalf of Dail Dysynni and it was agreed that a small donation would be better than none. The Precept Proposal was for £12,000.00, Cllr Roberts proposed and it was seconded

by Cllr Haycock. Because the proposal is in the minutes it will show BDO that it has been done in accordance with their requirements. Cllr Scott will write to BDO saying that all points have been dealt with and as yet the accounts for 2016-2017 have yet to be signed off. Cllr Thomas suggested that accurate dates, times etc. be noted when speaking to BDO etc.

574. To deal with any Correspondence: Cllr Scott said that he had received a reply from the Welsh Assembly regarding the Dyfi Bridge proposal. Basically, the letter that was sent to them regarding our concerns had been sent to the Welsh Assembly and forwarded on to the Project Engineer. All Councils to the North of the River were against the traffic going through the town. The plan is still very flawed with so much opposition from this side of the water. Cllr Roberts mentioned that the Dyfi Bridge had recently had yet another clout.

An application from Arthog Village Hall asking for a donation. It was agreed that the Village Hall Secretary would be asked to furnish a copy of the latest accounts before a decision was made.

Burial charges for children. Cllr Scott stated that the First Minister had said that burial charges for children would no longer apply. Cllr Thomas said that he hoped it would never become an issue that the Community Council would have to face.

The next letter related to the 2018 Parliamentary review of constituencies. Information is available on the commissions website.

The next issue relates to the 4 donated fruit trees from the Snowdonia National Park. Cllr Scott has spoken with Martin Stott with regard to the location of the tree, which is to go next to the hydrangea bush. National Park are providing free labour, and the other 3 will be located at the sheltered accommodation area in Friog. The fruit trees are apple.

A letter regarding Village Green was not applicable to this area.

One Voice Wales committee meeting. Cllr Thomas will attend 28th November 7.00 pm.

Gwynedd Council promoting the Welsh Language. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Ifan Llewelyn Jones, inviting him to attend the next meeting or one thereafter. Possibly Fairbourne residents might be interested in learning Welsh.

575: To Deal with Any Planning Matters: No objections were raised to a Planning Application submitted to SNP reference Fronallt, Bryn Road, Fairbourne. It was felt that the proposals would in fact enhance the area. A letter to be sent by the Clerk informing of no objections raised.

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576: Financial Statement and Report: Cllr Scott asked if there were any questions with regard to the analysis produced. The only income still outstanding is from the footpaths. Cllr Roberts again asked if we are prepared to make a donation to the Dial Dysynni. A request will be made to have sight of their accounts before a donation amount is decided.

£7508.17 in the current account.

£4738.73 in the business reserve and

£7708.14 in the Youth Account.

At the Precept meeting Cllr Scott was asked to approach Howard Salt to find out more detail about the wording of the Youth Account, with a view to establishing an amount that could, if necessary be drawn upon. Cllr Kirkham has looked at the minutes pre-1995 and has come up trumps. He found: -

1985 – 1999. Scout Hut and Youth Account. He asked that Cllr Woolley take the accounts for a month and look through and report at the next meeting.

Outgoings for November:	£98.00	L C Jones – grass cutting
	150.00	W Jones – info board
	165.00	Arthog Hall - rental
	155.43	Cllr Scott – expenses
	13.60	Vodafone

Cllr (Mrs) Hughes informed the room that unfortunately the Cadets would not be able to carry the wreaths on Remembrance Sunday

577: To receive Councillors Questions: Cllr Kirkham passed a file regarding cemeteries to Cllr Thomas for his perusal. Upon a quick inspection, it appears that there is some administration to be carried out dating back quite a few years. All legalities had been carried out correctly, the missing administration is purely for the Councils own record keeping. It has not been filled out since 2012. Cllr Scott took the file to study. Cllr Kirkham also found a file relating to Certificates for Employers Liability. This was passed to the Clerk for safe keeping. Cllr Woolley has been asked by an individual why the minutes were no longer displayed in the Notice Board. He was told that they never had been and was asked to refer the individual to the Website where all copies of the minutes are displayed. Cllr Haycock raised the subject of the grit/salt bin on the hill leading to Cregennan and asked why it had not been renewed by Gwynedd Council. It was requested that the council be contacted and asked to carry out the work and to make sure the bin is refilled. Cllr Scott will access the letters pertaining to this matter.

578: Representatives Reports: Cllr Kirkham. During his hunting through the files found paperwork relating to the Fairbourne Railway Deeds and our Trusteeship. These papers need to be kept safe and will not be passed to Stuart There is no action needed.

Cllr Kirkham. After the last ACC meeting it was unanimously agreed that we would contact the Highways Dept. because the road has been adopted by installing 30mph signs to make it a public highway. We are looking for the following assistance.

Parking bays to be painted at the turning circle and at passing loop.

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The installation of a Pay and Display unit in the parking area with a notice indicating that the charges will go to keeping Fairbourne Toilets open, or to the Fairbourne Community and that it is emptied daily. This will need to be negotiated with the Highways Dept. The installation of a strong height restriction barrier. Warning signs should be visible on the road into Fairbourne and on Penrhyn Drive North for tall vehicles and vehicles carrying bicycles. Also mention of “Limited Parking” and “Cars Only” at Penrhyn Point. We have requested a site meeting with the Highways Dept. and our ideas have been forwarded to both the Maritime Officer and Highways Dept. together with photographs. A repair is needed to the “Keep Clear “sign at the top of the road leading down to the gate. With the assistance of the Maritime Officer we have installed a gate to shut off the area at the top of the slipway. This is designed to prevent vans etc. parking in the way of people who wish to launch a boat. On August Bank Holiday Sunday, this year there were 9 vehicles with trailers parked up. We need a custom-made sign to replace the temporary one.

Conclusions: Residents resent the Camper Van fraternity who contribute little or nothing to the local economy of Fairbourne. They take up two parking spaces and sometimes three when towing a car. They have total disregard to the Council notice of “No Overnight Camping”. There are no toilet/disposal facilities at Penrhyn Point. Fairbourne Railway have had gates made to protect the tunnel entrance. The discharge from the Vans can seep into the environment. Local camp site disposals are not used. The ACC feel that in limiting Camper Van Public these problems will be reduced. The ACC feel that there is a need to protect this environment from waste, plastic and pollution, keeping Penrhyn Point safe and attractive for all.

Penrhyn Drive South Slipway – The ACC feel that the last thing needed is to replace this slipway. It would have the effect of encouraging vehicular access to the beach and foreshore.

That section of Fairbourne Beach is considered to be generally a safe area, no rip tides and a safe place to swim. Vehicles on the beach would endanger the public and also possibly be used for unauthorised launching of boats and possible jet skis. We would request that a “pedestrian access only”, matting of sorts be installed for the width of push chairs but not wheel chairs, be considered. It would need to extend way beyond the shingle. The required zig zag path required for wheelchairs would be impossible because of the movement of shingle. The matting would probably need clearing from time to time. Installed for Easter and removed end of October. Cllr Kirkham said that we have had superb help and support from the Maritime Department. Cllr Kirkham’s report was thought to be very positive news.

Cllr Woolley raised the issue of Fairbourne Facing Change who are now, it would appear, totally ignored by Gwynedd Council because of Fairbourne Moving Forward. FFC wrote to Gwynedd Council saying that they were disturbed that they receive no response to any letters they write. Gwynedd Council replied that there is no compensation available, and there never will be. Gwynedd Council do not have a legal right to protect Fairbourne from the sea. In future, all correspondence relating to Friog Corner, the Ramp or anything appertaining to Fairbourne sea defences should go through Arthog Council and Cllr (Mrs) Hughes. GC will not enter into any dialogue with FFC from now on.

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FMF does not really have Fairbourne at heart. Fairbourne has been used as a Guinee pig and the plan has been formed by GC and will be used for future areas. FFC will still be in situ and may well challenge Greg Guthrie’s figures regarding sea level rises going forward. It is the statement made by GC that they will protect Fairbourne for 40 years subject to funds being available that has blighted the community. Monitoring of sea levels has produced a report that concluded that the seawater level is not rising. There is no problem with ground water in Fairbourne. Cllr Haycock said that Westminster are discussing coastal protection and this will apply to the whole of the UK, not just England. Cllr Kirkham what had happened to the money that had been collected to pay for the London Barrister. The reply was that it is intact and will possibly at some stage be refunded to all contributors. The Barrister did a lot of work free of charge. FFC had what they thought was a great presentation to make to GC but discovered that they were then “out of time”. GC set the time limit of the presentation. It was asked, was the time limit legally imposed? The Barrister has said that the best way forward is to challenge the report from Greg Guthrie. This report has to be renewed every 10 years. It is said that Greg Guthrie should be challenged, and in light of recent surveys, be asked to revise his report. It was presented as the worst-case scenario. There will be a meeting in the future to discuss how FFC should go forward, or not. All

Cllr's were happy with the submission that Cllr Woolley had submitted to Lisa Marshall for the glossy FMF.

Cllr (Mrs) Hughes said there has been no word about the next Project Board Meeting, to be held in the Golf Club. She also said it was on the cards that GC are going to axe every Youth Club with the possible exception of Caernarfon. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes had contact from a concerned citizen that there has been a car parked in the Railway car park in the disabled bay, with a for sale sign in it. The Police are not interested in moving it. Where the car is parked is not a designated disabled bay. The person selling the car will be approached with a view to moving it. There is no legal requirement to offer a disabled parking space at the Village Halls.

Cllr Scott brought up the complaint he had made to GC regarding the dog waste bins not being emptied. He did this on line. He received an immediate reply and the bin was emptied the next day. GC acknowledged that the bins had not been emptied on a regular basis but confirmed that they would be hence, particularly on Bank Holidays.

Fairbourne Flood Wardens. Cllr Scott said that he had asked Matt Burrows to step up to the plate. Cllr Scott had scheduled a meeting approximately two weeks ago which was subsequently cancelled, Cllr Scott being the only person that was not informed of this and had turned up not knowing. This meeting was re-arranged and was again subsequently cancelled. The Police Forum Section are chasing for review forms etc. It was suggested that Matt be contacted to see if he wished to resign and somebody else takeover. The Deputy Flood Warden Michael Murray would be approached to take over. It was agreed that the Council would send a letter asking Matt Burrows what his intentions were.

579: Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 6th December at 7.00 pm in Fairbourne Village Hall. The meeting closed at 21.15.