

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2018

593: The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00 pm

594: Present: Cllr's M Scott, B Woolley, P Thomas, P Roberts, Cllr's (Mrs) R Stott and J Woolley and Angela Thomas (Clerk) plus 2 members of the public.

595: Apologies: Cllr's J Haycock, S Eves, J Kirkham and Gwynedd Councillor Mrs L Hughes

596: Declaration of Interest: Nil

597: To Receive Any Special Announcements from the Chairman: Cllr Scott reported that the previous meeting had finished at 9.45pm, and hoped that this meeting would keep to better time.

598: To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting held on Wednesday 6th December 2017. Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Woolley. Cllr Scott signed off the minutes.

599: Matters Arising from the Minutes of Wednesday 6th December. Cllr Scott confirmed that the litter pickers were in Barmouth and he would take possession soon. No reply had been received from Mr Dodds, Fairbourne Railway to our letter. Cllr Scott confirmed that the Precept Form had been completed and would be sent the following week. Asset register will be discussed at the next meeting, but Cllr Scott said that assets should be written down by 10% per year.

600: Clerks Report: The Council had received an email asking for support for an online petition relating to a "marking system" for disabled access in public areas. Reference Traffic calming measures, the Clerk asked for permission from all to send the prepared letter with the new suggestions plus photographs. Permission given. The Clerk had received a letter with regard to Buckingham Palace Garden Parties. The Chairman took the correspondence for consideration. HMRC had sent a reply to earlier letter reference employment status for Cllr's working/receiving payment for work done. BDO had in fact taken it off their list of concerns. No reply had been received from Mrs Lee re FRACAS monies. The Welsh Ambulance Service had asked for a donation but the Council was unable to assist.

601: Special Announcements brought to Attention:

(a) Fairbourne Amenities Trust. Cllr Scott. Cllr Scott said that we were expecting confirmation from Gwynedd Council in the next few days. Gwynedd Council had had sight of the Insurance Policy. A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday evening with a Mr. Nick Wilson to discuss grants. Cllr Scott has suggested that we have an

event to raise funds before asking for a grant. Donations are still being received via the collection boxes. The Seafront toilets are hoped to be open for Easter.

- (b) Penrhyn Point – Cllr Scott and Kirkham.** We are still waiting for a reply with regard to a site meeting. A site meeting with Barry Davies has been arranged for February 1st. He may well give assistance or guidance to purchase a Pay and Display machine, and other matters. Mr Davies has been very helpful.
- (c) Friog Corner – Cllr Scott. Including the Flood Warning for Penrhyn Drive North and South.** Cllr Scott spent most of the day calling on residents, he was surprised and alarmed to find that the flood warning did not work for all who had registered. Cllr Scott is investigating the problem. This was the first “warning “ for Fairbourne. The actual storm caused a little overtopping on Penrhyn Drive South, the wind being the main problem, it was quite difficult to stand on two feet. Sandbags were obtained for some people but not all. A debrief to be held next week. The NRW and Gwynedd Council were on site, and NRW were going to assess the state of the damage. The flood gate by the Golf Course was not closed which was a cause for concern. Cllr Woolley again stressed that during various meetings that he has attended over the previous 4 years the NRW always stated that everything was in hand when actually they have still done nothing. He stated that he thought it was time for a Public Meeting to be called. Cllr Roberts reported that the NRW were consumed with infighting.
- (d) Afon Henddol/Fairbourne Ditches –Cllr Scott.** No further update available. NRW are supposed to be coming back anytime soon to finish the work. Cllr Scott stated that the Golf Course would again offer their assistance for the parking of machinery to speed up the work needed to be done at Bwlchgwyn Farm.
- (e) Footpath 13 – Morfa Friog – Cllr Scott.** Cllr Scott reported that the footpath was in a very poor state and he was waiting for Cllr J Haycock to return to discuss the draft letter to Dafydd Elis-Thomas.
- (f) Fairbourne Playpark – Cllr Scott.** Cllr Scott will order the replacement bin by the end of the current week.
- (g) Alleged Right of Way Mawddach Crescent (Footpath 13) Cllr Roberts.** Cllr Scott reported that there had been a huge amount of correspondence between Ms Hannah Cromarty and the Secretary. Cllr Scott read a very concerning paragraph from Ms Cromarty’s last letter (refer to correspondence dated 2 January 2018). He stressed that all Minutes and Agenda are available on the website as well as on the Notice Boards, therefore open to all to read. Cllr B Woolley gave an assessment of a conversation that he and Cllr (Mrs) Woolley had had with Mrs Jean Cromarty. Cllr Scott asked Cllr Roberts to clarify where the matter stood at that moment. Cllr Roberts read a report that had been sent to Huw Roberts by Gwynedd Council, who forwarded it to Cllr Roberts. Cllr Roberts declared an Interest at this point but as there is no financial consideration it was not needed. (See attached report) **601 8g, attached to the minutes.** It was stated by Cllr Roberts that this matter would be resolved probably by a Public Inquiry. Probably all parties would be given the opportunity to speak at the meeting and then Gwynedd Council would make a decision. Cllr Scott stated that a letter should be sent to Gwynedd Council stating the Community Council position. It was proposed and seconded and agreed that the Clerk would send a letter saying that the Community Council would now step back

from the situation. A letter would also be written to Ms Hannah Cromarty also saying that the Community Council was stepping back from the application.

602: To Deal with any Correspondence: Nil

603: To deal with Planning Matters: Nil

604: Financial Statement and Report: A summary sheet of Income and Expenditure was handed to each Councillor.

Current Account: 22nd December £7491.59

Expenditure: £165/£169/still to go out from last month. This month £1050.00 + £8.25

Reserve Account: £4738.77 (including 16p interest)

Youth Account: £7708.48 (including 27p interest)

No Income received this month.

Cllr Thomas asked whether any correspondence had been received regarding the erection of two new headstones in the cemetery. A general enquiry had been received via email asking the cost of erection and re-erection of head stones, but it was a general enquiry not relating to any burial in the cemetery. The Clerk was asked to look to see whether payment for the erection had been included in the initial payment for burial of the persons concerned. The Cemetery would receive attention in the Spring reference the paths. The question of a Cemetery reserve account was raised and it was decided that this should be done before the bank in Dolgellau closes in the late Spring. Cllr Scott said that if the Fairbourne Amenities Trust was going to investigate the possibility of a grant then the question of his wages of £1600.00, when he was acting secretary for last year, would have to be resolved before the next Amenities Meeting. A meeting was scheduled for Thursday when hopefully all would be made clear. The Railway will donate to the Amenities Trust the equivalent cost of hiring porta loos for their site.

605: To Receive Councillor's Questions: Cllr Thomas raised the question of drainage at Arthog Bog. It is causing a lot of problems where the old Railway Huts are. Cllr Roberts said that SNP took over the responsibility for the Footpath, but they have done no work. The RSPB have made the problem worse by the way they are managing the land. The culvert is totally blocked. It was suggested that the Community Council write to both the NRW and SNP asking for the maintenance to be resumed. Cllr Scott said that when Ann Griffith next comes down he suggests that she visits Mr. Marsh to establish what needs to be done. The Pig Farm should also be involved. Cllr Roberts raised the problem of replenishment of the paths by the SNP from Mawddach Morfa to Fairbourne. The path is lower than the verges. Who owns the path is not clear? Cllr Roberts will pinpoint on a map the areas needing attention. Cllr Scott will establish ownership of the areas.

606: Representatives Reports: Cllr Scott read a letter from Lisa Goodyear regarding Fairbourne Moving Forward. She asked for particular issues for the Agenda of the Project Board to be submitted by the end of the week. Cllr Woolley said that he would wish to attend either as a Cllr or representing Fairbourne Facing Change. The date of the meeting was not known as yet.

The Precept form had been completed and the Clerk asked for approval to send out. It was agreed.

607: Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 7th February in Fairbourne Village Hall.