

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE
ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 7TH MARCH 2018

624: The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00 pm

625: Present: Cllrs' M Scott, J Kirkham, B Woolley, P Thomas, P Roberts, Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley, Angela Thomas – (Clerk) and Bet Huws, Language Development Officer.

626: Apologies Received: Cllr S Eves, Cllrs (Mrs) L Hughes and (Mrs) R Stott

627: Welcome to Bet Huws: The Chairman welcomed Bet Huws. Bet Huws – Language Development Officer Welsh Language Initiative, from Gwynedd Council, made a presentation to the attending Councillors. She asked that, where possible, every use of the Welsh Language be made. Any area with a Welsh Language use of below 17% is being made aware of this opportunity. She is working out of Tywyn and Fairbourne. It was pointed out to her that the Council is predominantly English speaking and the meetings are conducted in English. However, the Council did assure her that where possible and appropriate, notices etc. , would be made available in Welsh as well as English. She thanked the Councillors for allowing her the opportunity to speak. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley took a “pack and notices” that she would present at the next Fairbourne Village Hall Meeting.

628: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: Nil

629: To receive Any Special Announcements from the Chairman: Nil

630: To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting: Proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr B Woolley.

631: Matters rising from the Minutes of Wednesday 7th February:

The Chairman did confirm that due to the weather (item 615) litter picking had been postponed but will now take place a week Wednesday (14th at 10.30) with a maximum of 6 people. A litter pick by “Mums and Kids” carried out a successful session and a party of school children, as part of the John Muir award, were also carrying out a litter pick. The Chairman also confirmed that the Golf Course was now open, the first time since the end of September, the delay caused by the state of the ditches (616d). It was stated by Cllr Thomas that the silting of the estuary is causing a massive problem, possibly caused by the gabions under the Barmouth Bridge. The NRW do not seem to be willing to listen to local knowledge. Dyfi bridge – no reply from Welsh Government – but all other Community Council also want a bypass.

632: Clerks Report. Report as follows: Clerk said that Ms H Cromarty had been sent a letter with regard to “Alleged Right of Way Mawddach Crescent”, in effect a close of subject letter, and to date it seems to have been observed by Ms Cromarty. The Clerk wrote to Gwynedd Council Highways (Traffic) Department, reiterating that the Community Council were disappointed to learn that the measures suggested with regard to Traffic Calming in Arthog, were not going to be taken up. It was hoped that there would not be any incidents

that might be a cause for regret. The Clerk wrote again to Kylie Jones Mattock with reference to the Woodland Trust Area at Ffordd Bryn, raising concern with regard to the amount of water flowing onto the highway. The Clerk had updated the Asset Register. The Clerk wrote to James Healey, Welsh Government reference Dyfi Bridge Consultation, confirming that the Community Council wished to sustain its objection. The Clerk wrote a letter of thanks to Mr J D Roberts, Internal Auditor. The Clerk sent a cheque to the Fairbourne Village Hall for room rental, Mr. J D Roberts, Internal Auditor and to Wybone for payment of the Playpark Bin. The Clerk wrote a letter to Mr L C Jones, accepting his tender for grass cutting. The Clerk went into Barclays to ascertain whether it would be possible to move the 3 Community Bank Accounts to this Bank. Awaiting a decision. The Clerk also investigated the possibility of switching the mobile phone account. The Clerk exchanged emails with Luned Fon Jones in pursuance of the new Internal Audit system- ongoing. The Clerk dealt with emails received on the Community Council email account, consulting with the Chairman.

633: Special Items Brought to Attention

(a) Fairbourne Amenities Trust – Cllr Scott – Cllr Scott took control of the keys for both toilets about 2 weeks ago. They are being opened and closed and cleaned. GC will continue to pay for the electricity, water and any major blockages etc. All seems to be going well. Items have been ordered to upgrade both the ladies and men’s toilets. Gwynedd Council have contacted the Chairman asking for photographs of the charity boxes, posters etc., as an example to share with other communities with a view to expanding on the Fairbourne Amenities Trust blue print. The Beach toilets will be opened at the end of this month, the week before Easter.

(b) Penrhyn Point – Cllr Scott/Cllr Kirkham – Cllr Kirkham confirmed that a meeting had taken place with Maritime staff and a representative from the Traffic Department and discussions took place with regard to what the Community Council would like actioned. Parking Bays at the Loop and Point, repair of the road, Pay and Display Machine, £1.00/4 hours, height barrier was deemed to be unworkable. Hopefully all of this will happen at least before Easter or no later than Whitsun. Fairbourne Railway are still leaving their gate open, it is a problem that seems unsolvable. Cllr Scott talked to Mr Dodds, again, but did not get a conclusion. Cllr B Woolley asked if there was any news with regard to a new ramp. There was no discussion at that meeting regarding a replacement ramp. The collection of slipway charges is yet to be confirmed as to how it will proceed. It was suggested that Fairbourne Amenities Trust might take over the collection of ramp fees. Cllr Scott said that he was prepared to visit Mr Davies and thrash out the pros and cons etc. for example, no insurance no launching, health and safety issues, fluorescent coat and Identification. Cllr Eves is very keen to take it on. Mr Barry Davies is very enthusiastic to proceed and again possibly use Fairbourne as a blue print for other communities.

(c) Drop in Session – Cllr (Mrs) Woolley - The attendance had been very poor, (68 residents) however, those who did attend went away feeling somewhat brighter about the future after listening to Lisa Goodier’s presentation. The business community in Fairbourne did not make representation at the drop-in session. Business event sessions were also very poorly attended. It was felt that there is a lot of apathy and “heard it all before” feeling. Lisa Goodier is still trying to find a base in

Fairbourne either the purchase of a building or a block of land to get her HQ established. There is a certain amount now, of “good news” in Fairbourne.

(d) Friog Corner – Cllr B Woolley - 500 tons of rock armour due to be delivered in March for commencement of the work on Friog Corner plus other areas of concern. The idea is that the rock armour will be on site and ready for use should the need arise. Common sense seems to be prevailing. Drilling of on-site bore holes has taken place for the purpose of taking soil samples. 25 metres depth. All permissions seem to be running in tandem.

(e) Footpath 13th Morfa Friog - Cllr Scott. A letter has been prepared by Cllr Scott, Cllr Roberts had been given a copy to read in the absence of Cllr Haycock. Cllr Roberts and Cllr Thomas agreed that it was an excellent letter. It was due to be delivered to Lord D Elis-Thomas for the meeting on Friday 9th, which he is now unable to attend due to parliamentary commitments. A raised wooden footpath had been suggested but was deemed unsuitable by Bwlchgwyn because of the horses not being able to cross. It was agreed that Cllr Scott’s letter should be sent to all parties concerned from the AM down, and News Outlets etc. Gwynedd Councils decision to sell the land is a dereliction of duty to the safety of Fairbourne, and may come back to haunt them.

(f) Deceased Resident Fairbourne – Cllr Scott. This refers to the late Peter Connolly. Cllr Kirkham was to speak but did not know exact details. Cllr Roberts confirmed that Mr Connolly lay in an Ambulance for 8.5 hours and was in extreme pain, at the Wrexham Hospital. There were other ambulances also waiting to be seen. It was felt that a letter of deep concern could be written to the Health Ombudsman and to Wrexham Hospital if in fact that is what Mrs Denise Connolly wishes for. The Clerk will make an appointment to see Mrs Connolly in about a week’s time.

634: To Deal with Any Correspondence: The Clerk read an email from Kylie Jones Mattock with regard to the flooding across the road in Arthog Coed A493 just out of Fairbourne towards Dolgellau from the Woodland Trust land. Ms Mattock said that a team were in fact going to be in place on upcoming days and she would remind them to investigate. The Council had received a request from the Welsh Air Ambulance Children’s Trust for a donation. It was agreed that £50.00 would be sent to this worthy cause and it was felt in light of what had happened recently it was exactly the right thing to do. Cllr Roberts agreed that the Council should make the donation. Proposed by Cllr Roberts seconded by Cllr Kirkham. Air Ambulance transfers automatically get taken to A & E they do not have to wait. A letter had been received from the Rural Youth Movement in Dolgellau asking for a donation, the Council was unable to help at this time. An email had been received from Gareth Wyn Williams asking to be put onto the mailing list for Agenda. He is a reporter working for the BBC in local press. The Council felt in light of the very bad publicity that had been dealt out by the BBC regarding Fairbourne that it might be unwise to list him but to let him know that the Agenda is available on the Website. A Data protection tool kit has been made available to all Community Council if we need it. The Clerk was asked by Cllr Kirkham to write a letter to Gwynedd Council Leisure Section saying that the Community Council was opposed to the raising of fees with regard to the use of Leisure Centres by Senior Citizens

635: To Deal with Planning Matters: Nil

636: Financial Statement and Report. The Fairbourne Amenities Trust sent a letter requesting a cheque to the value of £1600.00 which relates to the Chairman's remuneration when acting as Clerk. He has very kindly donated this amount to the Trust. He was thanked sincerely by all Councillors for this gesture. One Voice Wales renewal was due £220.00, and it was agreed to renew. Gwynedd Council are prepared to take on the work of Internal Auditor after Mr Roberts had retired. Their fee will be somewhere between £125.00 to £150.00 depending upon requirements. It was agreed that this was acceptable to the Council.

The Clerk circulated a summary sheet of Income/Expenditure year to date. No questions were raised.

Current Account: 5930.35
No income received this month
Reserve Account: 4739.33 including 21p interest
Youth Account: 7709.14 including 35p interest

Cheques issued: £1600.00 Fairbourne Amenities Trust, £220.00 One Voice Wales, £77.11 Ink and Stamps and £1500.00 wages for Clerk, CHEQUE NO 1448. £10.00 room hire cheque still waiting to be presented.

637: To receive Councillors Questions: Cllr Kirkham – Nil, Cllr (Mrs) Woolley – Nil, Cllr B Woolley – Nil, Cllr Thomas – Nil, Cllr Roberts – raised the question of the dog poo bin at the Fairbourne Railway Terminus at Penrhyn Point, which actually belongs to the Railway, being in a very bad state. Cllr Scott raised the question of the soil and rubbish on the land on the left as you leave the Village. The owner does have a licence for the dumping of spoil. No caravans would be allowed there without Planning Permission.

638: Representatives Report: Cllr Kirkham reiterated his earlier report reference Penrhyn Point. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley reported that the Village Hall was being used successfully. Cllr B Woolley reported that when FFC was set up, funds were asked for. A legal fund was set up but is now no longer applicable, therefore donators have been asked if they would like their donation back. Cllr Thomas was reminded to speak to the late Mrs Dora Roberts husband with regard to the headstone in the cemetery. The Clerk also confirmed that she had been into Barclays Bank and explored the possibility of opening accounts in Dolgellau for the Community Council. It was agreed that she should make an appointment to speak with a business manager.

639: Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 4th April.

