

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

761: The Chairman Opened the Meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed all present. Mr Mike Scott was also in attendance to make a presentation on behalf of the Fairbourne Food Plan Committee.

762: Present: Cllr P Thomas, Cllr S Eves, Cllr J Haycock, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr B Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley, Clerk Angela Thomas

763: Apologies Received: Cllr (Mrs) H Neville, Cllr (Mrs) R Stott

764: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: Nil

765: To Receive Any Special Announcements: Nil

766: Mike Scott – Presentation: Mike Scott said that it was only right to keep the Community Council informed reference flood plans and preparations also, to give a run-down of Storm Callum and the effect it had on Fairbourne. Penrhyn Drive North and South are now known as Fairbourne Sea front and receive a flood warning in all instances. Most houses are registered, and the warnings are working. Flood Wardens are responsible for different zones. The last flood warning was issued in February. High tide was expected to be late at night, in force for about 24 hours, and was taken down by the NRW the following morning. There are 494 properties in Fairbourne, 479 registered to receive warnings, 3 refused, empty non-registered properties approximate 12, 3 of which the rates are paid but nobody has ever been seen. Flood Alert is a “be aware”, Flood Warning is “be prepared to act”. Storm Callum, October 12th/13th, the weather was at its worst from Midday Saturday. There are devices in Fairbourne that collect data which is then relayed to the NRW regarding the lowering or raising of the Pen Stock sluice gate. Ynys Faig Caravan Park ended up with 18 inches of flood water in the lower meadow camping fields. The pump at Ynys Faig was installed by Cllr Eves but such was the volume of water it could not cope. When Galliford Try put the flood defences in they did not consider the layout of the land, the 2.5-inch pumps can cope with normal rain fall but not a deluge coming down the mountain. The ditches going down to the outfall are all silted up. The outfall is now also smaller than it was originally. The outfall for all the properties opposite the Springfield Hotel comes out at the end of the road leading onto Beach Road parallel to the miniature railway line. Recent work was carried out there by NRW to free up the blocked end of the pipe. The crux of the matter is that the sluice gate should have been lowered to prevent too much water passing through. The pressure of the water in the estuary prevented the sluice gate from opening. The ditches need to be widened but not deepened. A letter should be sent to the NRW with recommendations as per these discussions. Cllr Roberts made the comment that there seemed to be no common sense within the NRW regarding the ditches. The ditches have not been skimmed for 25 years, resulting in a build-up of 15 inches of silt. The Chairman said that once the NRW have finished with Friog Corner, the situation with the ditches is of paramount importance for rectification. The ditches are blocked, the sluice is too small, and

there is nowhere for the water to go. Even if the sluice was bigger because of the silting in the estuary/creek there is no escape for the water. It was also felt that the original sluice should be re-instated. It was stated that it is unlikely that any rectification by the NRW will happen although it transpires that money is set aside annually for such work to be carried out. Fairbourne seems to be a blot on the North Wales Coastline. The IDDS are going to have a look at doing a one-off ditch clearing, removing garden waste etc dumped by property owners and then handing the responsibility back to the individual home owners as a riparian responsibility. It was suggested that the residents of Fairbourne should consider legal action against Galliford Try for installing a sluice not fit for purpose or, for malpractice. Mike Scott said that it should be noted that Sion Wilkes of GC has taken a great interest in Fairbourne and is working tirelessly on our behalf. He has sorted out many problems. The payment for the Flood Plan Website is the responsibility of the CC and Mr ap Gomer will submit a bill for maintaining the domain.

767: To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd October 2018. Minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairman, Proposed by Cllr Haycock and Seconded by Cllr Eves.

768: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd October 2018. Nil

769: Clerks Report: A bulletin had been received from One Voice Wales with particular reference to a village Car Park being seized by the County Council in Powys. The Chairman has a contact in Powys and would find out what that was all about. The Clerk had contacted Mr Wyn Williams GC reference the meeting held in the summer regarding the re-siting of footpath 13 on the Morfa Saltmarsh. The Clerk read Mr Williams response which stated that the responsibility for the footpath lay with the NRW and GC would only be involved in the design aspect. The CC had been led to believe that it would be consulted on all levels of the project but that no contact had been received to date from the NRW even though the CC had been led to believe that the re-siting was imminent. NRW confirmed to GC that they are prepared to progress the footpath but gave no time scale. The Clerk confirmed that she had written to Elizabeth Haynes reference re-imburement for the cutting of footpaths as agreed earlier in the year. As yet no payment has been received. The Clerk had received information via email from the Welsh Hearts Association, regarding possible help for the funding of defibrillators in the community. The Clerk will forward this to Cherry and Andy King. Cllr Eves asked if the CC was going to take over responsibility for the telephone box. He said that British Telecom would probably not release the box to an individual but probably would to the CC. This would be considered once the project was under way. Cllr Roberts would speak with Andy King in the near future. The Clerk confirmed that the paper re-cycling bank had been removed from Fairbourne. The Clerk confirmed that the complaint made by (Mrs HC) to the Ombudsman had now officially been closed as all recommendations had been implemented. The Clerk confirmed that she had sent a letter as requested to Mr and Mrs Kirkham regarding the sad loss of their son. The Clerk told the Councillors that the work on the Ynys Faig Wall had now been completed and it looks splendid. Cllr Eves said that the whole job had been conducted very professionally. The Clerk confirmed that all preparations for Sunday Remembrance Day Service were all complete and that everything was in place. The Wreath had been received and Cllr Roberts took possession. The Service would commence at 2.00pm. Road will be closed from 2.45 till 3.15pm.

770: Special Items Brought to Attention:

- (a) The External Audit by BDO LLP has at last been signed off. Now that the CC has registered as an employer the Audit can be finished. A Notice had duly been put in each Notice Board saying the Accounts were available for inspection or a printed copy could be made available for a small fee. The Notice must stay in the notice Board for a period of 14 days. They were put up the last day of October and will be removed on the 15th November. The Councillors were shown all copies making up the External Audit and approved the actions taken by the Clerk. The 3 Recommendations and Issues Arising made by BDO LLP were read to the Councillors and noted. The External Accounts were proposed by Cllr Eves and seconded by Cllr Haycock, as being read and inspected, agreed and approved.
- (b) Salt Bins: GC will replace the damaged Salt Bin on the road leading to Cregennan Lakes, but the CC will be responsible for the filling of the bin with salt and all other bins in its jurisdiction/parish. A costing will be requested from GC, and Cllr Roberts will inspect the salt bins (with the exception of those on the road up to Cregennan) and make recommendations of where filling is needed. It was agreed that the CC would pay for and fill the bins where necessary.
- (c) Nat West/HSBC: The Clerk confirmed that the complaint made against Nat West, to the Financial Ombudsman had been acknowledged. Nat West had made a deposit of £100.00 for the inconveniences caused but had still not gone any way to solving the problems incurred by the CC. A meeting had been held with Susan Davies of HSBC at the Dolgellau Branch of HSBC with a view to opening 4 accounts for the CC. Forms had been completed in house, but signatures were still required. All had been signed with the exception of Cllr (Mrs) Stott. The Clerk would meet with Cllr Stott the following week to complete. Once the Cemetery account is opened a decision will then have to be made as to whether money is spent making good the paths, and whether all or part of the payments are made via the Cemetery Account or some from the Current Account. At the rate of burials, the Cemetery Account could, in effect run out of funds in a period of three years if all payments are made from that account. It was also possible through HSBC to carry out a certain amount of Internet banking, i.e., requesting statements and cheque books but not payments. The transfer of monies between accounts as and when necessary could be carried out via internet banking with minuted approval from the Councillors.
- (d) Tenders: It was brought to the attention of Councillors by Cllr Roberts, that in January the CC needs to Tender for the Grass Cutting of Footpaths and the Grass Cutting of the Cemetery. At the January meeting a decision will be made as to the wording of the Notices to go into the 3 Notice Boards. Proposed by Cllr Haycock and Seconded by Cllr Woolley.
- (e) Rock Armour Friog Corner – Cllr Eves. Work is yet to start. There is a meeting on Friday 9th between Lisa Goodier and the NRW for the public to discuss the Work to be carried out. Cllr Woolley will attend on behalf of the CC.

- (f) Fairbourne Amenities Trust: Cllr Eves and Cllr Roberts: A meeting was held on Monday 5th November to go through various items. The AGM is to be arranged. Discussions also took place with regard to a ramp on the Beach. Beaver Construction has been consulted. The toilets are doing very well, with a Balance of £5000.00 at the moment. Accounts will be furnished to the CC in order for the £1000.00 set aside for FAT to be administered. That donation will be earmarked for the construction of a Disabled Toilet on the same site. Jones and Co (Friog Corner) have asked permission to tap into the electricity and water from the Penrhyn Drive South beach toilet block. Permission will be sought from GC so that Jones & Co can be billed for their usage. They will also donate to FAT. Once FAT has taken ownership of the toilets in the New Year painting can start on the Mural, which at that stage any wording will only need to be in English.
- (g) Barmouth Consultative Harbour Meeting: Cllr Roberts asked Mr Mike Scott to read the minutes of the meeting held in March 2018. Discussed were, traffic flow, 30mph signs, camping places to be painted, Camper Van parking, and Parking Meter. The height barrier had been dismissed as unworkable. The then Cllr Kirkham had confirmed that the CC was willing to manage the slip way launchings etc., but with his retirement from the CC in April it was unknown if this would be possible to manage at that stage due to the lack of Councillors. It was concluded that there was no need for further painting of parking spaces as it seemed to be managing itself.
- (h) Project Board Meeting: Cllr Woolley. Nothing further to report with the exception that the proposed purchase of half of the Springfield Car Park had fallen through. At this time, it was mentioned that the Hungarian workers who are refurbishing the Fairbourne Hotel had been visited by the Police for harassing verbally/sexually, young women in the Village.

771: To Deal with Any Correspondence: A letter had been received from Sue Ellis writing on behalf of Arthog Village Hall asking for consideration for a donation towards the upkeep of the Village Hall. Next year the Hall will be re-decorated. It was agreed that the Clerk would request a copy of the current accounts and then the Councillors would certainly look to the possibility of supporting the request. An email had been received from the office of Liz Saville-Roberts confirming that GC would put in place a disabled parking bay in the Station Car Park and even better news, GC would look to tidying up the foliage and hedges in the Car Park. The Clerk would send a thank you. A Review of the Electoral Arrangements had been received and was distributed to all Councillors for perusal. It was noted that the cost of getting these books printed must be phenomenal.

772: To Deal with Planning Matters: A Planning Application had been received with regard to the Old Church Rooms. The plans were looked at and discussed and there were no objections. The Clerk will write to GC stating that there are no objections.

773: Financial Statement and Report:

The Clerk was asked whether the Precept Forms had been received from Gwynedd Council, the answer was, not yet. The Clerk will ring GC within the next two weeks to chase if it has not arrived.

Current Account: £10,554.45

Reserve Account: £4740.89 – 18p interest

Youth Account: £7711.70 – 31p interest

Cheques issued: Internal Auditor Gwynedd Council £180.00, Arthog Village Hall Room Rental £90.00, L C Jones 7th Cut Cemetery £100.00, Clerk £82.19, 3 Printer Inks and stamps. The Clerk said that she was planning to look at the cost of laptops in the near future and will look at buying direct from Dell which may well be the better option.

774: To Receive Councillors Questions: Cllr Eves raised the question of rubbish being dumped. As Fairbourne is becoming more and more a holiday village, and because of the three-weekly collection of rubbish, it appears that the dumping of household rubbish is fast becoming an issue in holiday homes. The Chairman asked for comment regarding the Salt bins and whether we were making progress. The Clerk said she was still waiting to hear from Steffan Jones. Cllr Woolley asked for comments regarding Mawddach Terrace and a new gate that had appeared. Cllr Roberts confirmed that the matter is ongoing. The gate was replaced because the old one was rotten and until the footpath is formalised the residents would be responsible should someone injure themselves using the existing gate. Mike Scott spoke about the Golf Club and stated that they should have enough money to get through the Winter. The Golf Club were looking to try to get payment from all the Companies using the mobile phone mast. David Pocock was having the same problem in Bryncreg and Mike Scott and he were working together to try and get more money from Vodafone. Cllr Eves mentioned that presently the CC did not have a representative on the Harbour Committee. Cllr B Woolley volunteered. FAT have requested a seat on the Board. They are awaiting approval. They meet in March and October. Cllr Roberts had been contacted by Andy King regarding the water running down Arthog Hill where the cars are usually parked. Sion Wilkes has been and inspected and confirmed that it does not affect the carriageway, so it is not a highways matter. Because of the course the water is taking it could in time affect the road down to the Cemetery. It is a situation that will need monitoring.

775: Representatives Reports: Cllr Haycock said that a meeting had been held in Llwyngwril regarding the Pygerall (check spelling). Two requests had been met favourably. Pygerall (check spelling) was a trust set up to aid young and underprivileged youth. The rent gathered from the donated field was put into trust. Later the field was sold, and the money was invested by the Charities Commission. The Parish lines have changed but the trust still existed. No action was needed.

776: Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 5th December 2018, to be held in Arthog Village Hall.

