

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6th MARCH 2019

824: The Chairman Opened the Meeting: Cllr Haycock stepped into the Chair and declared the meeting open at 7.10pm

825: Present: Cllr Haycock, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes, Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) H Neville and Clerk - Angela Thomas

826: Apologies Received: Cllr Thomas and Cllr (Mrs) R Stott

827: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: Cllr Roberts declared that he had tendered, as previously, for the footpath grass cutting contract. His tender was the only one received by the Community Council for this contract.

828: To Receive Any Special Announcements: Nil

829: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2019 in Arthog Village Hall: Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Woolley. The minutes were signed by Cllr Haycock, Acting Chairman.

839: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th February 2019. Nil.

840: Clerks Report: The Clerk reported that she had received an email from MEP Gill Evans that very day asking for a motion to be passed to **not** support a request from UK Government for a Welsh Community to host a nuclear dump. That community would be rewarded financially. Arthog Community Council passed a motion of support for MEP Gill Evans against a nuclear dump in any Welsh Community. Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley. The Clerk will write a letter. A notice of GC works for March had been circulated to all Councillors' and all had received it. An email had been received from the Welsh Audit office asking why the outstanding invoice had not been settled. A reply had been sent confirming that the Community Council had appealed the bill and that an outcome was awaited. Supporting documentation had been sent to the Welsh Audit Office. (Two) 2 tenders had been received regarding the Notice of Tender put in the Notice Boards in January. The Community Council was pleased to award the upkeep of the Cemetery and the War Memorial to Mr L C Jones, the only application, and to Mr P Roberts for the Footpaths, again the only tender. The acceptance of these tenders was proposed by Cllr (Mrs) Neville and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley. An email had been received from Ms H Cromarty who had been unable to access the November and December minutes. The Clerk had contact Elfed ap Gomer and now all seemed to be in order. Copies were forward to Ms Cromarty. At the last meeting the Clerk had been asked to send a letter of thanks to Keith Ivens NRW for early and successful completion of the Friog Corner Project. Unfortunately, since the letter was sent and, on the next high tide it was proven to have not been successful as the Friog Caravan Park was very badly flooded. Cllr Woolley said that a meeting had taken place with Greg Guthrie and NRW on site, but the outcome was unknown. The Clerk was asked to write to Keith Ivens and ask what was being proposed to correct this dire situation and in what time frame. The letter regarding the proposed 5.5% increase in Council Tax will be displayed in the Fairbourne Notice Board. This is the only notice board that can accommodate the 3 x A4 pages. This will be actioned asap. The Cambrian News had failed to come back regarding a request to publish this letter in the press. The letter of support for

Stuart Marsh, Heron Barn will be written in this coming session. The Clerk had been waiting for a copy of a letter received from NRW to Stuart Marsh. The Clerk now has all the necessary paperwork to commence a letter of support.

841: Special Items Brought to Attention: Cllr (Mrs) Hughes asked if she could make her report first in order to allow her to get away early as she had a mammoth Gwynedd Council Finance meeting the following day. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes started by saying that no progress had been made within GC about Footpath 13, Mawddach Crescent, because of pressure of other matters. Cllr Hughes opinion was that the Footpath 13 matter would possibly end up going to a Public Consultation. Cllr Hughes mentioned that the meeting tomorrow will be to discuss the rise in Council Tax which she will vehemently oppose. She will bring to the attention of the Chamber, the 92 million pounds that was lent to other local authorities and question why so little had been repaid. She reiterated that the 92 million was part of the grant from the Assembly for service within Gwynedd, most of which were looking to be cut or done away with completely. Cllr Haycock asked if Cllr Hughes would get backing from her side of the Chamber to which she said yes, but she also pointed out that Plaid Cymru are the dominant party and they will not oppose a rise in Council Tax. Cllr Haycock pointed out the GC seem to be unaware that when they increase the Council Tax, they also decrease the Services. GC do not appear to realise that the average waged person (£17,000) in North Wales cannot keep affording these rises in Tax only to receive fewer services, when all the GC Officers keep receiving pay rises and can afford the increase in Council Tax. Cllr Hughes said that she had managed to help with the sales of the Penrhoddyn House in Arthog (MMP) by providing a certificate and statement of proof that was needed to finalise the deal. It had been a very painful and protracted period for the original owner and new owners, who had threatened to pull out of completion. Cllr Hughes was also having a problem with a family in Fairbourne who were bombarding/trolling her with abusive emails. She will be talking to the legal officer within GC for advice. Cllr Hughes left the meeting at 7.30pm and business resumed as normal.

Urgent Review of Friog Corner – Cllr Woolley. Cllr Woolley reported that 2 weeks ago there was a high tide and the Caravan Park was flooded. Greg Guthrie was on site with the NRW. GG confirmed that the problem was not overtopping but one of undermining. GG said that the problem was nothing to worry about and that it would be corrected. The Contractors confirmed that they had carried out the work to GG's plans and specification. The problem therefore seems to be the specification proposed by GG. Cllr Woolley said that priority was to get it sorted asap and without any further adverse publicity for Fairbourne.

Review any Risks that could possibly affect the smooth running of the Community Council over the next Financial Year. Risks that include all assets such as seats/benches, bus shelters, notice boards functions etc. all banking matters, donations, events that are due to take place in the next 12 months. All Councillors' engaged in the conversation and all aspects were covered. Councillors' not in attendance will be made aware of potential risks at the next meeting. Councillors' Code of Conduct was reviewed, Councillors' not present will be made aware of the contents. Councillors' were asked to register any interests – Nil reported. The asset register had been brought up to date to include the new Dell Laptop purchased by the Community Council. As per instructions from BDO, assets cannot be written down, therefore the same as last year but with the addition of the Laptop. Councillors' were again made aware that the Clerk holds copies of the Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, and Code of Conduct. These points were Proposed by Cllr Woolley and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Neville as having been discussed.

The Councillors' were made aware of a communication from the Auditor General for Wales" 7th Annual report mid-way through review". This communication will be held by the Clerk but is available to all Councillors' for reference.

Donation Requests: A request had been received from both Village Halls, Friog/Fairbourne and Arthog. The current set of accounts were available for both and reviewed. It was proposed to grant £500.00 to each Hall as budgeted for in the 2018/2019 precept. For Arthog this was proposed by Cllr (Mrs) Neville and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Woolley, and for Friog/Fairbourne proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Neville. A request for a donation from the Wales Air Ambulance had been received and it was proposed to grant £50.00 as the Air Ambulance had saved many lives in the Community. This was proposed by Cllr (Mrs) Neville and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Woolley. A request for a donation had been received from the Meirionnydd Young Farmers which unfortunately the CC could not help with, likewise the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Eisteddfod had requested a donation, again the CC was unable to help.

Playpark Report: Cllr (Mrs) Neville confirmed that a visual inspection had been made in and all was in order.

The Clerk confirmed that now the Community Council had become an employer and the only employee was the Clerk, that the Tax Liability for 2018-2019 had been paid by the Clerk.

The Clerk made the Councillors' aware of two draft documents from GC/Anglesey joint development plan referring to dwellings and replacement dwellings in the Countryside. Cllr (Mrs) Neville and Cllr Roberts each too one half of the draft report and they will comment at the next meeting.

842: To deal with Any Correspondence: The Clerk brought to the attention the letter from Elfed ap Gomer received in December regarding the forgotten invoice for the Fairbourne Flood Plan. Mr ap Gomer had forgotten to submit the bill in January 2018 and asked that the CC looked kindly upon his "own goal". It was concluded that because the Website was the Fairbourne Flood Plan that the CC would send a cheque for the £135.00 as the budget was enough to cover it. Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Neville. At the same time the Clerk would ask Mr ap Gomer to try and make the Arthog Community Council Website more visible as several residents had said they were having trouble finding it. The Clerk had written to the Board of Governors for Ysgol Bro Idris proposing Cllr (Mrs) Stott as a representative on the Board. As acknowledgement had been received.

843: To Deal with Planning Matters: No matters to discuss this month.

844: Financial Statement and Report: A financial report was circulated to all Councillors' present and it was discussed in detail. The new Cemetery Account is now shown.

Cheques issued as follows: Friog/Fairbourne Village Hall £500.00. Arthog Village Hall £500.00, Wales Air Ambulance £50.00, One Voice Wales renewal subscription £252.00, Elfed ap Gomer £135.00, Angela Thomas £1573.35, wages, Office 365 and stamps/postage. All cheques from last month had been presented and cashed.

Current Account:	£8680.88
Cemetery Account:	£4000.00
Reserve Account:	£ 743.93
Youth Account:	£7717.10

A discussion needs to take place as to how the Cemetery Account will operate once the grass cutting season is up and running. Burials appear to have been replaced with more Cremations. The last burial was in May of 2017. This item will be placed on the April Agenda. Cllr Roberts pointed out

that the Fairbourne Amenities Trust had yet to submit their accounts for the current financial year before the £1000.00 set aside could be allocated to them. Cllr Haycock also pointed out that the CC was obliged to keep £4000.00 in the current account in case the need arose for an election of officers. Cllr Roberts reminded the CC that a renovation of the footpaths in the Cemetery was very badly needed for Health and Safety reasons. Cllr Roberts also reminded that a survey of the trees would be required this year. This needs to be discussed at a full council meeting.

845: To Receive Councillors' Questions: Cllr (Mrs) Neville questioned the speed limit signage at the Golf Club. Firstly, it shows the national speed limit 60 mph and then within 5mtrs drops to 30mph. Cllr Roberts questions whether the signs had been turned around. The current speed signage does not make any sense.

846: Representatives Report: Cllr Woolley reported on the Board Meeting held 29th April in Fairbourne. It was reported that Gwynedd Council said that the Master Plan had been completed and that no further Board Meetings would take place. Fairbourne Facing Change were thanked for their input and Gwynedd Council asked them to become ambassadors to promote the Plan in Fairbourne. Fairbourne Facing Change said no, they would not do this. Gwynedd Council said that after the presentation to Arthog Community Council in early May, that the Community Council may agree to becoming ambassadors. Cllr Woolley is advocating that the ACC do not agree to do this. The Clerk pointed out that it is already minuted from previous meetings that ACC is not prepared to put its name to anything that it does not agree with. Cllr Woolley said that at this moment in time it would be a waste of time and cause much misery to have a public meeting with ACC representatives on the top table with or without GC in attendance because most of the questions that will be asked are unanswerable. GC have not got a Masterplan that answers all the questions. For instance, if the Village is decommissioned where are people going to live? The only public meeting that should take place should be in the name of Gwynedd Council not Arthog Community Council, so that the CC will not be hung out to dry like last time. Arthog Community Council should be the ones asking the questions not heading up the Public Meeting. Arthog Community Council does not have the answers and should refuse to host a meeting. Fairbourne Facing Change is now being disbanded. Every possible thing is being done to contact all those people who donated to the fund. There may be some funds that will be made available to other causes once all options have been exhausted. The Barrister who initially said that he would represent Fairbourne free of charge was supplied with reams of paperwork but ultimately, he failed to let FFC that they had run out of time to make a challenge. In the end possible cost of any legal challenge became untenable and the individuals in FFC would have become personally liable. Coincidentally at a recent chance meeting with Greg Guthrie, Cllr Woolley asked GG who will make the decision to abandon Fairbourne. GG replied that it would be GC. The abandonment point would be half a meter rise and it would take 100 years at the current rate of sea level rise for this to happen. There is no proposed date now for this meeting. A resident of Fairbourne has asked for a reduction in the speed limit at the Friog Bungalows on the main road where there is a dipped curb. Ideally a speed camera would be the best result, but ACC have asked for a speed camera in Arthog and been refused. The CC has much sympathy with the resident but there is little if anything that the CC can offer. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley also pointed out that there is no drop curb at the miniature railway crossing at the Golf Club. The Clerk would contact the miniature Railway for comment. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm

847: Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 3rd April 2019 at Arthog Village Hall commencing 7.00pm.