

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL HELD WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL 2019

848: The Chairman Opened the Meeting: Vice Chairman Cllr Eves opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed all.

849: Present: Cllr Eves, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) R Stott, Cllr (Mrs) H Neville and Clerk Angela Thomas

850: Apologies Received: Cllr Thomas, Cllr Haycock and Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes

851: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: Nil

852: To Receive Any Special Announcements: Nil

853: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2019: The minutes were confirmed as correct and the Acting Chairman Cllr Eves signed them. Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Neville.

854: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th March 2019 - Nil

855: Clerks Report: The Clerk had received a letter from the Wales Audit Office confirming that the BDO LLP Audit did in fact warrant the billing of £511.95 despite an appeal. The Wales Audit Office did however confirm that there had been a small overcharge last year and that would be adjusted on this year's billing. The Clerk had written to Clair Pillman NRW reference Stuart Marsh and his problem with the ditches. An acknowledgement had been received and then a second letter saying that the situation was being monitored. It appeared that some work had been started (about 120mtrs, half a day's work) but not enough to solve the problem. Other ditches on adjoining land appear to run in a different direction (Pig Farm). Stuart Marsh is due to have a meeting with Clair Pillman shortly. Ditches should always be opened from the bottom upwards. The NRW have cleared some ditches from the top down which does not help. A letter had been received from North Wales Police warning of multimedia scams. A leaflet and letter had been received from the SNP inviting people to become interested in the Celtic Rainforest Wales. A request had been made to Elfed ap Gomer, the Website Controller, asking if it would be possible to make the Website more visible. He duly replied that he had been able to make it slightly more visible and easier to find, however, if the Community Council wanted further action it would involve a monthly subscription. It was decided at this moment in time to leave things as they are. The Clerk had received an email from Julian Kirkham asking if the CC were aware that the goal posts were damaged. Cllr (Mrs) Neville said that she would look to see if they were repairable or if the CC needed to order new ones. They are made from plastic piping and not really very strong. Julian Kirkham had also pointed out that the dog waste bin on a specific morning had not been emptied. However, there does not seem to be an overall problem with Gwynedd Councils operations and the system seems to be working well. An email had been received from Mike Scott referring to the charges being levied in the two car parks. His query was that there should be a differential between the costs. The CC took note of his concern.

The Clerk had put in the notice boards the Notice of Work to be carried out by the Contractor on the Outflow Station opposite the Golf Club. The Clerk will hold the copy of the works to be carried out and anybody concerned will be able to view the planned operation. A notice had been received from the Wales Audit office referencing the proposal to amend the Public Audit Wales Act. It was read to all Councillors' but no action was needed. The Clerk had written a letter to Vaughan Gethin at the Assembly indicating a concern about the proposed closure of the Cardio Vascular Unit at Wrexham Hospital. An acknowledgement had been received and a reply will be made in due course.

856: Special Items Brought to Attention:

The end of year Financial Accounts will be discussed and presented in the Financial Statement and Report.

The risk assessment was re-visited for Councillors' who did not attend the last meeting.

A discussion on the intended running of the Cemetery Account was touched upon but will have to be rescheduled for the next meeting when Cllr Thomas will hopefully be present.

All present were reminded that the Clerk holds the current copy of the Code of Conduct for Councillors'.

Councillors' were reminded to declare or register any conflict of Interest should it arise.

Councillors' were reminded that the current copy of Standing Orders is held by the Clerk.

Councillors' were reminded that the current copy of the Financial Regulations is held by the Clerk.

All the above points were proposed by Cllr (Mrs) Stott and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Neville as having been visited.

857: To deal with Any Correspondence: A letter had been sent from a Fairbourne resident to Cllr Thomas at his home address, unfortunately with no return address on it. The letter was from a concerned resident who had witnessed stones being removed from the beach. The letter was read to the Councillors' but no further action could be taken because no one knew of the person who had written it. An email had been received from GC Internal Audit office asking if the CC would be ready to submit the books for auditing soon. A reply had been sent back to say that the books would be ready just after the April meeting once the end of year figures had been presented to the Councillors'. The External Audit paperwork had also been received from BDO LLP. A letter had been received from the Fairbourne Amenities Trust applying for a donation towards the upkeep of the Toilets. An amount had been budgeted for by the CC. The FAT accounts were included in the application. The grant was proposed by Cllr (Mrs) Neville and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Stott. A cheque will be issued at the next meeting to the value of £1000. Two letters/mails had been received from Keith Ivens reference the ingress of water at Friog Corner caravan park, but no conclusion had been reached or any plan of action presented to avoid the same happening again.

858: To Deal with Planning Matters: Nil

859: Financial Statement and Report: All Councillors' had received the end of year accounts. The Clerk reported that to the best of her ability, all figures balanced and were correct and ready for the Internal Audit. The presentation of the accounts to the Internal Auditor was proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr B Woolley. A VAT claim will be prepared and sent to HMRC for consideration. Nothing unexpected had arisen during the financial year, except for the billing from Wales Audit office for the External Audit.

Current Account:	£5684.03
Reserve Account:	£ 744.04
Cemetery Account:	£4000.00

Youth Account: £7718.28

All cheques written last meeting had been presented so nothing outstanding to be carried forward to the start of the new financial year. One cheque had to be re-written because of a mistake made by one of the signatories. One cheque was presented for signature for the sum of £511.95 made payable to the Wales Audit Office. It was suggested that some minor repairs to the 2 Playpark swing seats could be paid for from the Youth Account along with the possible purchase of new goal posts. The initial sum of £5500 must be left in trust. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley said that there was a possibility of resurrecting the teenage youth club in the Village Hall in Fairbourne. As and when details are known there may be a possibility of using some of the Youth Account funds.

860: To Receive Councillors' Questions: Cllr (Mrs) Neville pointed out that on the corner plot of Penrhyn Drive North a considerable amount of rubble had been dumped. The Clerk confirmed that the land was owned by Philip Percival and she would try and contact with him in Hong Kong to ask if he knew anything about this. Cllr (Mrs) Neville also said that the Springfield was due to open at Easter and at this moment in time it will only open as a Public Bar. Fire Regulations and Building Regulations are yet to be passed. Cllr. Woolley reported that he had spoken to Kevin Wyatt at the model railway regarding the pavement step at the crossing opposite the Golf Course. A resident had asked if the step could be made level with the road to enable easier access for wheel chairs. The answer given was that it would not be possible for health and safety reasons as there was no barrier there to stop a wheel chair careering onto the road.

861: Representatives Report: Cllr Woolley attended the Harbour Committee Meeting and the following items were raised. (a) Gwynedd Council will not be dredging the Harbour. (b) GC wish to remove the two emergency telephones from Fairbourne beach. The Councillors' unanimously agreed that this would be unacceptable for Health and Safety reasons. This had also been discussed by FAT and they agreed that this was unacceptable. A letter will be sent by the Clerk voicing the CC's concerns. Cllr Woolley also asked why the Notice Boards had been removed. He was told that they were in a dangerous condition. The Harbour Master and Maritime Officer suggest that one notice board be re-instated and that the CC might like to become responsible for looking after it. This was agreed and a letter would also be sent confirming this. Lastly it was pointed out that the Flag pole at Penrhyn Point Amusements had been removed and the CC would like to know where it had gone. Cllr (Mrs) Stott suggested to hold a competition to design a flag by the pupils at the local junior schools', so we need the Flag Pole back. This would also be included in the letter. Cllr Roberts reported that due to the "No Overnight Camping" new signs at the Point Penrhyn, the camper vans are now parking in the turning loop near the hump. FAT asked whether the CC would pay for the same sign to go into the parking loop. The answer was yes, the CC would pay for a sign. Proposed by Cllr Eves, seconded by Cllr Woolley. FAT had also asked for white lines to be painted in the passing loop, Cllr Eves said that he thought it would be difficult to Police. Cllr Eves reported that the ramp project was still under way but that the plan had had to be reconfigured. Cllr Roberts reminded Cllr Eves of the suggestion that he made at the FAT meeting for a sign saying, "This Village has Toilets". It was suggested that the cost could be met 50/50 with FAT. Cllr Eves said that he would talk to Murray Dodds about putting the Fairbourne Miniature Railway sign back up. The last item on the Agenda this evening was raised by Cllr Eves. It was a letter from a resident, Michael Thrussell, which Cllr Eves read in full, who had concerns regarding Friog Corner and the improvement works. It was a lengthy letter with technical information and concerns. It was read and discussed at length. It was decided that the CC would write a further letter to Keith Ivens including the comments of the resident. One of the concerns contained in the letter was that if the ingress occurred again, GC could use this as a reason to accelerate the decommissioning of Fairbourne, whereas had the improvements been carried out to plan, assuming the plan were

correct, this would not have happened. Alternatively, the plans were inadequate for the job. Finally, a discussion was held regarding the reporter from the Guardian Newspaper who had contacted the Clerk of the CC asking if someone from the CC would be prepared to be interviewed and make comment about Sea Level rise and the decommissioning of Fairbourne. The reporter had already made appointments to speak to Lisa Goodier and the NRW and several people in the Village. Cllr Eves agreed to meet with the reporter to speak on behalf of the Community Council. Concern was raised over a supposed comment made by Lisa Goodier to the reporter, that abandonment would commence at the 25-year stage, Cllr Woolley said that during all the Board Meetings that he had attended a 25-year period had never been confirmed as a start date. Surely it was dependent upon sea level rise. Lisa Goodier confirmed, when asked, that the Mater Plan will not be presented to anybody (stakeholders) before the CC has had a chance to discuss it with her and have had sight of it. At this stage the CC will either agree to become ambassadors or to sit in the audience to be able to ask questions that have yet to be answered when the Plan is introduced to residents of Fairbourne, Friog and Arthog. **Arthog Community Council has still not had sight of the final Master Plan. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.**

862: Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 8th May 2019 in Fairbourne Village Hall commencing 7.00pm.