

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL HELD WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2019

944: The Chairman Opened the Meeting: The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm, he welcomed all Councillors and especially welcomed Bleddyn Edwards Jones from Gwynedd Council (CYLLID)

945: Present: Cllr Eves, Roberts, Thomas, Haycock, Wooley and Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes, (Mrs) J Woolley, (Mrs) B Stott, and the Clerk Angela Thomas. One member of the public was in attendance.

946: Apologies Received: Cllr (Mrs) H Neville

947: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: Nil

948: Bleddyn Edwards Jones from Gwynedd Council gave a presentation about the workings of the Rating Department within Gwynedd Council. He had come to try to answer questions that the Councillors had relating to the rating system and how the current bandings could be appealed because of the devastating effect that the announcement made by Gwynedd Council regarding the decommissioning of Fairbourne, and the effect it had had on the value of properties in and around the Fairbourne area. Bleddyn stated that he thought the residents of Fairbourne had a good case to make regarding the loss of value. The effect is well documented, and the selling prices of homes has fallen by some 40/50%. This is easily documented from Estate Agents figures. He offered all assistance to any appeal that might proceed, either on an individual basis or as a class action. He engaged with the Councillors for approximately 40 minutes. He was most helpful and very sympathetic to the anxiety that this has caused residents in Fairbourne. Bleddyn confirmed that until he read up about Fairbourne he had not fully appreciated the problem facing Fairbourne. The Chairman thanked him for his attendance and for his very good advice. It was agreed that this discussion was the most helpful and the most understanding received from Gwynedd Council.

949: To Receive Any Special Announcements: Congratulations were given to Cllr (Mrs) B Stott on the birth of her second baby girl. The Chairman gave a summary of the residents meeting held on the 29th October. Cllr Roberts said that it was a very very different meeting to the previous residents meeting. This time the whole village was behind the CC. Also, the Chairman reported that as a result of the meeting held in Aberystwyth the ditches were now being de-silted and were in a much better state.

Cllr Woolley asked if the report from Black & Veatch had been received. A copy of the July 2019 report was handed to Cllr Woolley for his attention. It was implied that a later report had also been produced, a copy had been requested. At a date in the future the CC will ask for an on-site meeting with the NRW regarding the ditches.

950: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2019: Confirmed and proposed by Cllr Roberts seconded by Cllr Thomas

951: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd October 2019: – nothing raised.

952: Clerks Report: Three planning consultations had been received by the Clerk via One Voice Wales from Welsh Government. The papers were too many to print and to download but the Cllr's were made aware of the contents. A reply had eventually been received from Lord Dafydd Elis-

Thomas reference a letter sent on the 2nd August. The reply was in fact a copy of the Lesley Griffiths letter that had been received by the CC at least 3 times prior to this one. BT had written to the CC about the closure and removal of underused telephone boxes in the area. Louise Hughes suggested that the box should be saved and used as a defib. base. Cllr. Louise Hughes said she will take up the cause and speak to BT herself. The box had been used 14 times in a 12-month period. It was suggested it could be used as a tourist information box by Cllr (Mrs) Woolley. A question was raised as to what had happened to the box in Arthog which was going to be used as a defib. box. Cllr Roberts will establish whether the Arthog box has been taken over by the community. Footpath 13 Morfa Frio. A letter had been received from the NRW confirming that the project was still ongoing. The NRW are working with GC to consider the impact on the public right of way. NRW do recognise the fact that the path becomes impassable. A survey has taken place. They will share with the CC as and when it is finalised. Gemma Evans has in fact established that the trekking center has the right of a bridle way and she has had a reply from the NRW. It would have been handy if the NRW had shared that information with us. The Clerk confirmed that she had written to Steffan Jones about the state of the Wesleyan Chapel and the foliage overhanging the wall and in fact the state of repair of the Chapel. As yet, no reply or acknowledgement had been received. Neither had the Clerk had a reply to the much earlier letter asking if Fairbourne could take out a bylaw prohibiting overnight camping (letter June 25th) within its boundaries. A programme of works by Gwynedd Council had been received and circulated. A letter had been received from St. Cynon's church had been received confirming that the church could be used in the case of a flooding event. As this point the Chairman asked if Councillors realised where it was proposed that GC would move residents to in the event of a flooding. Copies of the evacuation plan had been obtained from Lisa Goodier and they did not make for good reading. Limited copies are available from the Clerk. It is noted as "official Sensitive" but it was thought that a copy of this document should be circulated to all households. At 40 pages long it should be reduced to 10 pages to make it clear and understandable. Methane and Ethane being an example. All system go for Sunday 10th Remembrance day. The Clerk confirmed that a letter regarding the outcome of the residents meeting on the 29th October had been sent to Liz Saville Roberts. The Clerk also confirmed that she was starting work on the response to Fairbourne: A Framework for the Future. It was going to be a huge job.

953: Special Items Brought to Attention: Cllr Roberts informed the Councillors that the Vicar Lindsay Ford was retiring next year (April). It will be a great shame and he will be very much missed.

954: To deal with Any Correspondence: A letter had been received from a lady in the Village, as a result of an advertisement asking for residents to become Councillors. The letter was read, and it was agreed that this lady be invited to attend the next meeting in December to assess if she would like to become a Councillor. The Clerk was asked to reply. This was proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Haycock. A letter had been received from Power for People regarding a national energy campaign. The Clerk was asked to request more information. It is very difficult to engage with green schemes like this because of the SNP restrictions. It is also difficult for the CC because we do not have any decision-making powers.

955: To Deal with Planning Matters: A planning application had been received and circulated to all concerning no 3 Arthog Terrace. There were no objections. Cllr Roberts pointed out that due to the number of changes in ownership in the Terrace (now holiday homes) the number of cars parking on the left side of the road just before the Arthog Terrace has increased dramatically. On one bank holiday weekend in the summer holidays Cllr (Mrs) Stott said that 34 cars were parked right back to the footpath.

956: Financial Statement and Report: A copy of the financial statement to date was circulated to all. The figures balance correctly. Nothing unexpected had arisen. The cheque book was circulated

for signatures. The 3 cheques from October had all been presented to the Bank. Cheques for Internal Audit £180.00, L C Jones Cemetery £100.00, and £25.00 for the wreath were duly signed.

The Precept for 2020/2021. The budget figures for the current year were circulated and discussed at length. It was felt that an increase of £500.00 should be considered for 2020/2021. The Clerk pointed out several unforeseen costs. The Chairman would like to re-visit this topic in the December meeting. In light of having to place an advertisement for the Business Opportunity at the Golf complex (£200.00), and possibly having to pay for translations from English to Welsh on the Website, (£80.00 per 1000 words) the Councillors may have to re-consider an increase at the December meeting. Keeping in mind that a minimum of £5000.00 must be kept in the current account in case of an election, by the end of the financial year there would possibly be a small figure still in credit.

There will be some expenditure on the Playpark next year, £5500.00 must remain in the Youth Account the initial deposit, leaving only £2000.00 after paying for the Goal Posts. In the cases of a faulty piece of equipment it would have to be looked at quite carefully, as to how or if it was repaired or replaced. It was also discussed putting some basketball nets up for next summer in the tennis courts.

Proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Stott.

957: To Receive Councillors' Questions: Cllr Woolley asked whether a letter should be written about the Gold Award presented to YGC for their work on the Fairbourne Project. It was felt that it should be raised with Gwynedd Council, especially because it was presented in April, before the Consultation document had seen the light of day, ie 10th and 11th October. Cllr Eves pointed out that there were some loose slates in the retaining wall to the right of the cenotaph in Arthog. Cllr Roberts said that he would look at it. It was possible that loose sheep had dislodged the slate.

958: Representatives Report:

Playpark: Cllr Eves reported that the new Goal posts have arrived and been erected. They look really good quality and should last, with care, for a long time. They have already been used by the young people in the village.

The Pygyrallt. Cllr Haycock reported that the charity had been removed from the Charity Commissions list because it was deemed to be too small. The Charity is in a good financial position currently. They had received a couple of requests for £100.00 each and they had been paid out. A further request was declined at this time because the same requester had been paid out within the current 12 months. They were asked to re-submit next year.

The Golf Club: A copy of a proposed advertisement had been sent to all Councillors' for approval. Two questions had also been submitted to One Voice Wales regarding the legality of involvement of the Arthog Community Council moving forward with a new lease holder taking over the running of the Golf Complex. The advert was confirmed as being acceptable. It will be submitted to the Cambrian for insertion into next week's paper. Cllr Thomas said that he had been speaking with Bill Round and that the Fairbourne Amenities Trust would not be interested in taking over the running of the Golf Complex. Cllr Eves said that that was not actually be the case and that it was one member of the FAT committee had an objection. It would be a full committee decision at the end of the day. It was felt that the Golf Course could get back on track and in fact flourish again given the right management. The Mast income will keep the Golf Course on track for the immediate future.

Cemetery: Cllr Thomas said it would be better for the weed spraying to take place in the Spring.

The Harbour Committee meeting: Cllr Woolley attended, and the meeting had been conducted in English because Barry Davies was not there. The issue of the ramp was raised. Unbelievable it was said that having a ramp would “encourage people to use the beach”, and if people were on the beach and the tide came in then people would be cut off from the ramp!!!!!!!. It was felt that it could cause a problem. All at the meeting said “is this for real”. At previous Harbour Committee meetings a solution was always sought, now it would appear that every effort is made not to find a solution. The replacement Notice Board is under construction and will be erected sometime soon. The issue of the flagpole was raised and there was no outcome. The emergency telephones are still under review. If the Coastguard feel that it would be dangerous to do away with them then they will be kept. A decision has yet to be made. Dredging the Harbour will never occur because of environmental objections.

Cllr Louise Hughes said that the speed limit in and through Arthog was being reviewed. It was not quite clear what was intended because the map showing the changes was not detailed enough. No doubt there will be a planning application at some stage when it should become clear, but it will not go out for consultation.

The resident who had attended the meeting left so that the Precept could be discussed in confidence.

959: Date and Time of Next Meeting: 4th December 2019 to take place in the Fairbourne Village Hall.