

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH COMMENCING 7.00

1162: The Chairman Opened the Meeting: The Chairman Cllr Roberts opened the meeting at 7.05 and welcomed all those present.

1163: Present: Cllr Roberts, Cllr (Mrs) Salt, (Mrs) Woolley, Cllr Woolley, Cllr (Ms) Darvill, Cllr Louise Hughes GC. Cllr Haycock, Angela Thomas – Clerk. Observing Meic Birtwistle S4C

1164: Apologies Received: Apologies received from Cllr (Mrs) Neville, Cllr Eves. No apology received from Cllr Thomas

1165: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: No Interests declared.

1166: To Receive Any Special Announcements: The Chairman had been contacted by the Rev George, informing him that it was proposed to hold a service of Prayer for Ukraine on Wednesday 9th commencing 7.00 – 7.30 in St Cynon's Church and he had asked if a poster could be made, letting people know that fact. The Chairman also confirmed that he spoken to Bill Round who has kindly agreed to look at the notice board in Arthog with a view to making repairs at a cost price. This was gratefully received. The Chairman welcomed Meic Birtwistle. Meic had contacted the Clerk with a view to attending this meeting as an observer. Permission was not needed as all meetings are open to member of the public, however, it was pointed out that he would not be able to take part in discussions and would be asked to step out when the Financial Statement was discussed. Meic confirmed that he was sitting in to understand the way the meetings are conducted. The information that he gained would not be filmed and was to be in support of a documentary being made towards the end of the year.

1167: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2022: Minutes were proposed as correct by Cllr (Mrs) Salt and seconded by Cllr Woolley.

1168: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd February 2022: Cllr (Mrs) Salt brought to attention the fact that she had attended a Teams Meeting that morning about the HIA, in attendance Dafydd Gwynne and Meilys Heulfryn-Smith. The meeting was called with a view to setting up the parameters of the HIA. It will be desk based initially, then looking at contacting the Community and working with service providers, Nurses, Doctors, etc., but also going forward to offer additional services. Cllr Louise Hughes said that she felt jaded as the issue was long gone and promises from GC had not been met or kept. Cllr Mrs Salt said however that this exercise, financed by Welsh Government, will allow residents to have a conversation regarding their health and wellbeing. Cllr Woolley said that the SMP2 had created the problems, but it was pointed out that the HIA consultants will not be qualified to discuss climate issues. The Chair said that he felt a lot of positives could come out of this opportunity, however, he also pointed out that the consultants will be met with possible hostility by some residents because of the way this whole issue has been handled by GC since 2013. Residents are hacked off. In fact, what GC are proposing is making a whole village homeless and unless you have been homeless, they will have no idea of what effect that has on human beings. Cllr Mrs Salt said that one of the outcomes will be introducing "support measures" for the people of Fairbourne. Welsh Government will quality review the findings, there is also a "group" assessing climate change specifically on the Welsh Coast and their findings will be collated with the HIA. The findings will be the basis on which funds will or will not be made available to GC from Welsh Government for an OBC which will inform the residents of Fairbourne what their future will be and how it will be implemented.

1169: Clerks Report: The Clerk said that the **Risk Assessment and the Asset Registers** will be discussed this evening. Extensive conversation took place discussing possible risks of all sorts and it was concluded that all risks are covered. Proposed by Cllr (Mrs) Salt and seconded by Cllr Haycock. The asset register was also discussed in depth. All assets are good and in safe working order. Proposed by Cllr Haycock and seconded by Cllr B Woolley.

The renewal request from One Voice Wales had been received. It was proposed by Cllr (Mrs) Salt and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Woolley that membership be renewed. A cheque will be signed this evening. The Queens Platinum Jubilee had been raised by the Fairbourne Village Hall, Malcolm Flynn, asking if the ACC could take the lead in organizing something. It was discussed and decided that the ACC was not able to take the lead. A letter had been sent to Lowri

Norrington-Davies asking for a meeting with Welsh Government soon. James Morris has been promoted so a replacement is being recruited. However, a meeting is penciled in for early April, probably in the form of Zoom or Teams. Huw Williams GC had stated at the last meeting that new data was available indicated that climate change and sea level rise was more dire than had previously been thought. A request for his data source had been requested (twice). Huw eventually replied with the same statements that had been received in the past, ie nothing new, just worse case scenarios. He then forwarded a link to the IPCC report from the Guardian, which we had already seen. The IPCC report was careful in giving a range of scenarios, but also said that they did not have confidence in the upper figures given all the variables. The Clerk said that the Business Opportunity for grass cutting in the Kings Corner cemetery had been displayed for two months now and only one quotation had been received. It was decided to leave the notice in place for a further month. The quotation was for an annual expenditure of £600.00 per year. Proposed JH seconded JW. A letter had been written to Dafydd Gibbard reference the March 1st Bank Holiday, costing £200,00.00., asking was this the best use of money. A standard letter was received back basically saying "like it or lump it". Council Tax has risen by just shy of 3% which makes rather a mockery of the £200,000.00 costing. The Clerk had received a donation request from Air Ambulance Wales. She asked if we could again send £300.00. It was agreed. Proposed by CD seconded BW. The meeting called by Liz Saville-Roberts and Mabon ap Gwynfor will now go ahead on the 10th March.

1170: Special Items Brought to Attention: Election 2022 paperwork had still not been received. Cllr (Mrs) Salt asked what the position was about Cllr Thomas's nonattendance. This will be discussed again at the next meeting. Cllr Roberts said that he had talked to Cllr Thomas about the charges now being applied to the Cemetery account and that Cllr Thomas was needed to comment and on what was to be done. The Clerk pointed out that Stuart Marsh, Arthog and Colin White, Dolgellau, have been very active about the Dr Hall report. Stuart Marsh has collated all the reports and written a summary. This will be presented to Liz and Mabon at the upcoming meeting. The summary had been circulated to all the Councillors and a copy given to Meic Birtwistle on the understanding that this would not be made public to the wider population. He agreed. Coincidentally, Stuart Marsh's ditch had been opened and water was running. **Platinum Jubilee trees.** The SNP's offer of 70 saplings seems to have gone very quiet, just like other SNP opportunities that arise that we get enthusiastic about, apply for and then they do not proceed for the ACC at least. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley had suggested we purchase three mature trees for placement at the entry to Arthog, Friog and Fairbourne. The window of opportunity is rapidly closing for root-based trees. The logistics should be considered very carefully, and the Clerk would speak to the appropriate department. Speaking first to Adrian Williams, GC, for help. The Clerk will report back by email within the next week. The Chair suggest that the Cemetery might be an appropriate place to plant some trees.

1171: To deal with Any Correspondence: Covered earlier.

1172: To Deal with Planning Matters: No planning matters brought to the meeting.

1173: Financial Statement and Report: The report had been circulated to all Councillors via email.

The cheque book was circulated for signatures for the following cheques. One Voice Wales £249.00 renewal, Village halls both Friog/Fairbourne and Arthog £500 00 each, Ink Jets and Stamps £111.05 and the Air Ambulance donation £300.00. All cheques approved.

Current Account Balance	£8903.85	21 st February to 20 th March 2022
Cemetery Account Balance	£3270.00	
Youth/Playpark Balance	£6076.72	
Reserve/Election Balance	£4000.23	

A request was made to upgrade and increase the number of benches on the Promenade. This will be looked at. Permission was given to source the furniture and make a purchase. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr (Mrs) Salt. Also, a request was made to investigate the possibility of a telescope on the promenade.

A request was also made to upgrade the Community Council laptop which is not operating properly. It was agreed that the clerk should investigate purchasing a Mac Air. Proposed by Cllr Roberts, Cllr (Mrs) Salt, Cllr Haycock, and Cllr Eves. Permission given to go ahead and purchase.

One solution to reducing the balance in the current account could be to move a balance to the Playpark account which is facing considerable upgrading and emergencies in 2022/2023. A balance of £4000.00 must be kept in the Election account to cover the cost of an Election should it arise.

Each Councillor was asked to sign a declaration to confirm that they would not be claiming any expenses for 2021-2022 financial year.

1174: To Receive Councillors' Questions: Cllr (Mrs) Salt had no questions. Cllr (Mrs) Louise Hughes said that she had been asked by three people why the 300% increase on second homes was being applied. She said that she was at that time unaware of the proposal. As a Councillor she said that the reporting from GC to its Councillors was appalling. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes felt that this ruling was penalizing, especially to areas heavily reliant on tourists visiting. Seconded by Cllr Haycock. Cllr (Ms) Darvill said that she had read in the papers that this could increase to 400% next year if adopted by GC. Cllr (Mrs) Salt pointed out that this was a voluntary not a mandatory option to all Welsh Councils. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes said that she was not against a holiday/tourist tax per say. Cllr Haycock reported water running down (Waiting for confirmation of the exact area). NRW were not responding to the complaint made by the landowner. It also appeared that itches in Arthog were not being cleared/desilted or opened. Cllr (Ms) Darvill again reported that the pavement to the right of Francis Avenue and Penrhyn Bar and Grill was not safe for people in wheelchairs and people unsteady on their feet. Steffan Jones, Gwynedd Council had been notified last year but no action had been taken to date. A second email will be sent. Cllr Louise Hughes will also follow up on this point. Cllr (Mrs) Woolley revealed the winning flag, now ready to be flown. It looked excellent and will look lovely in the Summer.

Cllr (Mrs) Salt said that during the last storm there seemed to be no coordination between the various bodies. Sandbags were delivered by GC the following morning of the storm. The flood warden had to be reminded to close the flood gate at the Golf Club. She said that we need trigger points to activate these actions in the future. The Chairman said that he would speak to Mike Scott and Matt Burrows.

The Clerk said that Liz Saville-Robert's office became involved in the ditch issue as the ACC seemed to not be getting any replies to emails sent to various NRW officers. The ACC were still waiting for the programme of works for 2022/2023. The Chairman brought up the issue of the Ambulance Service locally and just how bad it has become. He sighted a very sad case in Dolgellau where, because of delay, a relatively young man had died because of delayed Ambulance arrival. Several cases were also raised by other Councillors. There seems to be a very serious issue within the Ambulance Service and how quickly an ambulance can be deployed to the 999-call maker. The Chairman said that we need to send a letter to our MP raising this very serious matter. Lessons do not seem to be learned despite the Emergency Services saying that they have been taken on board. It was pointed out that the operatives within the ambulance, the responders, do an amazing job once the ambulance arrives but it is the delay that is causing the problems in these rural areas.

1175: Representatives Report: Playpark – no report. Golf Club - A meeting had been held in the Glan Y Mor with Cllr Eves, Cllr Roberts and the Clerk, and some issues had been sorted. A meeting will now be scheduled to be held with James Green and Leo Mantle and then the AGM of Fairbourne Golf Club Limited should take place. The main concern is what would happen if the mast income ceased. Reports had been received regarding the "mess" around the Golf House. Fairbourne Amenities Trust - Cllr Roberts read a report. Window replacement will commence in the Promenade Toilets. The tarmacking had taken place at the Toilets at the Shops. The disabled toilet has now been completed. A complete and intact life ring had been picked up off the beach by Mike Thrussell. The Clerk asked what should be done with it?

1176: Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday April 6th at Fairbourne Village Hall, commencing 7.00pm. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm