

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 4th May 2022

1192: The Chairman Opened the Meeting: The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00 and welcomed those present. The Chairman, Cllr Roberts, had pleasure in welcoming Rhian Langford, resident of Arthog, who attended as a guest with a view to being co-opted onto the Community Council.

1193: Present: Cllr Roberts, Cllr (Mrs) Woolley, Cllr Woolley, Cllr (Ms) Darvill, Cllr Haycock and the Clerk Angela Thomas

1194: Apologies Received: Cllr (Mrs) Salt, Cllr Eves, GC Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes. An apology was also received from Sylvia Stephenson and Mike Thrussell, Ambassadors.

1195: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: No interests declared.

1196: To Receive Any Special Announcements:

(4a). A motion to reject the plans by Gwynedd Council to decommission Fairbourne Village, accompanying paperwork distributed to all Councillors present and shown with these minutes and on the Website. The statement was read in full to all those present by the Chairman Cllr Peredur Roberts and then opened for discussion. **The motion was passed unanimously with full agreement and support of all those Councillors present.**

4 (a) To Receive Special Announcements from the Chairman:

MOTION TO REJECT THE PLANS BY GWYNEDD COUNTY COUNCIL TO DECOMMISSION FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE

As part of the monthly May 2022 meeting of the Arthog Community Council held on Wednesday 4th May 2022, the above motion to reject the plans by Gwynedd County Council to decommission Fairbourne will be discussed and voted upon based on the following justifications.

Justifications include:

- The report by Royal Haskoning on which the decision by Gwynedd CC was based has now been contradicted by three other expert reports: Phillips (2017), Buss (2018), and Hall (2021).
- Royal Haskoning failed to collect necessary field data in Fairbourne, relying instead on a computer model of dubious accuracy.
- The work by Royal Haskoning is out of date, as it takes no account of the 2016 flood alleviation scheme which has substantially reduced the flood risk from the estuary and the Afon Henddol.
- Royal Haskoning appear to have lacked expert knowledge of coastal geomorphology, for example: in not appreciating that the shingle storm beach at Fairbourne is a natural structure in equilibrium with marine processes that will be built higher naturally by waves if sea level rises.
- There is a suspicion that the decision by Royal Haskoning was influenced by vested interest, as the company might benefit financially from participating in the decommissioning of Fairbourne.
- There is a suspicion that the decision was further influenced by bias on the part of Gwynedd CC, who appear to see Fairbourne as a village of holiday homes and English incomers. Fairbourne might be treated less favourably than a long established native Welsh community.
- Gwynedd CC have not properly considered the rights of Fairbourne residents and operators of businesses in the village. Apart from the disruption caused, there could be a massive cost in compensation and re-housing residents which may have to be met by Gwynedd taxpayers.
- Gwynedd CC have not properly considered the risk to the railway line if the coastal lowland is allowed to flood daily. Closure of the railway would have serious social and economic effects on communities from Aberdovey to Pwllheli.

If the motion to reject the decommissioning is passed by the Community Council, then the next steps might be:

- To make this decision known to the press and television media.
- To inform the relevant Minister in the Welsh Parliament and request an independent review of the decision to decommission Fairbourne. This should be carried out by persons with the necessary expert knowledge, but with no previous involvement with Fairbourne, Gwynedd CC or Royal Haskoning.

Reference was also made to Tan 15 and Julie James MS letter to all local authorities.

She states that she is “giving local authorities time to review or complete their plans reference flooding”.

See section 13 Resilient design: “Improving the resilience of communities at risk of flooding now and under climate change scenarios is a priority for planning authorities”

“New flood defence infrastructure is only intended to protect existing places and communities that are already at risk”

The complete letter and TAN 15 will be shown on the Website.

The Arthog Community Council has written to Julie James MS, asking if she could visit Fairbourne on the same occasion as her visit to the Dyfi Biosphere. To date the ACC has not received a reply. The Clerk will ask Mabon ap Gwynfor if he can intercede on our behalf.

Cllr John Haycock had spoken to Stuart Marsh, Heron Barn whilst electioneering. Stuart Marsh had suggested sending a copy of all documents relating to the above, Dr Halls report and Stuart Marsh’s summary etc., to all County Councillors. Judging by the lack of response from Julie James MS it was felt that this might not be the best idea, especially in light of the fact that until Friday 6th we would not know who our Councillor would be. If the appropriate MS does not reply to a letter sent would the County Councillors be inclined to also bin the reports because of Fairbourne overload. There is a fine line between maintaining interest and complete overload. Further discussions will be held on June 1st meeting when hopefully we will have full Councillor attendance and have a firm date for the meeting with Welsh Government, hopefully face to face in Aberystwyth.

Cllr Woolley suggested that we need to have a representative who knows how the world of politics works to work on our behalf. The suggestion was that Mabon ap Gwynfor would be the person to work with.

1197: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th April 2022, proposed: Cllr (Ms) Darvill and seconded Cllr Roberts.

1198: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th April 2022, no matters arising. The minutes were duly signed.

1199: Clerks Report: The Clerk reported on a meeting held in the Fairbourne Village Hall with Steffan Jones GC, Huw Williams YGC and Llion Pritchard YGC, the newly appointed Project Manager with Cllr (Mrs) Salt, Cllr Eves and Angela Thomas - Clerk. Introduction were made all-round and then Llion Pritchard introduced himself and expressed his aims and objectives for his term as Project Manager. The Clerk had written to Steffan Jones about the state of the road between the Cenotaph and Bryn Coch . The Chairman had a near miss with a motor bike, neither speeding, however the bike was stuck in the rut. We have asked for the work to be actioned sooner rather than later. The Clerk had written to both Village Halls about the rates charged. Fairbourne/Friog £5.00 per hour so £10.00 per session. Arthog is costing £15.00 per session, i.e., £5.00 more. The clerk was asked to write again and ask if a discount can be given to the ACC by Arthog Village Hall. The 10% parking scheme has still not been finalised. We have now lost out on 2 bank holidays. It is not understood what the delay is. Alan Wilde had not contacted the Clerk regarding the replacement box for the defib. A letter had been written to Peter Thomas thanking him for all his work on the Community Council over the years and a door was left open for him to return should he so wish. The Clerk had updated the Asset register. The Chairman signed the register as being correct. The financial accounts will be submitted to the Council Offices in the next couple of days. A report had been made to the ACC relating to a resident using the community bins for personal disposal of rubbish. This was discussed at length, but it was decided that at it as not fly-tipping there was not a great deal, if anything, that could be done to deter this happening. The Clerk had again been contacted by a neighbour of Megan Wilding to ask NRW if the ditch at the back of Megan

Wilding's house was in a good state of repair. The Clerk said that she would again, for the 4th time, try and get an answer from NRW. The Clerk asked all present to consider the budget/precept for 2023/2024. The Clerk circulated the suggested budget, and it was agreed by all that the Precept for 2023/2024 would have to rise to £14,000.00 because of the extra grass cutting commitments taken on by the Community Council in the second cemetery. So many farmers are moving over to set aside that the amount of grazing has decreased considerably, therefore making the grass cutting of all the Gwynedd footpaths a much bigger job. Walkers are also diverting off the official paths because of overgrowth. The cenotaph is also becoming more difficult to cut safely. The Clerk had again written to Barry Davies about the sunken boat in the estuary but had not received a reply. She had also asked for the red flags to be replaced again as they were shredded.

1200: Special Items Brought to Attention: The Chairman asked if Cllr Haycock were elected as the County Councillor would it restrict his activities within the Arthog Community Council. The answer was no.

1201: Election of Officers, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, Election of outside organisations. Carried over to June meeting.

1202: To deal with Any Correspondence: Discussed in Clerks report.

1203: To Deal with Planning Matters: No Planning matters to report.

1204: Financial Statement and Report: A letter had been typed to HSBC requesting to close the cemetery account and transfer the funds to the current account. This would/could be actioned because of Bank Account charges and because there have been no burials since 2017. This letter will be carried over to the June meeting and voted upon again in the next meeting. Also, to be considered is taking £2000.00 from the reserve account into the current account because we now know that election costs amount to £2000.00 not £4000.00. Again, this will be carried over to the June meeting. In addition, it was suggested that Cllr Georgina Salt be added to the authorized signatory list at the bank. The Clerk confirmed that she had received notification that the first half of the precept had been sent to the Bank Account. The VAT claim had also been submitted. There were three cheques to be signed, LC Jones £125.00, The Clerk Stationery £27.05 and £25.00 for flowers.

Current Account:	£ 4346.24
Reserve Account/Election Account:	£ 4000.51
Cemetery Account:	£ 3260.00
Youth/Playpark Account:	£ 6076.98

1205: To Receive Councillors' Questions: Cllr (Ms) Darvill said that the bench at the top of the path opposite Penrhyn Bar had been moved and it was blocking the emergency telephone. The Chairman said that he would look at it. The dog waste bin on the Promenade path just beyond the emergency telephone was also still the wrong way around despite requests to turn it. She also said that cyclists were using the Promenade path and endangering walkers' safety. It is a difficult one because the prom is part of the coastal path. It was pointed out by Cllr (Ms) Darvill that the steps at the Friog end of the footpath were very steep and in fact pushchairs and prams could not now access the Friog end of the footpath at all.

1206: Representatives Report: HIA, Cllr Salt will report at the next meeting. Golf Club. The Golf Club had been painted and the windows at the front replaced. It was looking much tidier. Cllr Roberts read the FAT report. The toilet path at the Shops has now been tarmacked and were looking very tidy. A quote was still outstanding for replacing the lightening to a more efficient system.

1207: Date and Time of Next Meeting: The Chairman asked Rhian Langford if she thought she would join the Council having attended the meeting as a guest and she said that she would. The Clerk asked Rhian to send an email and a letter could then be sent to her inviting her to join the Council. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

The next meeting will be held on 6th July 2022 at Arthog Village Hall if the issue of rental costs has been resolved.