

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 1ST JUNE 2022

1208: The Chairman Opened the Meeting: The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.10 with only 4 Councillors present at that time. Cllr Eves arrived 7.10 pm which gave 5 Councillors. The Chairman welcomed all.

1209: Present: Cllr Roberts, Chair, Cllr (Mrs) Georgina Salt Vice Chair, Cllr Haycock, Cllr Eves, Cllr (Mrs) Rhian Langford. Also present: The Clerk, Sylvia Stephenson Ambassador, Bryn Thomas prospective Councillor and a resident of Fairbourne, observing.

1210: Apologies Received: Councilor Cllr Ms Darvill.

1211: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: No declaration of Interest.

1212: To Receive Any Special Announcements: The Chairman acknowledged the passing of Mr B North and Mr K Thomas of Fairbourne Village, both stalwarts in the Village. The Chairman also acknowledged that the Arthog ward would not be complete.

1213: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th May 2022: The minutes were confirmed at correct, proposed Cllr Haycock, seconded Cllr (Mrs) Salt. The current Chairman Cllr Roberts signed the minutes as correct and then handed the Chair to Cllr (Mrs) Georgina Salt after serving 24 months.

1214: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th May 2022. Cllr (Mrs) Salt took the Chair. There were no matters arising. The new Chairperson did however give a breakdown of matters to date with regard to Dr Graham Hall's report and further reports that were circulating. The Clerk had been left off circulating by Huw Williams who was asked to rectify that matter. Cllr Eves said that he was concerned that Stuart Marsh was corresponding with Dr Hall directly rather than through the ACC, the Clerk said that she did not have any concerns. All decisions were directed through the FMFPB and ultimately through the ACC. One of the latest emails from Huw Williams appeared to have a rather threatening tone which was of concern. GC still appear to be very dismissive of the reports compiled by Dr Hall, Professor Phillips, and peer reviews. It is still felt that decisions are being discussed and made within Gwynedd Council without involving the FMFPB and the ACC. However, the Clerk said that GC would look rather inept if they made decisions without consultation because of the big push to form the Project Board and with the current Chair Cllr Eves being from Fairbourne Village. Sylvia Stephenson pointed out that there is an absurd anomaly and that is that Gwynedd Council seem to be taking the lead and making the decisions whereas it is in fact NRW that will ultimately make the decision. It appears that there is a difference of opinion between GC and NRW. The statements from Welsh Government and Gwynedd Council also appear to differ. Cllr Eves said that GC should have in the very first instance come to the Village and said there might be a problem in the future and dealt with it that way rather than straight into decommissioning in 2054. Cllr Mrs Salt said that Savills who have been selected to conduct the HIA are very much engaged and involved in Fairbourne and are taking a very professional approach by extremely well qualified personnel. Cllr Eves expressed his concerns about the HIA. Cllr Eves said that what is needed is an accurate costing for the defense of Fairbourne to 2054 and beyond. It was pointed out that the figure of £115 million had been quoted by Sian Williams, Head of North Wales Operations. The Chairperson said that she felt the FMFPB and the Workstreams had made good headway and it was hoped that the Workstream meetings would resume soon. Sylvia Stephenson

pointed out that Dr Hall felt now that we were entering a crucial time and that perhaps the community should think about engaging a solicitor/barrister. However, having gone down that road with FFC she said that it should be approached with caution as the capping of possible charges had expired before any action could be taken last time which would have meant that Fairbourne would have been liable for all costs if the action had not succeeded. Sylvia said that our MP and SM should be asked to take this forward to both Westminster and the Senedd. Now the Elections have taken place it is now perhaps time to ask both Liz and Mabon to become engaged again.

1215: Clerks Report: The Clerk reported that the cost of hiring Arthog Village Hall had been reduced to the same cost as Fairbourne to meetings will alternate. A letter had been sent to Cllr Rhian Langford welcoming her to the ACC and she had given permission for her details to be listed on the Notice Boards. The 10% Parking scheme agreement had just been received and was read to the Councillors. It was agreed that the ACC should go ahead with the scheme commencing g 1st June and payments will be received 6 monthly and 12 monthly with monies being received to be spend on. Benefits for all the Villages. Proposed Cllr Eves, seconded Cllr (Mrs) Langford. A Bill had been received for the replacement de-fib cabinet and a cheque was duly signed. On the 13th May the Clerk circulated an email from Rhian Elin George regarding the ramp. It was a difficult read and basically it is taken to mean that the ramp will never be re-instated. It is difficult to know how to move forward with this but it will not be shelved within the ACC. Cllr Roberts made that point that much is made of SSSI's regarding the ramp, but no consideration was given to SSSI when NRW made a breach in the inner estuary defenses. It was also pointed out that no environmental impact assessment had been made either relating to the breach. The breach in effect killed the Skylark nesting site. One rule for one and one rule for another. It was pointed out that Daniel Bryce-Smith said that the SSSI started from the end of Beach Road to the North. There is no SSSI to the South where the ramp would be located. Julia Wilson had sent an email to the ACC regarding issues within Glan y Mor. The issue being pavement, roadway, and lighting. Unfortunately, because it is an unadopted road Gwynedd Council are not responsible for the roadways within Glan Y Mor. It was pointed out that the ACC can only request but cannot implement change. It was confirmed that the sunken boat in the estuary has been banked and was in fact in one piece. The Insurance Company was dealing with it. The red flags had however, not been changed. Cllr Eves asked if a letter of thanks had been sent regarding the lifebuoy box. The Clerk said she would do that. The state of the road between the Cenotaph and Bryn Coch is now under traffic light control and has been for several weeks now. The Clerk was asked to write to Steffan Jones and asked when the work is like to be completed. The problem with the light is that they are not vehicle activate and it was felt that this was now a requirement in law because of Ambulance access etc. The Clerk had been asked to put to the Councillors a request for Hi Viz jackets for the Flood Wardens. This was voted upon and approved. It was felt that Waterproof jackets, walkie talkies and torches were also a necessity and that later in the year the ACC might be able to help with financing these items. The Clerk said that she would put this question to Mike Scott. It was decided that possibly the monies received from the 10% parking scheme could help with the purchase. Proposed: Cllr Eves, seconded Cllr Haycock. It was pointed out that various fundings was available for flooding schemes. The Amenities Trust could also raise monies by way of a flash auction. The Clerk asked for help with the Burial and Graves book numbering. Cllr Roberts said that he would assist the Clerk. The Clerk reported that the Cambrian News had faithfully printed the Motion passed at the May meeting on the front page of the paper.

1216: Election of Officers: Cllr Roberts suggest that officers remain in position for a further term. This was agreed. It was proposed by Cllr Eves and seconded by Cllr Roberts.

1217: Election of Vice Chair: Cllr Roberts suggest that Cllr Haycock take the Vice Chair and it was agreed. Proposed Cllr Roberts and seconded Cllr Eves.

1218: Election of Representatives to outside Organisations: It was agreed to leave as is.

1219: Special Items Brought to Attention: No special items brought to attention.

1220: To deal with Any Correspondence: No correspondence

1221: To Deal with Planning Matters: No planning matters.

1222: Financial Statement and Report: Due to circumstances changing within the Cemetery it was felt that the Cemetery Account should now be left open, as funds were to be received for three burials. If the monies in the cemetery account were to be transferred to the current account, it would mean that there would be too much money in the current account. It was agreed by those present to leave the account's as they are. The Clerk confirmed that the Grave Digger had submitted a bill for the first burial. Cllr Roberts said that Mr. A Owen, Grave Digger, does an excellent job.

The Clerk pointed out that the first half of the Precept had been received, £646.32 relates to the VAT Return, and £1612.00 is the cheque from the Funeral Home. £54.40 was a cheque re-issued because the first cheque was lost in the post, £481.44 is a cheque to pay for the new de-fib box made payable to First responders, a cheque for £155.54 was for Ink Jets for the Clerk, £590.00 is for John A Owen, the Grave Digger, £250.00 for L C Jones for the Cemetery 2 cuts. It was agreed that the balance left of the £1612.00 after the grave digger has been paid will be paid into the Cemetery Account.

1223: To Receive Councillors' Questions: Cllr Haycock had a question from Rupert Jones, Abergwynant, reporting that Gwynedd Council has funding to turn some of its Car Parks into 48-hour parking for Camper Vans, Touring Vans etc. French Style did the ACC know anything about this. The Clerk confirmed that no official notification had been received by the ACC. Morfa Mawddach was mentioned as one of these Car Parks. It was read that GC were proposing to use Car Parks within a quarter of a mile from towns. The question was asked how this was going to be paid for and were GC proposing to install charging points and washing and disposal facilities. The Clerk was asked to write to both Liz Saville-Roberts and Mabon ap Gwynfor for clarification. This proposal was very concerning as it would affect camp sites and caravan site that are legal and law abiding already in existence. It was mentioned that GC were preparing to pay millions to implement this.

A question was raised regarding the safety aspect of the road leading into Fairbourne, specifically the corner bend at Ynys Faig. Visitors and tourists and large lorries are taking the corner very wide, causing significant danger to all concerned. The Clerk was asked to write to Steffan Jones and request a mirror angled so that cars coming in and out of the corner can be seen by all drivers. A further danger point was exiting Stanley Road and turning right. The open reach box plus parked cars make it very dangerous indeed and a mirror at that location would ease the situation.

1224: Representatives Report: HIA: Cllr Mrs Salt reported that Savills had been appointed to conduct the HIA. She reported that they are a very solid company, quality assurance is paramount, the steering group meeting will take place soon, milestones will be reported upon along the way. She was confident that it will be conducted properly. It will be offered in both Welsh and English. Terms of reference will be set at the next meeting. Cllr Mrs Salt will make sure that everything is above board, and nothing will be conducted behind closed doors. She said that she was currently working on a profile of the Village. It was pointed out that Cllr Mrs Salt is carrying out most of the investigative work and is not being paid for it whereas everybody else is being paid as it is their full-time job. It was pointed out that Cllr Mrs Salt was doing their work for them, but at least this way

they will get a true picture of life in Fairbourne. One statistic that was found is that more people in Fairbourne speak Welsh than the National Average. Golf Course. Cllr Eves reported that the Golf Club has been tidied and smartened up dramatically and that the green was looking fantastic. The Golf House was also looking great. James Green and Leo Mantle are investing heavily in the project. Fairbourne Amenities Trust. The first meeting will be held next Monday evening. Cllr Roberts read a report submitted by Mike Scott. White lines had been painted at the exit and entrance of the Promenade Car Par. Toilet signs have been erected. The maritime office has been asked to remove some of the gorse that is obliterating the site of line when leaving the carp park. A special thanks should be given to Sean Wilkes for his work and efforts in getting these jobs completed. It was suggested that a sign on the Main Road indicating that toilet facilities are available in the Village would also be a good idea.

Councilor Roberts said that the Cemetery was looking very, very tidy, and that Mr. L C Jones does a fantastic job. Cllr Roberts also said that the rate of growth of the grass this year was phenomenal and a lot more cuts would probably be required.

A question was asked regarding Arthog Church and whether it was still proposed to put the Church up for sale. No replies had been received to the letters written just prior to the start of Covid. The reigns have been picked up again by the residents of Arthog. Now it would appear that no decision has been made about its future.

Cllr Roberts asked Bryn Thomas if he was interested in coming on board the Community Council to which the answer was yes, Cllr Roberts also asked if Bryn Thomas would be prepared to take over the Cemetery from his father and the answer was also yes.

1225: Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday July 6th at Friog Village Hall, commencing 7.00 pm.