

## ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PLUS ANNUAL REPORT, HELD AT THE FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024

**1538: THE CHAIR OPENED THE MEETING:** The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.05pm. and welcomed all in attendance.

**1539: PRESENT:** All Councillors were present plus two observers from Fairbourne.

**1540: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** No Apologies

**1541: COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** Cllr Green – Golf Club

**1542: SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR:** No special announcements although the Chair did note that it was a pleasure to see all Councillors present.

**1543: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024:** Proposed by Cllr Langford and seconded as correct by Cllr Roberts

**1544: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024:** No matters arising; therefore, the Chairman signed the minutes off and stepped down as current Chairman. Thanks were given to Cllr Haycock for sitting in the Chair for the past year.

**1545: ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN AND REPRESENTATIVES:** Cllr Mrs Langford proposed Cllr Roberts for the position of chairman for the following year, this was voted in unanimously. After discussion, Cllr Thomas agreed to sit as Vice Chair, this was again voted in unanimously. All current representatives agreed to stay in position. Cllr Puddick is now Flood Warden representative on the ACC as well as being Head Flood Warden. Three new positions were proposed, ie Playpark Representative, Keeping Fairbourne looking smart and tidy Ditches and Waterways.

Cllr Claire Troman and Cllr Narraway were voted in as joint representatives for the Playpark. Because the ditches and waterway are such a huge job and responsibility it was agreed that all would be engaged and the same for Keeping Fairbourne Clean and Tidy. Ideas will be welcomed from all Councillors.

**1546: CLERKS REPORT:** The Clerk started her report by asking all present if they had received copies via email of the Current Standing Orders, the Code of Conduct and Model Financial Regulations. All Councillors said they had received copies and had reviewed them. The risk assessment was discussed and agreed by all. The register of Interests stayed the same with just one Councillor with an Interest. The asset register was reviewed and agreed by all. The Certificate of Insurance was current and will be renewed in November as per usual. The biodiversity statement will be updated on the Websites. All documents have now been renewed and reviewed. The new listing of Councillors will be updated and put in the Notice Boards and on the Websites. The Clerk asked Cllr Haycock to agree the Accounts that were then to be sent to the Internal Auditor at Cyngor Gwynedd. Cllr Haycock duly signed all document. The clerk confirmed that the ROSPA Inspection of the Playpark and Tennis Courts would take place this month. The state of the chain link fencing is known to be not good, however, the cost of replacing the whole fencing would be prohibitively expensive. The idea of the rigid fencing panels was again discussed, and quotations will be applied for, for the appropriate number of panels needed. Thanks were given to Cllr Evans for arranging to cut the grassed area opposite the Penrhyn Bar and Grill. It now looks much more inviting to visitors and residents alike. Cllr Evans will submit a bill for the work carried out to cover two persons. Thanks, were also expressed to Cllr Evens who secured the contract for the two beach shingle paths. Both paths were in place for the Whitsun Holiday week and currently both being used. A suggested new sign for welcoming visitors to Fairbourne had been circulated and the preferred design was agreed by all. The Clerk is wiring for a quotation for the proposed costing. Cllr Evans will construct a flower bed base ready for the sign. This will be placed on the main road but on his land. He will bill the ACC for the construction. The proposed sister/twinning with Fairborn in Ohio USA is commencing, possible incurred costs are also being discussed. The residents of Fairborn Ohio, via their mayor, are extremely enthusiastic for this to go ahead as are the Arthog Community Council. The Clerk is waiting to hear back from One Voice Wales regarding possible costs. If this is the case, then the new signage will have to be considered with a possible addition of the sister/twin information added. The Clerk asked Cllr Green is he needed to declare an interest in the Bowling Green and the possible conversion to allotments. Cllr Green replied that he did not need to declare anything. The inevitable subject of campervans/mobile homes was discussed at length. It seems impossible to stem the flow or people parking up at the Penrhyn Point and on the Promenade despite adequate signage stating that there is no overnight parking. A possible solution would be to investigate the possibility of a Private Parking Company taking over control of the area. Obviously, a solution would have to be found to locals being able to access the area without having to pay each

visit. The clerk will ask for this to be put on the agenda, of the next Fairbourne Partnership meeting. The Clerk asked Cllr Puddick if there had been an outcome to his reporting a dangerous dog located on Glan Y Mor. It had been reported to the Police and Cyngor Council. The Clerk had been asked by the Town Clerk of Barmouth to help with the clearing of sand off the Morfa Mawddach end of the railway path. The Clerk contacted Network Rail and was informed the fact it is a Cyngor Gwynedd issue. Once again, the traffic lights on Friog Hill were not synchronized and causing issues. Louise Hughes reported that hopefully by the end of the month CG will have secured funds to replace the barriers with a wall in keeping with the rest of the barrier. The Clerk had been contacted by two people regarding overgrown hedging, both in Fairbourne and Llwyngwriol. The Clerk wrote to Steffan Jones, and Adrian Williams, CG, who have asked Sion Wilkes CG to investigate and take action where necessary. An inquiry had been received by the Clerk by scouts for SKY TV to discuss the possibility of using some location in Fairbourne and the Mawddach estuary for filming a proposed murder mystery. The Clerk had canvassed the Councillors, who were all in favour of this going ahead if the locations proved to be what they wanted. The Company is very mindful of not revealing that the location was specifically Fairbourne. All care will be taken with every aspect should this proceed. The clerk had been told by Kevin Wyatt of the miniature railway that the new picnic bench and table hopefully will be placed on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

**1547: TO DEAL WITH ANY CORRESPONDENCE OR PHONE CALLS:** No correspondence.

**1548: SPECIAL ITEMS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION:** Covered in the Clerks report.

**1549: PLANNING MATTERS:** No new planning matters.

**1550: FINANCIAL MATTERS:** The Clerk asked Cllr Haycock, Cllr Roberts and Cllr Mrs Langford to kindly complete new mandate forms for setting up on line banking. A total of four signatories will be authorised to ask the RFO to make payments via the internet. Dail Dysynni have asked for a possible donation to continue the printing of the Welsh Newspaper. This was agreed and passed unanimously and a cheque for £100.00 will be raised. Fairbourne Amenities Trust submitted a request for the annual donation, and it unanimously agreed to donate £1000.00. A cheque was duly signed. A cheque to the value of £125.00 was signed for the cemetery grass cutting, £25.00 for the flower beds made out to Mike Scott and £58.00 for the purchase of a ream of A4 paper and Inks for the Epsom printer.

**1551: COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:** Cllr Mrs Langford asked again if SNP could be contacted and asked to put up some signage on the Mawddach coastal path, indicating such things as parking and also informing people of the name of the Village Arthog. The Clerk said she would write again and ask. CG Councillor Louise Hughes said that she had been contacted by a young member of the community regarding the outfall pipe opposite the Golf Club. There was concern that raw sewage had been pumped out recently. Although we expect better from Dwr Cymru it appears that they are just as bad as all the other water companies. Cllr Narraway said that there is a website that actually tells you when there has been an incident and that he was aware that this had happened. Cllr Puddick gave a run-down of progress so far in trying to re-establish the flood wardens scheme. He is trying also to update the vulnerable list of residents in Fairbourne. He is liaising with NRW and CG. Cllr Evans said that he would be cutting the grass again in front of Penrhyn Bar and Grill. Cllr Haycock said that Fast Fibre was still progressing, and completion would be before the end of this year.

**1552: REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:**

**FP:** Next meeting is July 5<sup>th</sup> and the Clerk will report back.

**Cemetery:** Nothing to report.

**FAT:** All seemed to be in order.

**Harbour Committee:** No agenda or minutes received.

**Golf Club:** Lengthy discussions took place and the set up and association between the Golf Club and the ACC was explained to the newer Councillors. A meeting has been called by Stuart Eves for the 12<sup>th</sup> June at which time it is sincerely hoped that an Agreement can be redrawn up and agreed as satisfactory to both parties and put this sorry state to bed once and for all. The Clerk said that both parties, i.e. Stuart Eves and the Golf Club, James Green and Leo Mantle should have pressed to get this issue signed and sealed years ago.

**Playpark:** Cllr Narraway said that he had been monitoring the equipment in the playpark and some of the nuts and bolts were in need of replacement. The Clerk asked Cllr Narraway to email her with a true description of the parts needed and she would contact G L Jones.

**1553: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** The Chairman Cllr Roberts asked the Clerk if she would kindly leave the room. Upon returning the Clerk was really pleased and surprised to be told that all had unanimously agreed to a raise of £1000.00 in salary, commencing July. The Clerk will draft a letter for HSBC. CG Councillor Louise Hughes said that she would not be standing in the upcoming election as 6 weeks was a ridiculous amount of time in which to prepare.

**1554: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July in Arthog Village Hall.**

## **IN CONCLUSION: APRIL 2023 to MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> 2024 – ANNUAL REPORT**

In many ways this year has proven to be quite difficult. We have had three resignations and very sadly one passing. We have however, been able to fill all the four positions quite quickly so we are now back up to full strength.

When the HIA was conducted and then concluded there had been some expectation that Fairbourne may qualify for some funding for the community, however, three submissions were made and all three were rejected which was extremely disappointing. Many ideas came out of the HIA but none have been realized and this is of course due to a lack of funds being available.

We now accept that the ramp will not be rebuilt, however, the next best thing has been a tamped down shingle pathway which last year proved to be invaluable. This year there will be two paths which will make accessing the beach all the more accessible.

The confusion over the dog zones was made even more difficult because the old signs on the sea wall and the Cyngor Website had not been updated. All is resolved now, and the areas are clearly defined. There will always be residents who do not agree with the rules, however, it should be noted that these are not the ACC's rules but Cyngor Gwynedd. The ACC is responsible for ensuring that they are clearly defined and hopefully understood.

The ACC has purchased more promenade furniture and furniture has also been placed at the Shops and on the Miniature Railway Holt. The ACC will continue to try and keep all three Villages looking bright and uplifted.

One of the aims this year is to get the Flood Wardens Scheme back up to speed. A new Head Flood Warden has been appointed and he will be trying his best to recruit new volunteers. Now that 2054 and decommissioning have been removed from our thoughts it may be that residents feel that there is no need for a scheme, however, it's always good to be prepared.

As always, the monthly meetings of the ACC are open to residents of all three villages to sit in as observers and the Agenda and Minutes are available on the ACC Website in both English and Welsh.

Hopefully by the end of the year all three Villages will be benefiting from Super-fast Fibre. We keep our fingers crossed.

A further defibrillator will soon be placed at the Primary School in Friog. This is great news.

Lastly look out for the new bright and colourful Welcome/Croeso to Fairbourne sign.

Angela Thomas - Clerk