

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE GANOLFAN, ARTHOG 1st March 2017

474. Present: Cllr P Haycock, Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes, Cllr J Kirkham, Cllr (Mrs) D Hughes, Cllr P Parker, Cllr P Thomas, Cllr P Roberts Cllr M Scott (Acting Clerk)

475. Apologies: Cllr S Eves

476. Declaration of Interest: None

477. To Receive any Special Announcement from the Chairman: The Chairman wished to welcome Mr Will Williams to the meeting to oversee the proceedings with a view to taking over as the Community Council Clerk on April 1st 2017.

478. To confirm: The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 1st February 2017. The Minutes were passed as being a true record with the exception that £60K was spent by the NRW and not £15K. They were proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Thomas.

479. Matters Arising: The Clerk wished to point out that the date of the Governance Meeting and the venue for the event had changed as the Chairman of the FMF, felt that it should be held later in the Spring. It will now be held on Wednesday 24th May 2017 at the Fairbourne Golf Club. Lisa Marshall had also said that the Moving Forward Board should also consist of a member from the Business Community and also a member from one of the residents of the village in addition to those persons from Arthog Community Council and Fairbourne Facing Change. In all cases no members should have dual membership etc.

Lisa Marshall said that she would put information out via facebook and letter drops to all the residents of Fairbourne and not the holiday homes. She would also seek interest from anybody that came to her 'drop in' sessions on the Fridays in March at the Fairbourne Railway. The elections of these officers would take place after the May elections.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Executive of the NRW complaining of the money that had been spent on Friog Corner which has had little or no effect at all. This money had been wasted when it should have been spent on putting something in place at Friog Corner and prevent Long Shore Drift and the damage that has been caused to the Slipway at Penrhyn Drive South. The letter was to be sent by recorded delivery. Proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Kirkham.

480. Clerk's Report: Letters that had been sent out to various Departments within Gwynedd, but the only replies that had been received back were regarding the Salt Bin up Gregennan Road, the Kerb Stone in Penrhyn Drive South and the Fly Tipping in Penrhyn Drive South which had now been passed on to the NRW.

The Clerk had received a letter back from the Editor of the Welsh Coastal Magazine

indicating that they would do a feature about Fairbourne but no indication had been given when, but it would consider in general those seaside villages that suffer from Coastal erosion. They had been given the dates of when the main events were happening in the village.

The Clerk had received a call from John Meirion Davies (NRW) to confirm that the signs that were at each of Morfa Friog were actually owned by Arthog CC. The NRW had attached safety warnings aimed at members of the public walking Footpath 13. He had asked for me to confirm that this was still the case. The Clerk was unsure but during a further conversation John Davies had found a letter from the previous clerk that Arthog CC did in fact own the sign. Cllr Dorothy Hughes said that 'fact' was incorrect as the Maritime Agency owned the sign and that Arthog CC made a contribution towards the cost of it. The Clerk was to inform the NRW of this.

481. Specific Items brought to Attention:

a) Footpath 13. Nothing further to report, however Wyn Williams is trying to set up a meeting with the NRW, GC and ACC. Just have to wait and see now.

b) Slipway Collapse: Cllr Scott had spoken with Barry Davies (Maritime Officer) and he indicated that a short term solution would be to remove the sunken centre pieces of concrete and then fill the hole with concrete, He felt that the Community Council should support the Maritime Officer. If we do not have access to the Beach, then tourists etc will go to a location where they can get access to the Beach such as Barmouth or Tywyn. This would not be good for the economy of Fairbourne and as the Clerk had saved the Community Council £800, that this money should be made available to the Maritime Officer. It was proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Kirkham. Cllr Parker wished to make an amendment to the proposal, that this money would only be given to the Maritime Officer when the repair was to take place and not before. This was seconded by Cllr D Hughes. A vote was taken on the amendment and was carried unanimously.

c) Penrhyn Point Update: Cllr Scott had spokento Barry Davies about the ongoing problem and had rung the Legal Officer several times without getting a reply. He had since found out that he had been on holiday and he had a reply to his emails. The Legal officer has asked to be furnished with as much documentation and as many photographs as possible which he will do so by early next week. Regarding the gate to be erected just before the Slipway, Cllr Scott has had to widden his tendering process, due to the present persons being used for the Information Boards etc being either too busy or would have to hire in machine equipment.

d) Flood Plan & Website Update: Cllr Scott has been asked by the North Wales Police and Fire Service to put on a Stand at the forthcoming North Wales Resilience Flood Forum to be held at Venue Cymru, Llandudno. The idea is to showcase the website to other Communities that are in a Flood Risk area. As there would be a cost in preparing material for the stand, Cllr Scott asked for help from Lisa Marshall both in providing a Stand and photocopying various

items as well as photographs etc. We would be sharing the Stand with Fairbourne Moving Forward. Cllr D Hughes said that Cllr Scott's travel expenses should be covered and Cllr L Hughes said that the Gwynedd Council mileage rate paid, was 45p per mile.

e) Information Boards: Presently the Plan is with the Welsh Translator at the Council Offices in Dolgellau. Unsure as to when the translation will be ready for Sign Creation

482. Correspondence: The Chairman had been informed by a resident of Arthog, that there was building activity going on within Capel Seion. The Clerk was asked to write to the Gwynedd Planning Officer alleging that there may be changes going on within the building to convert the inside to flats or a bunkhouse which is what had been heard. The Council expressed their concern as well as the septic tank was only suitable as a toilet of a Chapel etc. Gwynedd Planning Authority then informed the Clerk that, as the Capel Seion came within the Snowdonia National Park, it was their problem. The Clerk informed the SNP, who said that they would look into the matter. Letters had been received from organisations regarding donations. All these applications were to be left until after the elections.

A resident of Glan y Mor had contacted the clerk regarding the rubbish that was being blown around the area where she lived and that many people do not have the correct recycling bins etc. The CC felt that it was not the CC 's problem and this person should write to Gwynedd Council and ask them to deal with it.

A letter had been received from the Regional Emergency Planning Officer who deals with Community Resilience. It was suggested that she be invited to come to speak to the Council after the elections.

The Clerk had received all the Election Nomination papers and Councillors would fill them in at the end of the meeting. Cllr D Hughes, Cllr P Parker and Cllr M Wiles would not be seeking re-election and would be resigning.

483. To deal with any Planning Matters: Three applications had been received for Council to consider. Photographs were provided of the properties in question: New Inn in Friog, Abergwynant Farm, Plas Henddol Friog and Aberdwyafon, Arthog (Close to Morfa Mawddach Station). There were no objections to any of the proposals.

484. Financial Statement and Report:

Current Account Stands at	£3031.08
Business Reserve (Youth) Account	£7,707.62
Business Reserve	£4,738.41

The Clerk had spoken with Sharon regarding the reclaiming of Vat for 2015 – 2016 as there was no evidence a claim had been made. I duly went through the records and have sent off a claim for £517.63 to HMRC. I have also sent off an additional claim

for 2014 – 2015 for £92.44. Sharon had made a claim for 4 items totalling £557 for this period. She also said that she had not had any help in claiming vat back during her term office despite requesting it from the previous clerk! I could go back to 2013 – 2014 and spoke to BDO (Auditors) who said that you can only go back up to 3yrs. This time is almost up and it would be very difficult to unravel as to how Susan Jones carried out her analysis. The present claim for 2016 – 2017 stands at £125.89. I have managed to sort out a bill system with Vodaphone and they will send printable statements each month.

The following payments were due to be made: Wales Audit Office £374.55
One Voice Wales - £210, M Scott (Clerks Expences) £97.89. Vodaphone £12.60.

There was also an invoice from Gwynedd Council for £8,000 for the keeping open the two Public Toilets in Fairbourne. The Community Council had returned a form last year to say that we did not have the funds to keep them open. Cllr L Hughes would take the form away and speak with the head of department and come back to the clerk.

485. Representative Reports: Cllr D Hughes had attended an Old Peoples Commission meeting in Dolgellau which deals with people aged 60 and over. They deal with people that have problems with their Health and Wellbeing as well as their state of mobility and how they get about. In addition, they also expressed concern about the closure of toilets etc

She also pointed out that all Councils from 1st April will have to be on PAYE and that whenever CC Clerks get in touch with BDO, that they make a list of questions that they wish to ask and make a note also of the length of the call and to whom that they were talking to. Many Councils had complained about BDO and were not happy with the service they were being provided with.

486. Representative Reports: Cllr Kirkham said he was due to attend a meeting of the Harbour Advisory Meeting in Barmouth next week and would bring the meeting up to date with the Penrhyn Point issues.

Cllr P Parker informed the meeting that Cllr Wiles had resigned as being Chairman of FFC and he would be Acting Chairman until such time as a replacement could be found.

Councillors were provided with Registration Forms for the Community Council Elections in April. The following Cllrs would not be seeking re-election, Cllr D (Mrs) Hughes, Cllr P Parker & Cllr M Wiles

487. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 5th April 2017 @ 7pm

Meeting closed at 9.10pm