

## ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

**1242: The Chair Opened the Meeting:** Cllr Mrs Georgina Salt, Chair, opened the meeting at 7.05pm and welcomed all present. She said that she was hoping for a slightly less manic few months now that the holiday period was almost over.

**1243:** The Clerk was asked to leave the room for the moment. Cllr Eves proposed that the Clerk should receive a pay rise with an increase of £500.00 per annum which would be back dated to May 2022. Cllr Roberts said that this had been proposed as he stepped down and Cllr (Mrs) Salt took the chair. Unfortunately, the pay rise had not been implemented due to Covid and other reasons. It was proposed by Cllr Eves and seconded by Cllr Roberts. The Clerk was asked to return to the room and informed. The Clerk was duly pleased and grateful for the increase in wages.

**1244: Present:** Cllr (Mrs) Salt, Cllr (Ms) Darvill, Cllr (Mrs) Langford, Cllr (Mrs) Woolley, County Councillor Louise Hughes, Cllr Haycock, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Eves, Cllr Woolley, Cllr Green, Cllr Thomas, and the Clerk

**1245: Apologies Received:** No apologies

**1245: Councillors' Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Green declared an interest in the Golf Club.

**1246: To Receive Any Special Announcements:** Slightly out of order the issue of cleaning the ditches was raised and Cllr Eves as Chair of the FMFPB said that during the meeting in Aberystwyth with Gwynedd Council and Welsh Government Officers, this was discussed. He suggested that Arthog Community Council take control of cleaning all their own ditches, with a transfer of funds from NRW. This was to be taken forward. However, Cllr Thomas who attends the IDD meetings said that this in fact would take an act of Parliament to implement this change. He pointed out that this had been explored before by a different party and nothing had changed to date. He thought it improbable that ACC would be granted permission to see to its own ditch clearing.

GC Cllr Louise Hughes had not met some of the new Councillors and asked for an introduction around the table.

**1247: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022.** Minutes were confirmed as being correct. Proposed by Cllr (Mrs) Salt and seconded by Cllr Eves. The Chair signed the minutes as correct.

**1248: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022.** No matters arising.

**1249: Clerks Report:** The Clerk reported she had received an email from Bethan Edwards, Arthog Horticultural Show and Carnival, asking for a donation to cover the expense of the Public Liability Insurance. Cllr Roberts asked if a balance sheet had been submitted but the answer was no. The Clerk was asked to request a balance sheet from Bethan, and it would be carried forward to the next meeting for discussion. Cllr Eves noted that no fliers had been circulated, had it been more widely known the attendance would have been even better. The Clerk had also received a request from the first responders for a donation towards a new defib battery. The Clerk was asked to request a balance sheet, and this would be forwarded to the next meeting. Cllr Eves said that this was a very worthy request, but the procedure required sight of a balance sheet. Cllr Eves suggested that it would be a good idea to have a first aid course run in the Village to enhance the first responders. This seems to be more and more necessary because of the delay in Ambulances arriving after a call. He said he would be prepared to co-ordinate the course if the ACC was prepared to pay for use of the Village Hall for a course. The first responders were called into action in the last two weeks, and they were praised for their actions and their calmness in dealing with what turned out to be a Stroke victim. The Clerk said that she had still not received an outcome to a request, after the Argos Lorry situation, for signage indicating that the Arthog side road was not suitable for large vehicles. Adrian Williams GC had said that he would speak to his colleagues in Caernarvon for new signage. The Clerk will chase for a third time. The Clerk told the Councillors that a Team of reporters and film crew from the Nederland's had been in the Village talking to Councillors and residents about the situation here, because the Nederland's is facing the same outcome as that which is proposed for Fairbourne. The Nederland's government is not talking about sea level rise and residents are also in denial. They were making a film for Dutch TV. The Clerk said that she had been contacted by the Mayor of Dolgellau asking for permission to come into our Ward wearing his Mayoral chain, to present prizes for riding for the disabled at Bwlchgwyn. The Clerk said that it would not be a problem. The Clerk talked about a renewal questionnaire from the current company that ACC uses for its Public Liability Insurance. The questionnaire was intrusive asking for certain assurances about all the ACC Councillors which in fact seem to possibly breach the data protection act and were felt to be not relevant. There are in fact no changes to the schedule this year compared to last year. The Clerk will inform the Insurance Company of that fact. Clerk brought to the attention of the Councillors that Dr Graham Hall and Margaret Hall had decided to disengage with Huw Williams and YGC/GC and the Arthog Community Council. This was in no way due to stress as suggested by some but more a case of both Graham and Margaret having gone as far as they could, the Science is speaking for itself but also the tone of the emails coming from Huw Williams became unacceptable. This will not affect the review of Dr Halls reports sponsored by Welsh Government. The Clerk confirmed that a request for a meeting with Mabon ap Gwynfor and Liz

Saville-Roberts had been accepted and that it would probably be sometime in September. The Clerk confirmed that Keith Ivens NRW has been seconded to Welsh Government and that his replacement is Sara Pearson. Network Rail sent a letter to all neighbour's outlining their continued programme of works. The Clerk sent a copy to Adrian Williams as there does not seem to be correspondence between Network Rail and GC. Concerns raised regarding the lack of attention to our email to the Planning Department sent to the CEO, Mr Gibbard were finally acknowledged by his PA, who told us that our emails had been going into spam. She said that she would write to the department head concerned and that we should receive a reply in due course. The reply came eventually and basically that all our concerns were being investigated and various owners of the properties concerned had been written to, however, there was no conclusion. Louise Hughes said that she had a meeting planned with Mr. Gibbard and would ask him to visit Fairbourne to see for himself our concerns. On that note Cllr Eves asked the Clerk to write to the Planning Department to enquire if the owner of the Springfield Hotel has obtained permission to re-jig the main sewer drain. Cllr Eves said that we really need to get a grip on planning matters within Fairbourne as it was running wild. There is concern that some of the alterations that have been made in the car park area are higher than the damp course. Louise Hughes said she would intervene and speak to those concerned in Gwynedd Council. The ACC had received an email requesting permission to have her ashes (at the appropriate time) scattered in Arthog Churchyard in the same place as her parents. She currently commutes between the Netherlands and England. Traffic accident points in Fairbourne: An email had been sent to Steffan Jones, he acknowledged but there has been no action. Cllr Eves also pointed out that Penrhyn Bar corner is also an accident waiting to happen. People are parking on the double yellow lines on the corner and it is thought that they are local people not tourists. The Clerk concluded.

**1250: Special Items Brought to Attention:** Cllr Eves said that he thought it was time to try and bring some order to the parking situation at Penrhyn Point Car Park (The Banjo). During this holiday period Fairbourne had again been inundated with Camper Vans staying overnight, dumping their waste in the Creek and sand dunes, and this needed to stop. He proposed a Camera system. The Clerk pointed out that this had already been discussed in previous years with Gwynedd Council but to no avail. Cllr Roberts and Cllr Thomas both pointed out problems with a camera system. First problem would be that it would encourage overnight stopping and secondly there would still be no toilet facilities, so in effect nothing would change. The Chairperson asked for this topic to be carried over to the next meeting. Remembrance Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November, all parties have been notified. Road Closure has been requested, Wreath has been ordered, Police have been Notified and Ruth Hansford has been notified. The service is normally 2.00pm and the cenotaph assembly is 2.45 to 3.15. GC will supply road closure signs etc. Louise Hughes said that she would chase up the "Street Clean Teams" and make sure that they knew what the preference was for Fairbourne, Arthog and Friog. The Chair said that grants were available for such projects, but it was pointed out that it would probably have to be managed by the Fairbourne Amenities Trust as it is the understanding of the Clerk that the ACC cannot receive grant funds. Cllr Roberts asked if it would be possible to have a dog poo bin down at Morfa Mawddach Station. Dog poo is becoming an issue in all areas. It had been noted that dog poo bags were being dumped in the Rock Armour at Friog Corner and in the rubbish bins in both Promenade Toilets creating horrific smells. Residents from Fairbourne have been cleaning them out. It is thought that it is probably residents and not tourists. Cllr Eves asked if it was possible to have 2/3 tons of stone to build up the sheer drop at Friog Corner to make it safer to access the bottom footpath. Cllr Roberts said that he would get a quote for the stone. It was asked whether the Maritime department should be consulted. A suggestion was made about putting picnic benches in the areas where the beach huts used to be, or even reinstating the beach huts. Cllr Eves asked if the Clerk would again broach the question. Would it constitute a danger to children with the miniature railway running parallel to the area. The Chair asked for Councillors to consider ideas for improving Fairbourne via Workstream 2. It must be remembered that the ACC looks after three Villages, Arthog, Friog and not just Fairbourne, so ideas for Arthog and Friog should also be put forward for consideration.

**1251: To deal with Any Correspondence:** No correspondence.

**1252: To Deal with Planning Matters:** No Planning matters to discuss. Cllr Eves asked if we had heard anything about the Pay and Display at Cregennan Lakes. The answer was nothing received.

**1253: Financial Statement and Report:** The Clerk confirmed that external audit was well under way, a couple of explanations had been asked for and supplied. The Clerk pointed out that had still been no billing for last year's external audit despite several asking's. The Clerk also informed the Councillors that the send half of the Precept had been received and will show in the September statement. All accounts were in order and there were no money concerns. Two cheques were circulated for signature and approval. £250.00 for Mr L C Jones for grass cutting and £1300.00 for Mr P Roberts for cutting the GC Footpaths. A copy of the bill for the GC footpaths will be forwarded to GC for receipt of their contribution. The Clerk reported that all the bank accounts are in a healthy state. The ACC will need to spend some money in the community and that thought should be given to this. Cllr Eves suggested that flower bombing the grass verge running parallel to the promenade footpath might be an idea, he thought it might cost approximately £800.00. There were concerns raised that it might not work, bearing in mind the salt weather, and that the existing grass could strangle the growth of such flowers. This will be carried forward to the next meeting. Also, it was asked should the NRW be consulted.

**1254: To Receive Councillors Questions:** No questions.

**1255: Representatives Report:** The Chair Cllr Mrs Salt gave a summary of the progress of the HIA to date. Savills met in the Village Hall with invited guests, ie a member of the FAT, First responder and the Clerk. Savills and GC guests took on board all

the concerns that were raised. They expressed disbelief at some of the negative and provocative remarks, press coverage, tv coverage and comments that had been made since 2013. The aim of the HIA will be to provide sufficient and accurate information to put to Welsh Government as supporting evidence for an OBC and grant. The Chair confirmed that a newsletter is being compiled by Llion Pritchard, Project Board Manager, at this moment and that a Questionnaire is being compiled by Savills for circulation with the Village of Fairbourne and outskirts of Arthog and Friog. There was not confirmation, however, of the request for 100% knocking on doors. This will be discussed further. It was agreed that a feeling of trust must be generated. One point that also arose was that Savills, Dafydd Gwynne and Llion Pritchard were also going to push and promote the reinstatement of the ramp. The Chair informed the Council that the contract that Savills were preparing to sign had in fact had to be split into two parts, one for Savills and one for GC, data protection being the main factor for this. GC cannot release to Savills any personal data relating to its residents. In consequence it means that Savills will not be present in the Village until late October. Sylvia Stephenson has agreed to join workstream two on a needs basis to represent the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector within the Village. The Chair also confirmed that one of the major points to be clarified is "what exactly does decommissioning mean, as Gwynedd Council have now said that they, "Gwynedd Council, have never said that any organisations let alone GC are going to destroy Fairbourne". This was raised at the Aberystwyth meeting with Welsh Government, GC and the Fairbourne representatives. Unfortunately, the above statement did not appear in the "notes" taken at that meeting. At the meeting, Lowri Norrington-Davies suggested that these were misquotes, however, the Fairbourne representatives said that there were many quotes in writing confirming that GC had said that Fairbourne would be decommissioned in 2054. Cllr Woolley felt that this could put a different light on the HIA. Cllr Eves said that with all that is going on, a Letter of Intent should be sent to Gwynedd Council. This will be discussed again. Cllr Eves asked the Clerk to ask for a further meeting with Welsh Government, Lowri Norrington-Davies for the end of the year or early 2023. It was suggested every 6 months. The idea of Welsh Government and GC holding meetings about decommissioning Fairbourne without representation from Fairbourne was not acceptable. Cllr Eves had been contacted by representatives from Pwllheli with a view to possibly joining forces with Fairbourne as they had also been told that they will be subject to sea level rise. Unfortunately, they have not contacted the Clerk as they said they would.

Huw Williams has been asked for the data sources and the actual mm rise level that GC is working to.

Cllr Eves/Cllr Roberts – Gold Club report. The Golf club has been very busy over the summer holiday period. It was asked that a handrail is erected on the edge of the decking as a tourist had broken a leg from slipping on the planking. Cllr Green said that he would pass that request on. It was also noted that the Golf Club will be applying to hold events and with this in mind it was felt that both the ladies and gent's toilet facilities must be improved. Cllr Green said that he would pass this request on. Finally, it was pointed out by Cllr Roberts that the Agreement is still awaiting signature. Cllr Eves said that he and Cllr Roberts would discuss this further over the weekend. Insurance has been renewed by Fairbourne Golf Club Limited. A request for sight of the Insurance from Fairbourne Golf Club was requested.

Cllr Roberts read a report from Mike Scott regarding Fairbourne Amenities Trust. The Shops Toilet block had again been replastered. It was felt that this would now solve the problem and the mural could be repainted. The donations were not as good in previous seasons, and it was suggested that new notices were needed pointing out the toilets were not council but a Fairbourne Asset. Thanks were passed to Roger Duke for keeping the toilet in good order whilst Mike Scott was recovering from double pneumonia.

Cllr Thomas confirmed that there was no change to the Cemetery. However, the Clerk said that they must get together with Cllr Roberts and Peter Thomas to try and sort out the numbering of the graves. The Clerk will bring the Graves Official Book to the next meeting.

Cllr Louise Hughes asked if the hedging in Arthog especially up the hill could be cut back. Cllr Roberts said he would sort this out. The sign pointing to the ACC cemetery had dropped, Cllr Roberts said that he would sort that. The clerk pointed out that one of the uprights in the Tennis Court fencing had been hit by a vehicle and that it would need straightening. Cllr Eves said he would look at the repainting of the Playpark fencing. Cllr Woolley had nothing to report from the Harbour Committee. It was confirmed that the red flags had been replaced. It was also mentioned that many tourists and their children ignore the warning of the red flags.

Cllr Rhian Langford asked if there was any new information regarding Mawddach Crescent and the footpath. It is expected that the issue will be raised again in the next few weeks rather than months. The ACC will be asked to make representation. The Clerk said that she still had a picture of the Welsh Flag being hung upside down at one of the dwellings, showing total disrespect to the Welsh.

**1256: Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in Arthog Village Hall.