

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2022

1272: The Chairperson opened the meeting at 7.00pm

1273: Present: Cllr (Mrs) G Salt, Cllr I Green, Cllr S Eves, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr (Mrs) Woolley, Cllr B Woolley, Cllr B Thomas, Clerk Angela Thomas. One guest present.

1274: Apologies Received: Cllr J Haycock, Cllr (Mrs) R Langford, Cllr (Mrs) C Darvill, GC. Cllr Louise Hughes.

1275: Councillors declaration of Interest: Cllr I Green declared an interest – Golf Club.

1276: To receive any special announcements from the Chair: The Chair, Georgina Salt announced that a statement had been received at long last from Huw Williams YGC, Cyngor Gwynedd, stating the following: The Chair, Georgina Salt had had to apply much pressure to Huw Williams to get this statement out. Pressure was applied to Huw Williams from various parties.

The Fairbourne Moving Forward Project Board has been aware of the negative impact on the community because of the mention of 'decommissioning' Fairbourne in '2054' by the press and other stakeholders. The timeline was assessed in the Technical Overview Report (2018) prepared by the Technical Group on behalf of the Fairbourne Moving Forward Project Board and the statement came with important caveats i.e. based on condition of the coastal assets and what was known at the time about the rate of climate change. This information was fed into the Adaptation Masterplan. There have been significant revisions to climate change predictions since 2018 and it is now appropriate for the Fairbourne Moving Forward Project Board to review the current evidence and data going forward and this will inform future planning decisions. Whilst this is taking place, it is appropriate to remember the 2054 caveats and work with the Project Board, which is committed to providing ongoing support to ensure the sustainability, safety and wellbeing of the Fairbourne community. There are no current plans to decommission the village.

It was hoped that this statement along with the HIA being conducted by Savills, will inject new life into the Village, including opening up mortgages, searches, making properties available to all young people in the village. Cllr Eves thought that there was a clause attached to selling properties in Fairbourne only to local people, but this clause only applies to ex local authority homes.

1277: To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2022: One correction made to the minutes from October. Minutes approved by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Woolley.

1278: Matter arising from the meeting held on 5th October 2022: No matters arising.

1279: Clerks Report: The Clerk said that she still had many outstanding matters, awaiting replies from Cyngor Gwynedd. The Clerk was still waiting for the legal papers for Remembrance Day. If the papers do not arrive Cllr Roberts said that the service would go ahead. The Clerk reported that Friog Hill will be closed until February 2023. The bollards are there for the protection of the motorists. Network Rail will start work in February? A copy of the accounts from the Friog Agricultural show had not been sent in. Cllr Roberts said that Friog were dropping their application. The rate for the hire of the Friog Village Hall had risen to £12.50 per session from the New Year. No news yet about Fairbourne Village Hall. The defibrillator at the shops had been moved to the Village Hall. A national debate is now taking place regarding the proposed move of the Air Ambulance location to Ruthin. The invoice for Cutting the Cyngor Gwynedd footpaths had been sent in but the ACC had not be paid to date. Cllr (Mrs) Salt raised a question regarding the promenade footpath and the clearing of it. The Clean-up Crew looked as though they had swept the path but not cleared the grass growing out of the sea wall. Cllr Salt asked if it was something that the ACC could take on board. The Clerk thought that it would be too expensive and unreliable to expect the ACC to take this on. Cllr Eves again asked about cutting and seeding the area from Penrhyn Bar up to the Banjo. Cllr Green said that it probably would not be practical considering the sheep would eat everything in their way. Overall, the clear up was not a success in Fairbourne. Cllr Roberts and Cllr Thomas both confirmed that nothing had been cleared in Arthog or Friog. It was agreed however, that the whole of Gwynedd was shabby. The Clerk had received an email from Mavis Smith resident with a bungalow bordering the Village Hall ditch. She had asked when it was due to be cleared. The answer given by Ann Griffiths was late November. Cllr Eves thought that NRW were trialing a weed killer in the ditches. The Clerk was still talking to Dwr Cymru about the bridge at the end of Belgrave Road and Talbot Road and the repair of it. No one was taking responsibility. The Clerk reported that in December the ACC should hear how much they had benefited from the 10p scheme. It was felt that the Village had not been as busy as the previous year. Cllr Eves thought that a lack of ramp on the beach had been a major factor in lower visitors.

1280: Special Items brought to attention: It was confirmed that Dr Halls reports were being reviewed. The Chair Georgina Salt confirmed that she would be available to lay the wreath.

1281: To deal with any correspondence: No correspondence.

1282: Planning Matters: No planning matters. ACC was still waiting for information from SNP regarding parking meters up at Cregennan Lakes.

1283: Financial Report: The Clerk asked that the Precept be reconsidered especially considering the change in weather patterns and the need for extended grass cutting. Cllr Roberts suggested a rise of £500.00 to £14,000.00 per annum. After discussion it was agreed by all Councillors, proposed by Cllr Roberts, and seconded by Cllr Eves.

Welsh Government are consulting now to make it mandatory for all Councillors to receive a sum of money which will again mean a rise in Precept. The clerk said that she was expecting the request for salt requirements any day now, which the ACC will probably have to pay for. The Clerk read the current financial statement to all the Councillors. Because Ink Jets had not arrived on time it had not been possible to print out reports. The current balances were read out. Cheques for signature were circulated. They were: £25.00 for the wreath, £125.00 (9th cut) L C Jones.

The clerk said that some time at a future meeting the subject of online banking will have to be discussed as yet another bank (Barclays) had closed in Dolgellau. The Clerk said that the yearly accounts had still not been signed off from the Welsh Audit Office and the bill had still not been received for the previous year.

1284: To receive Councillors questions: The graffiti issue in Francis Avenue has been resolved, it has been removed. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to Alan Wilde who has retired from the first responders. This will be done. Cllr Roberts said that it has become apparent that an outbreak of theft is taking place in the area, farmyards and building yards etc. Cllr Roberts asked that a letter be written to the Chief Constable/Commissioner for North Wales. The Police can no longer be hiding behind Covid and lack of staff/resources. The Clerk said she would send a letter but did not expect a reply as we have never had a reply from North Wales Police yet.

1285: Representatives Report: HIA Report: Savills team will arrive on the 9th to 11th. Once they have all their findings together, they will be happy to conduct a de-brief in December, before several reports will be produced. After much discussion Cllr Eves said that he still thought that a letter of intent should be drafted to Cyngor Gwynedd so that the damage inflicted on the Village is known to all and remains on the www. Golf Club: A price for replacement doors and windows is underway. Cllr Eves said that if any monies are left over at the end of the year it might be wise to pay a lump off the mortgage as payments for next year were becoming risky. The toilets also need renovation, and the agreement was still to be signed. FAT: Station Road washing and drying facilities due to be completed in November. Windows also to be replaced. A poo bin had been placed near the Promenade Toilets for which FAT was grateful. A grant application had been made but had fallen at the first hurdle due to a lack of a safeguarding policy, which was not applicable as the toilets were closed during cleaning and renovations etc. The new information boards should be ready by the end of the year. Cemetery: Cllr Thomas confirmed that the numbering was incorrect, but the records were correct. A new numbering system will commence from now, i.e. date of burial. The books are all correct. Harbour Committee: Nothing to report. The half-sunk boat is still in the water at Penrhyn Point. There is an argument going on as to how much it is worth via the Insurance. It is not in the deep-water channel.

1286: Date and Time of Next Meeting: December 7th Arthog Village Hall, commencing 7.00pm