

To: **Aberffraw Community Council (ACC)**

From: **Mike Mahon, Chair, Aberffraw Village Hall management Committee (AVHMC)**

Date: **Monday 5th October 2020**

Copy to: **Aberffraw Village Hall Management Committee members and others**

Regarding the Zoom ACC meeting last week I am extremely disappointed by the reactions of the ACC Committee and Clerk and your Minutes.

I asked at least 4 times to see the minutes against which I was being asked 'questions arising' to answer on behalf of the AVHMC, as this was refused we all spent far too long going around the houses talking at cross-purposes, and not having any accurate facts, or indeed moving forward.

Today I have eventually got to see the published Minutes I asked for at the time and note that there are **major errors** in at least two of the relevant three which I think will have everyone even more confused.

1. **Minute 2. a.** of your August meeting implies that the **Internal Auditor** was unhappy about a payment made by ACC to the Village Hall in lieu of VAT on a boiler repair. **This is completely untrue.** In fact, the AVHMC actually paid/donated the non VAT part of the costs **TO** the ACC. So there was no bad practice (this procedure is quite normal for Anglesey Village Halls and Community Councils). In fact the original error in your accounts shows you receiving a 'rent' to the exact same amount. **Nowhere** do your accounts show a payment to the Village Hall in respect of this boiler repair.

Also the ACC are already under the potential scrutiny of HMRC because they are a VAT registered body which ACC are not. The minute implies that this is only because they have claimed VAT back. Surely it is your duty to claim back VAT and save money on behalf of the villagers.

2. **Minute 2.b.** follows on from this suggesting that the ACC should be periodically checking the AVHMC accounts. I remind the ACC that not only have we regularly, monthly in fact, attempted to provide financial and other information to you at meetings but are normally refused entry, thrown out after our 'item', etc.; we have also provided detailed thrice audited annual accounts to yourselves, the County Council and the Charity Commission over the past two years – the latter as Charity Trustees. Furthermore, there is no requirement for the ACC to periodically check the Hall accounts although we would be happy to discuss any relevant matters raised between us as they occur - and as I reiterate you already have them.

Instead of supplying these inaccurate Minutes to me as questions I was provided with a **demand** to supply our accounts (which you already have) and books to be audited by your auditor. This is what I was left answering at the meeting, leading to me explaining our annual audit process. Somehow these **unseen Minutes seem to have been mistranslated by someone into the above unsupported request.**

As you know, we have been attempting to have a closer two-way liaison between both committees but have been thwarted every month since last May by obstruction, secrecy, ineptitude, aggression and inaccurate information and a 14 month lack of meeting Minutes. (You may even remember a letter signed by 8 villagers last February concerning lack of transparency and lack of information on elections of Community Council committee members). Indeed my 'delayed' invite to speak at this last meeting was lacking and I had to insist on finding out its date and time and asking for a specific invite. Not only these matters but much more mundane matters on street lighting, yellow lines, RHI grant etc. have caused villagers far beyond the Village Hall to make accusations regarding the secrecy of the ACC to the Anglesey County Council. It is time for more open multi-way communication.

3. **Minute 3.** Regarding **Insurance** – these discussions at the Zoom meeting were incomplete as the Chair declared we had insufficient time so I would be pleased to continue these in light of your new quotations and clarity on obligations of tenants and landlord. I am however unclear from your Minute as to what is a 'moveable fixture'?

4. **Minute 4.** We **never said** that the **Public Toilet** would have to remain closed. Your chair did not allow discussion of this item at the meeting. We have made requests for help and guidance over running this facility on at least 7 occasions since last summer and had **NO** replies. Therefore we had no option but to hand the running over to the Community Council who may then actually have to discuss the issue. Obviously its current closure is a precaution during the Covid-19 pandemic. The financial breakdown of the facility installation was before my time and handled by John Owen, Keith Woods and one of the Councillors in addition to Mike Wilson from the hall. Our ex Treasurer has tried to supply you with financial breakdowns on its running costs on several occasions but to no avail.

In summary, I would like to re-iterate the need for a closer working (two-way) relationship between these committees especially as our committee is frustrated by having an ever longer agenda item reading 'No reply' every time the ACC comes up, rather than getting on with providing first class facilities and opportunities for Aberffraw inhabitants. This has already led to one resignation of an elected officer and I have been threatened with a further 3! Hence this communication.

Many of the above comments have been printed in our Minutes over many months (available to you via our website), are in my approved Annual Report to the AGM, have been covered in minutes over the previous 4 years by previous committee members, have been expressed by villagers on Facebook and verbally, including to the County Council, and have now again today been reported to local Councillors and your Internal Auditor.

Surely it is time to move forward constructively, remove this negativity and be pro-active on behalf of the inhabitants of Aberffraw and surrounds. Indeed, we have recently been able to re-open the hall for limited activities during the Covid-19 pandemic and would welcome your support.

I await your reply.

Mike Mahon