

**Aberffraw Community Council**  
**Statement of Intent – Aberffraw Village Hall**

**On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 the Aberffraw Community Council (ACC) made the difficult decision to take over control of the management of the Aberffraw Village Hall.**

This decision was made after taking legal advice from One Voice Wales (*the Welsh Advisory Agent on all legal matters pertaining to Community Councils*), Specialist Charity Solicitors, the ACC Solicitor and discussions with the Charity Commission. The ACC acted on the advice given by the above on the following points:

**1. 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - Automated Email received from the Charity Commission**

- The automated email notified the ACC Contact that a change had been made to the listing for the Trustee of the Aberffraw Village Hall . The Trustee name had been changed from Aberffraw Community Council to Mr M Mahon and a second listing for The Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC).
  - i. This listing had been changed without agreement from the ACC. The first notification of this change was by receipt of the automated email notification from the Charity Commission.
- On 10<sup>th</sup> February, the ACC Contact received an email from Mr Mahon, confirming he had made changes to the Charity Commission listing *“Just to let you know that you may receive an automated email from the Charity Commission regarding Aberffraw Village Hall in the next 24 hours .....”*
  - i. Mr Mahon explained he had made the changes to facilitate the uploading of accounts etc.
  - ii. The Charity Commission informed the ACC Contact that the changes made had been to the Trustee listing and that the ACC were no longer Trustees!

**2. 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 – Insurance Policy Request**

- An email from a member of the VHMC was received by the ACC Clerk requesting a copy of the Insurance Policy for use by the VHMC. As the Clerk cannot make this decision, the Clerk explained that the request would be placed on the Agenda for the February Meeting to allow the ACC to respond.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> February, the Clerk emailed the representative of the VHMC to explain that the decision was unanimous to not allow the VHMC to have a copy as the Hall was covered under a group of other items insured by the ACC.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, the ACC Clerk received a telephone call from the Insurance Company to inform the Clerk that they had received a call from Mrs Mahon requesting a copy of the Insurance Policy – this too was declined.
  - i. **A process was put in place to ensure any requests for copies of the ACC Insurance Policy could only be given after consultation with the ACC Clerk.**
- 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021, the ACC Clerk received a second email from the sender of the original email informing the Clerk that this person would inform the VHMC that the ACC had declined the request. No mention was made of the telephoned request to the Insurance Company!

### 3. Duty of Care

- The Clerk to a Community Council is an employee. Every Employer has a Duty of Care for their Employees.
- Two previous Clerks and the current Clerk have each (at separate times – whilst employed by the ACC) reported cases of being on the receiving end of telephone calls, emails, face to face meetings, letters posted through letterboxes of the Clerk and other members of the ACC, Facebook Comments and of course the Grapevine Newsletter. from certain members of the VHMC that have been considered bullying, with an intent to intimidate.
  - i. The emails, letters and the Grapevine Newsletter etc., have been shown to One Voice Wales, Local Police Officers, ACC Solicitor and personal Solicitors and they all agree they are of a bullying nature with an intent to intimidate and devalue the ACC and the Clerk.
  - ii. One Voice Wales consider the members of the VHMC to be “Vexatious People”. They forwarded a copy of the Welsh Assembly Vexatious Policy and suggested the members of the VHMC be held accountable.
  - iii. Two counts of harassment / bullying have been reported to the Local Police and taken seriously – Case Numbers are available and the cases are left open pending further action by the current Clerk.

Since 1965 the ACC, on behalf of the Community, have been Trustees of the Village Hall. The Village Hall was built from money donated by the Community. There are many members and their families of that time still living in the Village. There are many members of the Community both Welsh and English who were disgusted at the actions of members of the VHMC.

The ACC took the stance that counter-arguments would be detrimental to the Community.

The ACC sought legal advice as stated above, and was instructed that the actions of the VHMC in changing the details of the Trusteeship of the Hall was not only illegal, but should be highlighted to the Community. The ACC was also advised that the VHMC should be disbanded, the Hall should remain temporarily closed and the management of the Hall be taken over by the ACC again.

This Statement of Intent was made to safeguard the Village Hall for the Community.