

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council was held on Thursday 3rd July 2014 at 6.45pm in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

98/14 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor Cllr B C Roberts

Cllrs: M.D. Bird; G.P. Davies; B. Kinsey; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae; R.M. Medicott; M. Roberts; T. Rowlands; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters; A. Wood;
Mrs M. J. Evans (Clerk)

99/14 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs: M Bond; J. Pitt; S. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; K. Sudlow;

100/14 **Declaration of Interest: Code of Conduct**

Members were reminded that they must declare the **existence** and **nature** of any personal interests (using the form provided for this purpose).

None were declared

101/14 **Visitor to the Council**

Standing orders were suspended

The Chairman welcomed Mr Mark Baker from the Gwyrch Preservation Trust to the Meeting who provided members with an update with regard to the project at the Castle. Mr Baker informed members that the Trust formed in the 1990's and became a Charity in 2001. There is a long term lease in place from the owners of the Castle Edwards Property Management of Conwy and Chester.

The interior of the Castle has been gutted and the windows have been bricked up to save any further deterioration. The internal staircase has an important archaeological history and the marble floor has survived.

The Architect that has designed the plans for the new hotel, worked on the restoration of Windsor castle following the fire. The Melon House is to be turned into a visitors centre by the Trust and is currently in negotiating for a long term lease.

The gardens were created in the 1830's and a survey has recently been carried out, they plan to rebuild. Cadw are happy with the proposals. The new build will have little impact on the original building. Mr Baker showed members a slide of the before and after work at the gardens that has been carried out to date. An archaeological dig will be commencing tomorrow (Friday).

The recent Open Day was a great success with over 600 people attending. The owners of the site were also present.

A book has been published 'Margaret Sandbach' to assist with the raising of funds

Two new job posts have been created. The Trust's website has been revamped and the facebook page has received over 2000 likes and 20,000 have passed through the site to date.

A member enquired as to the terms of the lease and was informed that it will run for 25 years which will enable the Trust to obtain grant funding. An application has been submitted to WREN for the walls and Melon House to be restored.

A member enquired as to what the impact the Melon House will have on the new build and was assured that it will not impact on the Castle and that the owners are seeking listed building consent.

Funding will be in the form of grants from Cadw, Lottery, and others. The Trust are positive that there will be a scheme in the near future for the County of Conwy as a target area to be able to access funding.

The first phase of funding has been positive and Environment Wales are in discussions with the Trust to supply a landscape gardener.

Access to the site will be through the main driveway and there will be parking to the side of the Melon House.

The Chairman thanked Mr Baker for attending and a private tour of the building was offered to members should they wish to view the property.

Standing orders were reinstated

It was RESOLVED to forward a letter of support to the Trust on behalf of the Town Council.

102/14 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to receive, approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on the 5th June 2014

103/14 **Matters Arising from those Minutes:**

(a) A email from Natural Resources Wales regarding a request for flood wardens was RECEIVED and members APPROVED the date for a meeting for the 22nd July at 5:30pm

(b) The Clerk provided an update to members with regard to depreciation of assets, stating that no Town Council in the local area depreciate their assets, as it is mainly an exercise carried out in a profit making organisation or one that has shareholders. As the Town Council precept for replacement items there is no value to carrying out the exercise.

It was RESOLVED not to depreciate the assets of the Town Council and to continue with the current system.

Members RECEIVED and CONSIDERED the costs for a Surveyor to value the Town Hall as requested at the previous meeting.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation by Jones Peckover as the lowest local RICS registered cost received.

(c) An update from CCBC with regard to the Path at Ty Crwn was RECEIVED. **It was RESOLVED to email Mr Tom Gravett to enquire as to why the process will take so long to commence.**

104/14 **Correspondence**

- The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED, CONSIDERED

and NOTED:

- (a) Mayor's Diary - details of the Mayor's engagements for July 2014
- (b) Details of forthcoming meetings of the Council and its committees / sub-committees
- (c) CVSC mail from 13th June 2014 to 25th June 2014
- (d) OVW emails from 13th June 2014 to 25th June 2014
- (e) An email from OVW with regard to Complaint handling for front line staff was NOTED
- (f) An email from OVW with regard to the Climate Change project was NOTED
- (g) An email from CCBC with regard to Traffic Orders was NOTED
- (h) An email from CCBC with regard to address changes was NOTED
- (i) An email from Itaca with regard to Abergele Youth Action AGM
- (j) An email from a local resident with regard to the relocation a bus stop on Llanddulas Road was RECEIVED. **It was RESOLVED to contact CCBC to request their observations with regard to the proposal and to return to the Agenda, together with any appropriate costs.**
- (k) A letter from HMRC regarding research on dealing with PAYE
- (l) A letter from Public Health Wales regarding their July campaign – Screening for life
- (m) An email from OVW with regard to a Welsh Government Consultation responses

105/14 **Urgent Correspondence**

- (a) A copy of the recent Task & Finish Working Group Meeting Notes was RECEIVED to approve the recommendations made by the Committee. **It was RESOLVED to approve the following RECOMMENDATIONS:**
 - (i) To discontinue the Market with immediate effect.
 - (ii) To consider switching the Market to Pensarn was DEFERRED until a later date.
 - (iii) To cancel the free parking on a Saturday and Sunday in Water Street.
 - (iv) To trail the Loyalty scheme for businesses in the Town.
 - (v) The working group to merge with the Parks and Street Scheme Committee, but to remain dormant for the immediate future lest a meeting with the businesses is required to discuss the Loyalty Scheme

The Recommendation to offer a grant to the businesses in the Town Centre to be repainted was discussed at length. **It was RESOLVED not to approve and the item was DEFERRED until the Abergele Place Plan is approved.**

106/14 **Quotations**

- (a) Members RECEIVED and CONSIDERED a quotation for the replacement of the cistern in the ladies toilet. **It was RESOLVED to obtain further quotations for consideration.**
- (b) Members RECEIVED and CONSIDERED computer support from IT companies
Due to the cost of monthly support it was RESOLVED to continue with the current ad-hoc system and monitor the costs over the next 6 months.

107/14 **Housekeeping**

The correct procedure for submitting apologies for meetings was RECEIVED. It was NOTED that members are summoned to meetings and should make every effort to attend. **It was RESOLVED to add to the Standing Orders of the Council**

108/14 **Pension Policies**

Members RECEIVED and CONSIDERED an email from Gwynedd Pension together with the recent CCBC report to adopt the relevant policies outlined in the email.
It was RESOLVED to adopt the relevant sections of the report.

109/14 **Photographs from the Annual Meeting**

Photographs from Annual Meeting for purchase by members were RECEIVED.

110/14 **Update from County Councillors**

- A verbal report from County Councillor was RECEIVED as follows:

- (a) The Abergele Flood and Place Plan are moving forward and a meeting will take place with the County Members in the near future. One member of the Town Council is able to join the group. **It was RESOLVED that the matter should be considered at the next meeting.**
- (b) Cllr. Wood have been seeking an update with regard to the erosion on Pensarn beach
- (c) Abergele Hospital's private entrance is blocked by overhanging trees and causing a hazard for vehicles entering and exiting the site.
- (d) Cllr Wood requested volunteers for the Carnival on Saturday.
- (e) The Annual March will take place on Saturday
- (f) Mayor's Civic Sunday is to take place this Sunday

111/14 **Minutes**

- The Minutes of the following Meetings/Committees were RECEIVED:

- (a) General Purpose & Planning Committee held on the 15th May 2014.
- (b) Policy & Finance Committee held on the 15th May 2014

112/14 **Documents for Information**

The following documents for information were NOTED

- (a) Welsh Government Newsletter
- (b) Complaint Handling for front line staff
- (c) Complaints Wales Group
- (d) Ombudsman Annual Report
- (e) Screening for Life
- (f) J Parkes Wholesale
- (g) Itaca AGM

Meeting closed at 8:35pm

Signed
(Chairman)