

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the GENERAL PURPOSES and PLANNING COMMITTEE, held at 6.45 p.m. on Thursday, 18th January 2007 in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

23/007 Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae
Cllr. G.R.K. Brown (Chairman)
Cllrs: C.A. Billington; M. Bird; D.A. Byrne; G.P Davies; D.A. MacRae; R. MacRae; M Medlicott; J. Mortimer (see Min. 26/007); R. Peacock; J. Stubbs (see Min. 30/007); K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters (see Min. 29/007(h)(i))
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

24/007 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs: J.A. MacLennan; B.C. Roberts; J.E.H. Pitt

25/007 Disclosure of Interest

Cllr. R. MacRae – see Min. 31/007

26/007 Visitor to the Council

The chairman welcomed Alan Thomas, Divisional Engineer, Highways, C.C.B.C., to the meeting to discuss future highway maintenance.

Mr Thomas gave a brief outline of the area he covers, which is approximately half of the County, including over 800 km of roads, footways and footpaths. This area has two highways inspectors and one footpaths inspector.

Members were then given the opportunity to raise any concerns they have regarding roads and footpaths in the Abergele area. Mr Thomas responded to concerns regarding: resurfacing work required on St. George Road and Primrose Hill, St. George; chippings coming up following resurfacing work near Llanfair Road last summer; the timescale for the resurfacing of Rhuddlan Road / Bridge Street; how footpath maintenance work is scheduled; financing footpath improvements; road markings and fencing in St. George; the poor condition of the footpath from Groes Lwyd to Alexander Road and poor drainage on the footpath at Marine Road, Pensarn.

- Cllr. J. Mortimer arrived during this session.

Mr Thomas asked that any requests for road / footpath maintenance for the new financial year be submitted to him, through the Clerk, and he will evaluate them. The Chairman thanked Mr Thomas for attending the meeting and he retired from the chamber.

27/007 **It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 21st December, 2006.**

28/007 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes :**

a) Min. 9716(a) -Town Council Website

It was NOTED that several meetings had been held over the Christmas and New Year period between the Clerk and Huw Waters, the website developer, and that the site abergeletowncouncil.gov.uk was now fully functional. Some minor amendments were still needed, mainly on the administration of the site, and these should be complete within the next month.

It was RESOLVED to DELEGATE authority to the Executive/Estimates Sub-Committee to approve a suitable payment to Huw for the work he has undertaken on behalf of the council.

b) Min. 9716(b) - Replacement of Beacon at Pensarn Beach

(i) New paving to access the rock from the promenade

It was RESOLVED to accept a quotation for £140.00 from the groundwork contractor used for paving around the cenotaph to add paving to approach the 'rock of peace' from the promenade, subject to receipt of approval from Highways to carry out the work.

(ii) It was NOTED that a bi-lingual plaque to match the existing plaque, to mark the recent dedication by the Bishop of St. Asaph, had been ordered and delivery was awaited.

c) Min. 9716(c) –'Designed for North Wales' and implications for Abergele Hospital

It was NOTED that this item would remain on the agenda of the Ordinary meeting until resolved.

d) Min. 9716(d) –Claimed Footpath near Tower Hill

It was NOTED that progress is being made with completion of the required forms for submission to Highways and the relevant landowners, but that further work was required.

e) Min. 9716(e) – Traffic Calming

It was NOTED that a response is awaited to the further letter sent to Highways earlier this month to enquire about progress with developing a policy on 20 mph speed limits in residential areas and to request the occasional use of a mobile speed warning sign in some of the problem areas previously identified by this council.

f) Min.9716(f) - Open Watercourse – Eldon Drive

- (i) A response to the letter sent to the Head of Environmental and Technical Services on 25th October 2006 was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED to reply to state the concern of this council that tax payers' money was spent on fencing off the open watercourse, which could instead have been used towards the cost of culverting, and to query how much the fencing cost.

- (ii) A copy of the request made by the County Councillors that the culverting work is included in the revenue or capital programme for either the current financial year or 2007/08 was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that Cllr. Waters had had a recent conversation with Mr Edwards and was now hopeful that, with support from the Cabinet Members for the Environment and Finance, funding would be found either during the current or next financial year for the culverting work.

- g) Min. 9716(h) –The Mount

- (i) It was NOTED that no further update had yet been received on progress with the landscaping of the land to be transferred to this council, following the site meeting held on 13th December.

- (ii) Legal advice from CCBC confirming that there was no specific legislation regarding the fencing of rivers and as a river is a natural feature, rather than a manmade one, the liability should someone be injured is reduced, was NOTED. It was FURTHER NOTED that the council cannot be prosecuted in the event of someone falling in to an unfenced river, as there is no criminal liability. Any civil claim would be handled by the council's insurers under the public liability insurance policy.

- h) Min. 9716(i) –Conwy Local Development Plan

Confirmation of the definition of 'development', in this instance, was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to request details of the exact location of the proposed Abergele by-pass, included in previous local development plan(s), and query whether this is to be included in the new LDP, as this may highlight land suitable for infill development.

- i) Min. 9716(j) –Abergele Carnival

It was NOTED that the request that the Council is involved in the arrangements for the carnival and a representative is invited to attend meetings of the Association is to be discussed at the next meeting of the committee.

It was FURTHER NOTED that Cllrs. G.R.K. Brown and J. Stubbs had agreed to be the representatives of this council, if invited to attend.

- j) Min. 9716(l) - North Wales Society for the Blind

It was NOTED that an invitation to the Mayor had been received on Tuesday 9th January to attend a meeting later that day of the Executive Committee.

It was RESOLVED to DEFER consideration of the confidential minutes of the last meeting to the end of this meeting, as the press and public would need to be excluded.

- k) Min. 9716(m) - Scottish Power Scoping Document

It was NOTED that a joint response has been approved and sent to the Planning Department, C.C.B.C., and to Scottish Power/Manweb, on behalf of Abergele, Towyn and Kinmel Bay and Llanfair T.H. town and community councils.

- l) Min. 9717(e) – Afon Gele Viability Study

A copy of the initial response sent by the Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor, was RECEIVED.

29/007

Correspondence

- a) North Wales Business Park

An invitation from Mr West to all Members and the Clerk to attend an event at the Business Park on Friday 26th January to mark the opening of the 5300 development and launch of the next phase was RECEIVED.

Members were requested to inform the Clerk by Monday 22nd January, if they are able to attend.

- b) Community Chest Workshop

It was NOTED that Cllr. G.P. Davies would be attending a workshop, to be held on Wednesday 14th February at Venue Cymru, Llandudno, regarding the Community Chest scheme.

- c) Abergele Youth Action

The following documents were RECEIVED and NOTED:

- (i) A.Y.A.The Story so Far ...
- (ii) Itaca One Year On ...

- d) One Voice Wales

The following reports were RECEIVED and NOTED:

- (i) A report from Cllrs. G.R.K. Brown and R.G. Waters from the recent meeting of the Conwy & Denbigh Area Committee.
- (ii) A report from Cllr. R.G. Waters from a meeting held in Builth Wells on 11th January to establish a larger local councils committee.

e) Conwy Community Health Councils

It was NOTED that the following documents have been received:

- (i) Notice of a meeting of the Conwy East Community Health Council, to be held on Thursday 18th January.
- (ii) Minutes of a Special Joint Meeting of Conwy Federation of Community Health Councils, held on 19th September 2006

f) Public Path Extinguishment Order 2006

A copy of the Order recently sealed by Conwy County Borough Council to extinguish a section of Public Footpath No 2, from Lon Wen to the boundary of Uwch y Don was RECEIVED and NOTED.

g) Conwy Prosperity Partnership

- To receive a copy of the Autumn/Winter Newsletter was RECEIVED.

h) Abergele Community Beat Manager

- (i) It was NOTED with concern that P.C. Neale Duffy had informed the Clerk that he is to be transferred to Colwyn Bay from the end of this month. Sgt. Craig Jones had confirmed P.C. Duffy's move and acknowledged many locally would be upset by this decision. He stated that Abergele will have a CBM, but that some areas, including Abergele, were being expanded, due to financial constraints.

It was RESOLVED to send a letter to P.C. Duffy to thank him for the excellent work he has done in Abergele during his time as Community Beat Manager.

Concern was expressed regarding the shortfall in Home Office funding, the capping of the precept by the Welsh Assembly and the Force's shortfall in funding per head of population, compared to the other 3 forces in Wales, which had resulted in an inability to maintain the present levels of service. The decision by the Chief Constable to make cuts in front line services was queried.

It was RESOLVED to write to every M.P. and A.M. in North Wales to request pressure to be placed on the Home Office to increase funding for North Wales Police and to send a copy of this letter to the Chief Constable, Mr Brunstrom.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to write to the Chairman of the Police Authority to request pressure on the Chief Constable not to make cuts to frontline policing and to leave C.B.M.s where they are.

- Cllr.R.G Waters arrived at this juncture.

- (ii) It was NOTED that an offer had been received from Cllr. Darren Millar, who is interested in starting a petition to mobilise public action against

cuts to community policing and would like to meet with any interested member of this council, possibly during week commencing 29th January. **Members were requested to contact the Clerk if they wished to attend such a meeting.**

- i) Environmental Operative

It was NOTED that the Abergele E.O. has been redeployed and an agency operative, Paul Crone, commenced work on 11th January.

30/007 **Joint Burial Board**

- a) It was NOTED that a recent complaint about damage being caused to grass on some graves by the use of a mini JCB in the cemetery has been passed on to the Joint Burial Board for action.

- Cllr. J. Stubbs arrived at this juncture

- b) Members were requested by Cllr. Byrne to report any concerns about the public cemetery to the secretary, Mrs Hughes.

31/007 **Planning / Licensing Applications**

- a) The planning applications, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached, were considered and concluded as recorded on that schedule.
- b) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C. for the Abergele area between 18th December 2006 and 1st January 2007, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- c) It was NOTED that no licensing applications had been registered by C.C.B.C. for the Abergele area for the period 2nd – 12th January 2007.

32/007 **Deferred Item**

It was RESOLVED to exclude members of the public and press from the meeting to enable the confidential minutes from a meeting of the North Wales Society for the Blind, held on 14th November 2006, to be discussed.

Members discussed their ongoing concerns with the proposed sale of Llys Onnen and staff management issues.

It was RESOLVED to write to Mr Bowen, Director of the NWSB, regarding the concerns of the Council over the proposed sale and to request once more that the Trustees reconsider their decision to sell.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to copy this letter to the Charity Commission, the Chair of the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee of CCBC and the Chairman of Conwy East Community Health Council.

The Meeting Closed at 8.35 p.m.

..... Chairman