

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the GENERAL PURPOSES and PLANNING COMMITTEE, held at 6.45 p.m. on Thursday, 15th February 2007 in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

85/07 Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae
Cllr. G.R.K. Brown (Chairman)
Cllrs: C.A. Billington (see Min. 94/007); M. Bird; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae;
R. MacRae; M. Medlicott; J. Mortimer (see Min. 94/007); R. Peacock; B.C. Roberts; K.
Sudlow; R.G. Waters
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

86/07 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs: G.P. Davies; J. Stubbs

87/07 Disclosure of Interest

Cllr. R.G. Waters – see Min. 89/007(b)
Cllr. J.A. MacLennan – see Min. 89/007(e)(ii)

88/07 To RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the GENERAL PURPOSES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE, held on 18th January, 2007

89/07 Matters Arising on Those Minutes :

- a) Min. 26/007 – Highway Maintenance
 - (i) Members were requested to submit any requests for road / footpath maintenance to the Clerk, for onward submission to Mr. Thomas.
 - (ii) Notice of the proposed carriageway resurfacing of Bridge Street / Rhuddlan Road, which is due to commence on Monday 26th February, was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to contact Highways to seek confirmation that this will be proper resurfacing, not just surface re-dressing, and state disappointment that the footpaths have not been included in this work.

- b) Min. 28/007(a) –Town Council Website

- Cllr. Waters declared a personal interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting by leaving the Chamber.

- (i) It was NOTED that work is still underway on the administration of the site and that a new page has now been added for 'News' items, such as the quarterly

newsletter and Town Guide.

(ii) Feedback regarding Councillors contact details on the website was RECEIVED and NOTED.

(iii) **It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation of the Estimates sub-committee that a payment of £750 be made to Huw Waters for his work on the site, once it is complete.**

c) Min. 28/007(b) - Replacement of Beacon at Pensarn Beach

(i) It was NOTED that the contractor had now been instructed to proceed with the new paving to access the rock from the promenade, following receipt of written confirmation that Highways had no objections to this work.

(ii) It was NOTED that there had been a delay in obtaining and fitting a bi-lingual plaque to match the existing plaque, due to the original order being misplaced.

d) Min. 28/007(d) – Claimed Footpath near Tower Hill

It was NOTED that no further progress had been made.

e) Min. 28/007(e) – Traffic Calming

(i) A response from Highways to the further letter sent regarding traffic calming measures for the 'rat runs' in the town was RECEIVED and NOTED.

It was FURTHER NOTED that the Community Safety Partnership had been advised by Mr Brunstrom that mobile interactive signs are to be purchased and that Cllr. Peacock had requested one of these to be used on Llanfair Road.

(ii) An e-mail regarding concerns about the new traffic cushions on Sea Road and the response from a Highways Officer was RECEIVED and considered.

- Cllr. J.A. MacLennan declared an interest in this matter, but reserved the right to speak.

Concerns that the new cushions are not wide enough and standard sized vehicles can drive over them without having to slow down were NOTED.

It was RESOLVED to write to Highways to support Cllr. MacLennan's request that speed measurements be taken on the top section of Sea Road to confirm whether this is a problem.

(iii) It was NOTED that a Joint Scrutiny Meeting, due to be held at Bodlondeb on 22nd February to discuss traffic issues in Conwy County, had been deferred to allow additional time for the Llandudno traffic scheme study to be finalised and that the Abergele traffic problems will be raised at this meeting.

It was RESOLVED to write to CCBC to request notice of the new date for this meeting to enable member of this council and the public to attend.

f) Min. 28/007(f) - Open Watercourse – Eldon Drive

(i) A response to the further letter sent to the Head of Environmental and Technical Services regarding the cost of the fence was NOTED.

(ii) It was NOTED that no further update is available as yet to the request made by the County Councillors that the culverting work be included in the revenue or capital programme for either the current financial year or 2007/08.

It was RESOLVED to write back to the Head of Environmental and Technical Services to inform him that this council has put aside £1,000 in its budget for 2007'08 as an indication of its support towards the culverting work, and to query the total projected cost of the work and ask again how much the fence had cost.

g) Min. 28/007(g) –Additional Land at The Mount

It was NOTED that the proposed transfer of the land has been delayed by need to redefine the plot to include a small triangular section of land across the river, to allow for the new pedestrian bridge for the safer routes to school project.

h) Min. 28/007(h) –Conwy Local Development Plan

Information obtained from the old Colwyn Borough Local Plan regarding the proposed route of the Abergele by-pass was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that a report is due to go to Cabinet to recommend a one year deferral in the process, to allow further work to make the plan more 'robust'.

It was RESOLVED not to respond at the present time, but to await further developments.

i) Min. 28/007(i) –Abergele Carnival

A response to the request that the Council is involved in the arrangements for the carnival and representative(s) are invited to attend meetings of the committee was RECEIVED.

It was noted that Cllrs. G.R.K. Brown or J. Stubbs would try to attend the meeting.

j) Min. 28/007(l) – Afon Gele Viability Study

Following a recent telephone call from the Environment Agency, it was NOTED that planning is underway for the removal of gravel beds from the river between Ffordd y Morfa and Faenol Avenue bridges and upstream of Bridge Street and that this section will also be cleaned up more regularly to prevent gravel

accumulating further downstream.

k) Min. 29/007(a) - North Wales Business Park

It was NOTED that several members and the Clerk had attended the event at the Business Park on Friday 26th January to mark the opening of the 5300 development and here details of the launch of the next phase.

It was NOTED that no recent update had been received on the proposed move to the business park by the local doctors.

It was RESOLVED to write to Chris Jones, Chief Officer of Conwy Community Health Council to request any update on the move.

l) Min. 29/007(b) - Community Chest Workshop

It was NOTED that Cllr. Davies had been unable to attend the workshop held on Wednesday 14th February at Venue Cymru, Llandudno regarding the Community Chest scheme.

m) Min. 29/007(c) - One Voice Wales

(i) The latest edition of 'The Voice' was RECEIVED and members were recommended to take this home to read.

(ii) Membership 2007/08

A letter from the Chief Executive regarding renewal of membership from April 2007 was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to DEFER any decision on this until next month.

n) Min. 29/007(h) - Community Policing

(i) Members RECEIVED and considered responses from local AMs and MPs to the letter sent about cuts in community policing.

(ii) Members also RECEIVED and considered responses from:

- the North Wales Police Authority
- the Chief Constable, to a question raised at a PCCG meeting regarding the use of officers in non-operational roles (see separate file 2)
- Chief Superintendent Michele Williams, Divisional Commander, to a letter received from David Jones, M.P.

Concerns were expressed regarding several decisions taken by the Force recently, including: replacing CBMs with PCSOs with lesser powers; refurbishment costs for police HQ; the cost of merging three control rooms into one and the cost of providing mounted police.

It was PROPOSED to write to the North Wales Police Authority to declare no confidence in the general management and running of North

Wales Police.

This was CARRIED by a majority of 10 in favour, with 1 abstention. Two members withheld their vote (Cllrs: R.G. Waters and R. Peacock), to allow them to vote on this matter at the County Council.

o) Min. 32/007 – North Wales Society for the Blind

(i) It was NOTED that no response had yet been received to the letter sent to Mr Bowen on 23/1/07 and copied to the Charity Commission, the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and Conwy East C.H.C.

(ii) It was NOTED that the Charity Commission have not yet received a formal application for the 'Scheme' for the sale of Llys Onnen, despite rumours that the sale is to complete on 1st March.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Charity Commission, with a copy to Cllr. Darren Miller, Chair of the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and Cllr. J.A. MacLennan, Chair of Conwy East C.H.C.

90/07 Correspondence

a) Conwy Health & Wellbeing Partnership

A letter from Vicky Coelho, Participation Support Officer, regarding engaging with residents, was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED to invite Vicky Coelho to attend a future meeting of the council to give a short presentation on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

b) Health Challenge Wales

A letter regarding support for Health Challenge Wales and a request to link to the Health Challenge Wales website was RECEIVED.

c) Sustainable Communities Bill

An update on progress, a request to lobby MPs and details of National and Regional rallies was RECEIVED and noted.

d) Fire and Rescue National Framework (Wales) 2005 (Revisions) Order 2007

The following documents were RECEIVED and considered:

(i) The schedule of revisions to the Fire and Rescue National Framework

(ii) The protocol on intervention powers under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004

It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Clerk to forward the

observations made by Cllr. J.A. MacLennan on behalf of the Council.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to invite the Fire Service to attend a future meeting of the Council to give a presentation on home safety issues.

e) Local Councils Update

A copy of the update for January / February 2007 was RECEIVED.

f) Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The Draft Assessment Reports, produced by Conwy County Borough Council as part of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, were RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to request an extension to the deadline for responding to these reports and to REFER the document to the Local Government Sub-Committee for scrutiny.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to invite the Abergele Ramblers to send a representative to this meeting.

g) Safer Routes to School

It was NOTED that work is due to commence on the Ffordd y Morfa improvement scheme on 19 February 2007 and will take approximately 3 weeks to complete.

h) BBC Wales Bus

It was NOTED that the BBC Wales Bus will be in Abergele (site to be confirmed) on Thursday 8th March from 11 am to 4 pm.

i) Annual Leave

It was NOTED that the Clerk will be on annual leave from 20th to 27th February inclusive.

91/07 **Damaged Boundary Stone**

It was reported to the Council that an old Abergele boundary stone, which had previously been re-sited at the side of the A55 Eastbound carriageway, had been extensively damaged during the recent resurfacing works.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk liaise with Cllr. Waters regarding the exact location of the stone and that a letter be sent to the National Assembly Highways Division (Trunk Road Agency) highlighting the recent damage to the stone and querying what action can be taken to rectify this.

92/07 **Youth Council**

A proposal was made by Cllr. G.R.K. Brown that the Council should support the setting up of a Youth Council in Abergele.

A discussion took place regarding whether this would be duplicating the work of the youth councils already in existence in the local schools and the need to channel ideas and views of the youth through either town and community or county councils.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr. G.R.K. Brown undertakes some further research on this matter and reports back to the council.

93/07 **A copy of the Draft Minutes of the following Sub-Committees was RECEIVED:**

- a) The Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee, held on 29th January 2007
- b) The Newsletter Sub-Committee, held on 2nd February 2007
- c) The Town Guide Sub-Committee, held on 12th February 2007

94/07 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

a) **Christmas Decorations**

(i) Min. 54/007(a) – Overview of the Lights

Three letters from residents in Pensarn / Belgrano giving positive feedback regarding the Christmas lights were RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to acknowledge receipt of these letters.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to write to Mr Bob Saxby, CCBC, to request any update on plans to extend the town bus service into Belgrano, following a comment made on one of the letters received.

(ii) Min. 54/007(b)(i) – Cross-road Festoon

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that the cross-road festoon be put back up in September, in plenty of time for rectifying any ongoing infrastructure problems, which may become apparent.

(iii) Min. 54/007(b)(ii) – Christmas Tree Lights

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that the contractor fully loads, tests and seals the power supplies for all the trees in Spring or early Summer.

(iv) Min. 54/007(c) – Installation Contract

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that the final instalment of £3,011, plus VAT, for the contract now be paid and that a

letter is sent to the contractor confirming the two decisions above and requesting a full report on the condition of the festoon, mini rope light motifs and tree lights.

(v) Min. 54/007(c)(ii) – Contract for 2007

It was NOTED that the terms of the contract for 2007 will be fully reviewed at the next meeting of the sub-committee.

(vi) Min. 54/007(e) – Lighting Scheme for 2007

It was NOTED that the following possible extensions to the scheme are being considered by the sub-committee:

1. Re-instating a festoon on Market Street
2. Extending the pole mounted motifs along Market Street and Bridge Street / Rhuddlan Road
3. Locating a possible site for a Christmas tree on Llanfair Road

(b) **Newsletter Sub-Committee**

It was NOTED that the draft layout for the March edition of the newsletter, for delivery to residents on Wednesday 7th March, has been approved and that a copy is awaited from the printer.

(c) **Min. 77/007 - Town Guide Sub-Committee**

(i) It was NOTED that an initial set of proofs had been received from the publishers, but that various amendments were required before they could be accepted, which it had not been possible to complete within the four day turnaround period available.

A letter from Plus was RECEIVED and it was NOTED that a two week extension had been granted by the printers, giving a new deadline of 1st March, but that an additional charge of £200 would be made.

(ii) It was NOTED that early indications were that the council would only need to pay £800 towards the production costs of the guide (not the maximum £1,600 budgeted for), along with £2,000 for the additional copies agreed. The total cost for the guide would, therefore, still be within budget.

It was RESOLVED to DELEGATE full authority to the Town Guide Sub-Committee to make the amendments required and authorise printing of the guide.

95/07 **Planning / Licensing Applications**

- Cllrs: J. Motimer and C.A. Billington retired from the meeting at this juncture.

- a) It was NOTED that no planning or licensing applications had been received for consideration.
- b) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C. for the Abergele area between 15th and 28th January 2007, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.

The Meeting Closed at 8.45 p.m.

..... Chairman

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Planning applications considered on Thursday 15 February 2007:

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'B'

Planning Decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council from 15.1.07-28.1.07

0/32711 Extension to dwelling and erection of detached garage at 11 Coed Eithin,
Abergele

Decision: Approved with conditions
