

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the GENERAL PURPOSES and PLANNING COMMITTEE, held at 6.45 p.m. on Thursday, 21st September, 2006 in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

9556. **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae
 Cllr. G.R.K. Brown (Chairman)
 Cllrs: M.Bird; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae; R. MacRae;
 M. Medicott; K. Sudlow (see Min. 9559); R.G. Waters
 Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

9557. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs: R. Peacock; B.C. Roberts; J. Stubbs;

9558. **Disclosure of Interest**

Cllr. J.A. MacLennan – see Min. 9561(c)(i) – as Chair of East Conwy CHC and part author of the report.

9559. **Visitor to the Council**

The Chairman welcomed Jane C. Evans, North Wales Regional Officer for One Voice Wales, and Cllr. Diane Roberts, Chairman of the Conwy & Denbighshire Area Committee.

Jane Evans gave a brief presentation covering her role providing support services and as a representative for town and community councils in North Wales and background information on the structure of One Voice Wales. She went on to outline recent developments within O.V.W., including the appointment of a new Chief Executive, Simon White, and the desire to set up a separate committee to look at the issues facing larger local councils. It is hoped that larger councils will have a separate designated officer to assist with their differing needs.

- Cllr. K. Sudlow arrived at this juncture.

The aims of and services provided by O.V.W. were then outlined, along with the role of the area committee, which meets four times per year. An invitation was then made for the Clerk and one or two representatives from the Council to meet with the new Chief Executive, Simon White, on the afternoon of 2nd October, when he will be in the Abergele area.

Jane Evans finished her presentation by stressing that her own priority was to ensure that member councils received a good service. A brief question and answer session followed, with questions about the cost of membership for larger councils, communication with Unitary Authorities and area structures.

The guests were then thanked for attending and retired from the meeting.

4.

9560. **It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the GENERAL PURPOSES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE, held on 20th July, 2006**

9561. **Matters Arising on Those Minutes :**

a) Min. 9492(a) -Town Council Website

It was NOTED that progress has been made with the site and the initial version is now on-line and available to view at www.abergeletowncouncil.gov.uk Members were requested to look at the site and to check their details and to give any feedback on the site to the Clerk.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would make enquiries about any obligation to include individual addresses and/or telephone numbers on the site.

b) Min. 9492(b) - Proposed Removal of Brazier at Pensarn Beach

It was NOTED that the structure is due to be removed very soon and that the plaque would be retained.

It was RESOLVED that the Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae, would assist the Clerk in making enquiries about the cost of placing a large rock on the remaining base with a plaque marking the former site of the brazier.

c) Min. 9492(d) –‘Designed for North Wales’ and implications for Abergele Hospital

(i) A copy of the response to the consultation by the Community Health Council Federation was NOTED.

It was RESOLVED to write a letter of support to the C.H.C. Federation, but to query why there was no mention of the petition and campaign of support for continuing the orthopaedic centre of excellence at Abergele.

(ii) It was NOTED that the Local Health Board had met recently to discuss and respond to the document and that they did not agree with it, in its present form.

d) Min. 9492(e) –Claimed Footpath near Tower Hill

It was RESOLVED to DEFER this matter, pending any further update from Cllr. J.E.H. Pitt.

e) Min. 9492(f) – Traffic Calming

A response from Highways detailing the process and cost of providing interactive signs was NOTED.

It was RESOLVED to request a copy of the evaluation report on the signs, when it is produced.

5.

- f) Min. 9492(g) – Temporary Traffic Regulations (Water Mains works)
- (i) Notification of an additional road closure at Pensarn Promenade from 18th to 22nd September was RECEIVED.
- (ii) It was NOTED that the programme of works in Abergele has gone well and is due to finish on time. John Thomas of Laing O'Rourke wanted to pass on thanks to everyone for their co-operation and understanding.

It was RESOLVED to write to the contractor to thank them for completing the works so well and with minimum disruption.

- g) Min. 9492(i) - Footpath No. 6 (Woodland Estate)

It was NOTED that work is going to be done to widen and resurface the above path from the footpaths maintenance budget and concerns were raised about the state of some of the other paths in the town.

It was RESOLVED to write to the local Highways Engineer to suggest that all similar town centre paths are inspected and a forward plan of maintenance / improvements is agreed.

- h) Min. 9492(j) – General Practitioner with Special Interest Services

It was NOTED that one G.P. currently specialises in sports medicine and one holds a weekly minor surgery clinic. Further specialist services may be developed in the new premises, where additional space will be available.

It was FURTHER NOTED that the District Valuer has now agreed rental terms with the developer, but the plans for the surgery now have to be passed by the new 'Design Commission', set up by the Welsh Assembly to approve all new public buildings.

- i) Min. 9492(k) – Open Watercourse – Eldon Drive

(i) It was NOTED that Cllr. Mike Priestley had arranged a site meeting to view the problems with the open watercourse on 4th August and that several representatives from this Council had attended. However, no further response had been received from Cllr. Priestley.

(ii) A response from the Head of Environmental and Technical Services to the letter sent to Derek Barker on 26th June was NOTED and concern was expressed about the recommendation to install a fence.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Environment Agency to state the ongoing concerns of this Council regarding a lack of action by C.C.B.C. and to request that they visit the site to assess the pollution / health and safety issues.

6.

j) Min. 9493(m) – Withdrawal of Post Office Card Account

Responses to the concerns of this Council about the withdrawal of this facility were NOTED from:

- (i) The Department for Work and Pensions and
- (ii) M.P.s and A.M.s across North Wales

k) Min. 9493(o) – Letter from Resident

- (i) A response from the Harbour Master to a request for improved access onto the beach was NOTED.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr. J.A. MacLennan would raise this issue at the next meeting of the Eastern Promenade committee.

- (ii) It was NOTED that a dropped kerb has been provided at the bus stop on Llanddulas Road.

l) Min. 9493(q) – The Mount

- (i) It was NOTED that no update was available on progress with the landscaping of the land to be transferred to this council.

- (ii) It was NOTED that no response had yet been received to the letter sent to Environmental & Technical Services on 28th July regarding fly tipping and litter in The Mount area.

- (iii) It was NOTED that the request submitted by this Council in March for The Mount to be included as a designated area to prohibit consumption of alcohol will be considered as part of the current review of areas by the Licensing Department.

m) Min. 9493(r) – Proposed Transfer of Housing Stock by C.C.B.C.

It was NOTED that a revised date of Monday 9th October at 6.30 p.m. had been arranged for the presentation by Andrew Bowden.

n) Min. 9492(c) – Abergele Bus Services

A further response from Bob Saxby regarding possible enhancements to the services in the Abergele area, but lack of funding, was considered.

It was RESOLVED to write to Mr Saxby to enquire about the cost of implementing the enhancements detailed and the likelihood of the County Council being able to provide these from the budget next year.

9562. Correspondence

a) One Voice Wales

7.

(i) A letter from the new Chief Executive of One Voice Wales, Simon White, was RECEIVED.

(ii) Following the presentation earlier this evening and the request from Simon White in his letter, members reconsidered the decision taken on 9th March (Min. 9221(j) not to rejoin One Voice Wales at the present time.

It was RESOLVED, by a majority of 8 votes for, 0 against and 2 abstentions, that the Council should rejoin One Voice Wales with effect from 1st October 2006 and that the Clerk should enquire as to whether any reduction in the fee of £1,092 is available for the current year.

(iii) **It was FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk, the Mayor and Cllr. Richard Waters should accept the invitation to meet with Simon White, the new Chief Executive, on the afternoon of 2nd October, with Cllrs. G.P. Davies and B.C. Roberts as possible reserves.**

b) National Training Strategy for Community and Town Councils in Wales

The National Training Strategy was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk compile the feedback sheets completed this evening and send a response from the Council.

c) Working Links

Information about a new programme for lone parents was RECEIVED.

d) Conwy Community Health Councils

It was NOTED that

(i) A joint meeting was held on 19th September.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Report is available on the website or from the Clerk.

e) National Assembly North Wales Regional Committee

It was NOTED that the next meeting will be held at 10am on Friday 6 October at Amlwch, Anglesey and that the subject will be Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. Members should contact the booking line if they wish to attend.

f) Abergele War Memorials

An enquiry about memorials in the Abergele area was considered.

It was RESOLVED to inform Mr Lovelock that extensive information on war memorials in Abergele is already available from several books.

g) Conwy Local Development Plan

An invitation to attend a seminar for town and community councils at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 10th October was considered.

8.

It was RESOLVED that the Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae and Cllrs. G.R.K. Brown and D.A. MacRae would attend.

h) Health Challenge Wales – ‘Being Part of It’

It was NOTED that the Summer 2006 newsletter is now available.

September Newsletter

Members RECEIVED a copy of the September newsletter, due to be delivered to households on 27th September.

i) Room Hire Enquiry

It was NOTED that an enquiry had been received from Llandudno Magistrates Court regarding the cost and availability of rooms for hearings for three weeks in February / March 2007.

It was RESOLVED to reply that unfortunately the rooms would be unavailable for this period of time, due to current commitments to the Employment Tribunal Service, who are regular hirers.

9563. **Abergele Carnival**

It was RESOLVED to DEFER this item, due to the absence of Cllr. Stubbs.

9564. **Dog Fouling**

Members considered any action which could be taken to reduce the problem of dog fouling in Pentre Mawr Park.

It was RESOLVED to write to the dog wardens employed by C.C.B.C. to request that they regularly patrol the park and issue penalty notices, where required, to encourage people to tidy up after their dogs.

9565. **Sale of Land at Maes y Dre**

A proposal by Cllr. Kevin Brown that funds from the sale of land at Maes y Dre should be used towards improving junior football facilities was considered.

It was RESOLVED to write to Derek Barker to propose that some of the proceeds of sale of this land should be directed to improving facilities.

9566. **Planning / Licensing Applications**

a) The planning applications as detailed on Schedule ‘A’ attached were considered and concluded as recorded on that schedule.

b) A pre-application consultation by Lambert Smith Hampton on behalf of O2 UK for a telecommunications development at the Bee Hotel, Market Street, was considered.

9.

It was RESOLVED to state the strong objections of the Council to this proposal, which falls within the Conservation Area.

- c) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C. for the Abergele area between 28th August and 10th September, 2006, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- d) It was NOTED that no licensing applications had been registered by C.C.B.C. for the Abergele area between 4th and 18th September.

The Meeting Closed at 8.45 p.m.

..... Chairman

10.

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Planning applications considered on Thursday 21 September 2006

0/32325 Extension and alterations to dwelling at 24 St. David's Road, Abergele

Applicant(s): Mr W C Fernandes

Conclusion(s): No objections

0/32326 Reduce 2no. Leylandi trees at Bod Gwynant, Gele Avenue, Abergele

Applicant(s): Rev H Rowlands

Conclusion(s): Awaiting Tree Warden's recommendations – will forward once received
