

## Abergele Town Council

### MINUTES

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

9711. **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; J.A. MacLennan;  
D.A. MacRae; R. MacRae; M. Medicott; J.D. Mortimer; R. Peacock; B.C. Roberts;  
J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters

Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

Mr Alun Pugh, A.M. (see Min. 9714(b)) and approximately 20 members of the public

9712. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr. J.E.H. Pitt

9713. **Disclosure of Interest**

Cllr. J.A MacLennan – see Min. 9716(c)

9714. **Visitor to the Council**

The Chairman welcomed Alun Pugh, A.M., to the meeting and he was invited to address the Council on:

- a) The Government of Wales Bill, which means a substantial change in the way that laws affecting Wales are made.
- b) The future of Abergele Hospital

Due to the amount of public interest, Mr Pugh offered to take item b) first. He went on to give a presentation on the background to the Secondary Care Review, its recommendations to move orthopaedic surgery to Glan Clwyd and the implications for Abergele Hospital.

Mr Pugh stated that he supported the view of the Medical experts who had drawn up the recommendations that the best way to provide orthopaedic surgery would be in a 'state of the art' modern centre, which gives all the back up services people may require on the same site.

A question and answer session followed, which covered concerns about: the need for an Assembly Member to represent the views of his constituents; the refusal of admissions from Powys to Gobowen; the road network not being adequate to support one large 'super' hospital at one site; the lack of community

## 4.

beds for intermediate care in Conwy County in comparison to other counties in Wales; the need to consider Primary Care as part of the review; and a perceived greater risk of hospital 'super bugs' in large centralised facilities.

**It was RESOLVED to DEFER item a) The Government of Wales Bill, due to the length of time devoted to the Secondary Care Review.**

The Chairman thanked Mr Pugh for attending and he retired from the meeting, agreeing to take any further questions from members of the public outside of the meeting.

9715. **It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the GENERAL PURPOSES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE, held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2006**

9716. **Matters Arising on Those Minutes :**

a) Min. 9668(a) -Town Council Website

It was NOTED that a short meeting had been held with Huw earlier today and that a further meeting had been arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> January to advise the Clerk how to amend and update the site.

b) Min. 9668(b) - Replacement of Beacon at Pensarn Beach

It was NOTED that:

(i) A quote is awaited for paving to access the rock from the promenade.

(ii) Permission is awaited from the Harbour Master / Head of Highways to lay paving by the rock.

(iii) An order has been placed for a bi-lingual plaque, to match the existing one, to mark the recent dedication by the Bishop of St. Asaph.

c) Min. 9668(c) –'Designed for North Wales' and implications for Abergele Hospital

- Cllr. J.A. MacLennan declared an interest in item (ii) below, as Chairman of the Conwy East Community Health Council.

The following documents were RECEIVED and considered:

(i) a letter from Cllr. Philip Rees Edwards, Plaid Cymru Clwyd West, pledging his support for retaining and investing in Abergele Hospital

(ii) Documents from Cllr. J.A. MacLennan to confirm the current position of the Conwy CHCs on the proposals

(iii) A letter from Alun Pugh, A.M., confirming he would be happy to address the council to discuss this matter in more detail.

Having considered all of these documents and the earlier presentation by Alun Pugh, members pledged their ongoing support for Abergele Hospital and agreed that if orthopaedic services were eventually moved to Glan Clwyd, the site should be considered as a community hospital facility rather than be closed.

## 5.

### d) Min. 9668(d) – Claimed Footpath near Tower Hill

It was NOTED that some guidance has now been received to assist with completing the forms to apply to add a new footpath to the Definitive Map, but that some further information will be required from Highways.

### e) Min. 9668(e) – Traffic Calming

Members considered a response from Highways, detailing speed measurements taken at Tan yr Allt, Lon Ffawydd and Lon Dirion in February 2006.

**It was RESOLVED to write to Highways to query whether any policy has been developed yet for the introduction of 20mph restrictions on urban residential roads and to request that mobile speed warning signs be used occasionally of some of the routes previously identified by this Council as giving cause for concern.**

### f) Min.9668(g) - Open Watercourse – Eldon Drive

(i) A further letter from Mr Tecwyn Jones, regarding recent problems with water backing-up, was RECEIVED and NOTED with concern.

(ii) A further letter from David Jones, M.P., enclosing a letter he has sent to Environmental Services, was RECEIVED.

(iii) It was NOTED that no response has been received to the letter sent to the Head of Environmental & Technical Services by this Council to state that to fence the watercourse would be a waste of money and that the only permanent solution to all of the problems being experienced would be to culvert it. However, it was FURTHER NOTED that a galvanised fence had recently been installed by CCBC along the edge of the watercourse.

(iv) It was NOTED that Cllr. R. Peacock had attended a site meeting at Eldon Drive this morning with workmen from CCBC to discuss clearing the debris and silt from the watercourse and improve the flow of water.

(v) An e-mail received from Cllr. Phil Edwards, confirming he has written to the Cabinet Member, Cllr. Mike Priestley, was also NOTED.

(vi) It was NOTED that support was given last month to the County Councillors to request the Environmental Scrutiny Committee include the culverting work in its capital programme for 2007/08.

**It was RESOLVED to await any further report on progress with this in January.**

### g) Min. 9668(h) – Withdrawal of Post Office Card Account

It was NOTED that the government had recently announced that it planned to continue the existing annual subsidy for the Post Office network until 2011 and

## 6.

introduce a new, similar account to the Post Office card account after 2010. However, concern was expressed regarding reports that 2,500 branches would have to close.

### h) Min. 9668(i) –The Mount

(i) A brief update on progress with the landscaping of the land to be transferred to this council by Stepnell, following the site meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, was RECEIVED.

(ii) A response to the letter sent to the Head of Environmental & Technical Services regarding concerns about fly tipping and litter in The Mount area was NOTED.

### i) Min. 9668(k) –Conwy Local Development Plan

(i) A letter of acknowledgement from CCBC was RECEIVED.

(ii) It was NOTED that a request had been received from C.C.B.C. for suggestions of sites which may be suitable for 'development'.

**It was RESOLVED to query the definition of development in this context and to DEFER this item until the next meeting.**

### j) Min. 9668(m) –Abergele Carnival

(i) It was NOTED that no response has yet been received to the request that the Council is involved in the arrangements for the carnival and that a representative is invited to attend meetings of the Carnival Committee.

(ii) Notification of the date and venue for next year's Carnival was RECEIVED.

### k) Min. 9669(b) - CCTV Liaison Group

- Cllr. Jean Stubbs was thanked for attending and giving her report on the recent meeting of the re-formed CCTV Liaison Group.

It was NOTED that Cllr. Byrne had previously been the representative of this Council, but that there had been no meetings for several years.

### l) Min. 9669(d) - North Wales Society for the Blind

It was NOTED that an urgent meeting of the Sub-Committee was no longer required, as the situation which had arisen at Llys Onnen had been resolved.

### m) Min. 9669(i) - Scottish Power Scoping Document

The Clerk informed Members that both Towyn & Kinmel Bay and Llanfair T.H. Councils were in agreement that consent should not be given for the revised plans for overhead lines until a decision has been made regarding the application submitted more recently for Gwynt y Mor wind farm, as this includes underground power cables in the same vicinity, which could possibly be shared.

## 7.

**It was RESOLVED to include these comments in a joint response to be submitted on behalf of the three town and community councils to Manweb / Scottish Power and the Planning Department, C.C.B.C.**

- n) Min. 9669(k) – Sustainable Communities Bill

It was NOTED that Nick Hurd M.P. has agreed to adopt the Sustainable Communities Bill, which will receive its second reading in the House of Commons on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January.

An updated copy of the Bill was circulated to all members, for information.

### 9717. Correspondence

- a) Holiday Arrangements:

(i) The Christmas Holiday arrangements issued by C.C.B.C. were NOTED.

(ii) It was NOTED that the Town Hall and Council Offices will close on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and re-open on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

- b) CCBC – Training on the Code of Conduct

Members considered a letter from CCBC regarding plans for training on the Code of Conduct in Spring 2007.

**It was RESOLVED that any Members with specific training needs should contact the Clerk by 22<sup>nd</sup> December with further details.**

- c) National Assembly for Wales

It was NOTED that the Assembly has published its report on the scrutiny project “Electoral Arrangements in Wales”, a full copy of which is available on the website or on request from the Clerk.

- d) Local Councils Update

A copy of the update for December 2006 was RECEIVED.

- e) Environment Agency – Afon Gele Viability Study

A consultation document issued by the E.A. regarding a future investigation into the viability of various options available for managing flooding at the Afon Gele was RECEIVED.

**It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor, to respond to the initial questionnaire and state this Council’s desire to remain included in the consultation process for this study.**

- f) CCBC – Register of Electors

## 8.

The requirement to supply every Councillor with a copy of the full Register of Electors for the area he/she represents was NOTED.

g) **Proposed Cycleway/Footway – The Mount**

An update from CCBC regarding plans for a dual cycleway / footway alongside the Mount was RECEIVED and NOTED.

**It was RESOLVED to confirm that this Council has no objections to the amended proposals.**

9718. **The Minutes of the following Sub-Committees were RECEIVED:**

- a) The Local Government Sub-Committee, held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2006

9719. **Matters Arising on Those Minutes**

- a) Local Government Sub-Committee

**It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendations from the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December.**

9720. **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 20<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2006, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- c) It was NOTED that the following licensing applications had been registered by C.C.B.C. for the Abergele area for the period 4<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December:

T.E.N.	Tesco, Market Street	21/12 – 24/12	00.00 – 00.00
	Retails sales of alcohol and provision of late night refreshment.		

9721. **Policy & Finance Committee**

**It was RESOLVED to DEFER all non-urgent business of the Policy & Finance Committee to the next meeting, to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2007.**

9722. **Payment of Accounts**

**It was RESOLVED to authorise payment of the accounts due, as detailed on Schedule 'C' attached.**

The Meeting Closed at 8.30 p.m.

..... Chairman