

3.

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the GENERAL PURPOSES and PLANNING COMMITTEE, held at 6.45 p.m. on Thursday, 23rd November, 2006 in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

9663. **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae
Cllr. G.R.K. Brown (Chairman)
Cllrs: C.A. Billington; M. Bird; G.P. Davies; D.A. MacRae; M. Medlicott; R. Peacock
(see Min. 9670); K. Sudlow; R.G. Waters
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

9664. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs: D.A. Byrne; R. MacRae; J. Mortimer; B.C. Roberts; J. Stubbs

9665. **Disclosure of Interest**

None recorded.

9666. **Visitors to the Council**

It was NOTED that apologies had been received on behalf of Mr Len Wilcock, who has not been well recently, and that the visit would be re-arranged for a future date.

9667. **It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the GENERAL PURPOSES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE, held on 19th October, 2006**

9668. **Matters Arising on Those Minutes :**

a) Min. 9613(a) -Town Council Website

It was NOTED that the basic site is up and running, but that some amendments and additions are required. A meeting is to be arranged with the Clerk, Huw Waters and Ben MacRae in the next month to make further progress with this.

It was RESOLVED that once the amendments and updates have been done by Huw, responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the site will pass to the Clerk, with technical assistance from Ben MacRae.

b) Min. 9613(b) - Replacement of Beacon at Pensarn Beach

(i) It was NOTED that Laing O'Rourke had very kindly dressed the base of the rock with concrete and that assistance had been given by CCBC to tidy up the vegetation in the surrounding area, in preparation for a short service of dedication, which was conducted by the Bishop on Sunday 12th November. **It was RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to John Thomas, Laing O'Rourke, and Lyn Davies, CCBC.**

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(ii) **It was RESOLVED that the £100 allocated (but not required) to dress the base should instead be used to provide paving slabs to give closer access to the rock and tidy the area immediately in front of it.**

(iii) **It was RESOLVED that a fully bi-lingual plaque, to match the existing brass one, should be obtained and fitted to the rock to mark the recent dedication by the Bishop of St. Asaph.**

c) Min. 9613(c) – ‘Designed for North Wales’ and implications for Abergele Hospital

(i) Although no written confirmation has been received, recent press reports that the proposed closure of Abergele Hospital is supported by Dr. Brian Gibbons, Minister for Health, and Alun Pugh, A.M., were NOTED with concern.

It was RESOLVED that this Council continues to support the fight to retain Abergele Hospital as a centre of excellence for orthopaedic surgery and to write to Alun Pugh to suggest that his view is misled and that there is no suitable alternative to the excellent service currently being provided at this hospital.

(ii) It was NOTED that the Clerk has not yet met with Elizabeth Taylor, Chairman of the Abergele Hospital League of Friends, as she is recovering from a car accident.

It was RESOLVED to send a get well message from the Council, along with a copy of the letter sent to Alun Pugh.

d) Min. 9613(d) – Claimed Footpath near Tower Hill

It was NOTED that a form has now been received to apply to add the footpath to the Definitive Map and that the Clerk will contact CCBC to seek assistance with this.

e) Min. 9613(e) – Traffic Calming

It was NOTED that a reply is still awaited from Highways with details of the speed measurements taken on some of the problem roads identified.

f) Min.9613(f) - Footpath No. 6 (Woodland Estate)

A further response from Ian Lord, CCBC, stating that no budget was currently available for major improvement works, but that it was hoped that publication of a Rights of Way Improvement Plan in late 2007 would form the basis for increasing resources for work of this nature, was NOTED.

g) Min. 9613(g) – Open Watercourse – Eldon Drive

(i) It was NOTED that no further meeting had taken place between the County Council ward members and Cllr. Mike Priestley, Cabinet Member for the Environment.

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- (ii) A copy of a letter sent by Alun Pugh, A.M., to Mr Tecwyn Jones was NOTED.
- (iii) A copy of a further letter from David Jones, M.P., enclosing a response he has received from Environmental Services, was NOTED.
- (iv) It was NOTED that no response had 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 would be to culvert it.

It was RESOLVED that the County Council Members, led by Cllr. R.G. Waters, would request the Environmental Scrutiny Committee to include the culverting work in its capital programme for 2007/08.

h) Min. 9613(h) – Withdrawal of Post Office Card Account

- (i) A copy of the response received by Alun Pugh, A.M. to the letter he sent to Rt. Hon. John Hutton M.P., Secretary of State, was NOTED.
- (ii) A response to the letter sent by this Council to the Secretary of State for the DWP was NOTED.

It was RESOLVED to reply to state this Council's ongoing concern that the withdrawal of support for the Post Office card account is still going ahead.

- (iii) A letter from the Countryside Alliance, requesting support for local Post Offices was NOTED.

i) Min. 9613(i) –The Mount

- (i) It was NOTED that the area of land to be transferred to this Council has now been levelled and prepared for seeding and that a site meeting is to be arranged shortly to discuss any further works required, prior to transfer.
- (ii) It was NOTED that, following a site visit on 22nd November, CCBC have agreed to include the Mount area footpaths and river bank on a regular weekly litter picking round, to commence as soon as possible.

j) Min. 9613(l) –Abergele War Memorials

- (i) It was NOTED that Merlin Lighting, the Christmas lighting contractor, kindly assisted in attaching catenary wire around the memorial on the morning of Monday 13th November, to prevent the wreaths from blowing around the churchyard.

It was RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks.

- (ii) A letter from the Vicar in response to the concerns raised about vehicles entering the churchyard and driving over the new slabs was NOTED. A further response from the Parochial Church Council is awaited.

6.

- k) Min. 9613(m) - Conwy Local Development Plan

A letter from CCBC regarding an extension to the consultation period and detailing corrections to two background papers was RECEIVED.

- l) Min. 9614(c) – North Wales Play & Playing Fields Association

It was NOTED that Cllr. Byrne was unfortunately unable to attend the recent AGM.

It was RESOLVED to send get well wishes to Cllr. Byrne.

- m) Min. 9615 – Abergele Carnival

A proposal by Cllr. Jean Stubbs that the Council should be involved in the organisation of the annual Carnival was considered.

It was RESOLVED to write to the committee to state the wish of this Council to be involved in the arrangements for next year's carnival.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED that Cllr. G.R.K. Brown and Cllr. J. Stubbs should be the appointed representatives of this Council.

9669. Correspondence:

- a) Notice of a consultation paper on proposed marine minerals dredging regulations and procedural guidance was RECEIVED.
It was NOTED that a full copy of the consultation document (111 pages) is available on request from the Clerk.

- b) CCTV Liaison Group

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact those members not present to seek a representative to attend a CCTV liaison group meeting on Monday 27th November 2006 at 6.30 p.m.

- c) Notice of Temporary Traffic Regulation

Notification of a temporary road closure at Coed Celyn, The Broadway to Lon Garnedd, from 1/12/06 to 8/12/06 was RECEIVED.

- d) North Wales Society for the Blind

It was NOTED that a meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Tuesday 14th November and that a copy of the Minutes of the previous meeting is available from the Clerk.

It was RESOLVED to convene a meeting of the Community Care Sub-Committee of this Council, as soon as possible, to discuss Llys Onnen.

7.

e) Conwy and District Access Group

A letter about lack of representation at a recent AGM and the need for funds was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED to write back to the group to find out more about its aims and objectives and to request financial statements to accompany the request for a grant.

f) Removal of Brazilian Beef from Local Supermarkets

A letter from Cllr. Phil Edwards regarding a call for the removal of Brazilian beef from supermarkets was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to write back to Cllr. Edwards to state the support of this Council and to send a letter to Tesco and Somerfield urging them to remove any Brazilian beef from their shelves.

g) Environment Agency Wales

Details about forthcoming public information events for the new Specific Tidal Flood Warning Service were NOTED.

h) Conwy Voluntary Services Council

It was NOTED that a copy of Circulation 67 – November 2006 – is available from the Clerk.

i) Scottish Power / Manweb

The Clerk informed the Council that she had had a meeting with a representative from Scottish Power Manweb regarding revised plans for the overhead cables for the Rhyl Flats wind farm development, which received consent in 2002.

A consultation paper regarding proposed design amendments to the approved 132kv overhead electricity wooden pole line from the new Kinmel Bay substation to the existing tower line near Moelfre was circulated to Members.

It was RESOLVED that this item would be put on the agenda for the next Ordinary meeting of the Council, on 7th December, for a response to be agreed.

j) Christmas Bazaar at Hesketh House, Abergele

- It was NOTED that a smaller event than that originally planned is now to take place on the car park to the rear of Hesketh House during December, where coffee, pastries, mulled wine etc. will be on sale and products available for sale at Incontro can be viewed.

8.

k) Local Works – Sustainable Communities Bill

An update regarding the Private Members Ballot, held on 23rd November, was NOTED.

It was RESOLVED to write to the seven named MPs to request that they adopt the Sustainable Communities Bill and also to David Jones, MP, to seek his support.

l) David Jones, MP

It was NOTED that David Jones MP had requested that he be invited to attend a future meeting of this Council and that a provisional date of Thursday 4th January had been agreed.

9670. Mayors' Photographs

It was RESOLVED that the three new frames would be hung on the wooden panelling at the rear of the main Council Chamber and that Cllr. C.J. MacRae would undertake this work, which would involve using four small screws to hang each frame.

- Cllr. R. Peacock retired from the meeting at this juncture.

9671. The Minutes of the following Sub-Committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The Newsletter Sub-Committee, held on Monday 13th November, 2006
- b) The Local Government Sub-Committee, held on Thursday 16th November, 2006
- c) The Newsletter Sub-Committee, held on Tuesday 21st November, 2006

9672. Matters Arising on Those Minutes

a) Newsletter Sub-Committee

- (i) Min. 9646(a)(iii) and 9650(c)(ii) – Translation

Members considered a recommendation that the Council looks to appoint an official translator to assist with the translation work required for the Town Guide and quarterly Newsletter.

It was RESOLVED to proceed with appointing an official translator for the Council to undertake this work.

Members went on to consider three quotations received from suitable qualified translators.

It was RESOLVED to accept quotation C, at a cost of £42.00 per 1,000 words, and to appoint John Ffrancon Griffiths as the official translator for Council documents.

9.

(ii) December Newsletter

A copy of the draft newsletter, which is to be distributed on Wednesday 20th December, was RECEIVED and approved.

It was NOTED that a double sided Neighbourhood Watch article would be included in this edition, at an additional printing cost of £100.

b) Local Government Sub-Committee

(i) Min. 9655 (a) – Strategic Planning

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and ADOPT the Mission Statement, Aims and Objectives, as recommended by the Local Government Sub-Committee.

(ii) Min. 9656(a) – Conwy Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the response drafted by the Sub-committee in response to the consultation on the Preferred Strategy and to forward this to CCBC.

9673. 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 23rd October and 5th November, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- c) It was NOTED that there were no licensing applications registered by C.C.B.C. for the Abergele area between 30th October and 17th November 2006.

The Meeting Closed at 8.10 p.m.

..... Chairman

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Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Planning applications considered on Thursday 23 November 2006:

0/32582 Erection of access terrace and stairs to first floor entrance door
at Plas Hyfryd, Rhuddlan Road, Abergele

Applicant(s): Ms K Bowker

Conclusion(s): No objections – providing does not affect/overlook neighbouring
properties

0/32594 Extension to dwelling at 33 Heol Conwy, Abergele

Applicant(s): Mr & Mrs Robertson

Conclusion(s): Concerns regarding the proximity of the proposed extension to
property No. 31
