

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 1st February, 2007, at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

55/007 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae (Chairman)
Cllrs: C.A. Billington; M. Bird; G.R.K. Brown; D.A. Byrne; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan (see Min. 64/007); D.A. MacRae; R. MacRae; M. Medicott; J.D. Mortimer (see Min. 58/007); R. Peacock; J.E.H. Pitt (see Min. 61/007(o)); B.C. Roberts; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow (see Min.58/007) ; R.G. Waters
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

56/007 **Apologies for Absence**

None.

57/007 **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. J.A. MacLennan – see Min. 61/007 (j), (k) and (m)
Cllr. G.R.K. Brown – planning application 0/32885 and see Min. 61/007(a)(ii)

58/007 **Visitor to the Council**

The Mayor welcomed Mr Phil Rafferty, Head of Licensing and Registration Services, Conwy County Borough Council, to the meeting, to discuss the proposed extension to the street trading laws and, in particular, the approach to be taken in dealing with vehicles being advertised for sale.

Mr Rafferty advised members that C.C.B.C. currently have no powers to deal with individual cars being advertised for sale on the public highways. However, following recent case law, established under Street Trading Laws, the County Council are looking to designate certain streets as either 'prohibited' streets, where no street trading at all can be permitted, or 'consent' streets, where people may apply for permission to trade.

- Cllrs. K Sudlow and J. Mortimer arrived during this presentation.

Mr Rafferty requested that the Council gives this matter careful consideration and provides him with a list of any streets it wishes to be designated as either 'prohibited' or 'consent' streets. A brief discussion then took place regarding some of the problem areas and any impact the law would have on existing traders or markets. Once the legislation is passed (hopefully by the end of April), individuals breaking the law would receive one hours notice to remove any offending vehicle.

Mr Rafferty then gave a brief introduction on the proposed amendments to the Registration Service – see Min 62/007(e). He sought to reassure members that he has no intentions of reducing the service in any way, but wants to combine records in one central location and improve accessibility of the service for users. He also indicated that, should the merger of the two districts go ahead, the Abergele office would be looking for smaller but more suitable accommodation and may be interested in re-opening discussions about possible use of room(s) at the Town Hall.

Mr Rafferty was then asked about availability of funding for replacement street name plates. He advised members to contact his department with details of any new name plates required, as he is currently making a bid for additional funding.

59/007 **Police Liaison**

Members RECEIVED the Police Liaison report from the meeting held on Monday 29th January and a discussion took place regarding several items in the report.

A copy of the Environmental Visual Audit, undertaken by P.C. Hall and Sgt. Craig Jones on Monday 29th January, was also RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that the new CBM, Albi Hall, had attended the police liaison meeting and his contact details are available from the Clerk. Members discussed his request for contact details for each councillor and it was NOTED that this information is already available on the County Council's website or on request from the Clerk. The Clerk asked that Members check that the contact details held for them are up to date and accurate.

It was NOTED that the issue of Community Policing will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the General Purposes and Planning Committee, when responses should have been received from AMs, MPs, the Police Authority and Mr Brunstrom.

60/007 **It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 4th January 2007.**

61/007 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

a) Min. 4/007 – David Jones, M.P.

A response from David Jones, M.P., to the issues raised at the last meeting was RECEIVED and considered.

(i) It was NOTED that the issues of poor roads and footpaths and community policing will be on the agenda of the next General Purposes and Planning Committee, for further discussion.

(ii) Future of Abergele Hospital
- Cllr. G.R.K. Brown declared a personal interest in this item.

It was NOTED that David Jones was keen to save the orthopaedic unit at the hospital and would be pursuing this matter 'vigorously in the months to come'.

It was NOTED that the County Council Members had been invited to attend a meeting at the Hospital earlier today to receive a presentation on proposals to relocate a specialised unit for children and adolescents with mental health problems to new, purpose built accommodation at the Hospital site.

It was RESOLVED to contact the Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust to request a similar presentation be made to town councillors (and the public).

b) Min. 7/007(a) - Fly Tipping in Bodtegwel / St. George

(i) It was NOTED that no response had yet been received to the letter sent to the Head of Environmental Services regarding concerns about increasing incidents of fly tipping since the new household recycling centre opened at Gofer and the amount of rubbish collecting in the fields neighbouring the site.

(ii) A response to the letter sent to the Environment Agency to request that they remind Thorncliffe and the operators of the civic amenity site of their duty to keep the surrounding fields tidy and free from rubbish was RECEIVED and NOTED.

It was RESOLVED to write back to inform the E.A. that there is also a problem with litter accumulating in the hedgerows along Rhuddlan Road.

c) Min. 7/007(b) –Public Conveniences Review

It was NOTED that this Council's concern regarding use of the proceeds from the sale of a Public Convenience at Pensarn is to be discussed by the Cabinet of C.C.B.C. on 22nd February.

d) Min. 7/007(c) - Communication with Town Councils

Notes from a meeting held in Colwyn Bay on 10th January to discuss communication and consultation between Town and Community Councils and Conwy County Borough Council were RECEIVED and considered.

It was NOTED that One Voice Wales had now set up a separate Conwy branch of the area committee, but that several local town councils (including two of the largest) were not in membership.

It was PROPOSED to suggest that O.V.W. should invite representatives from those Councils not currently in membership to it's Conwy area meetings, possible to be held on a quarterly basis, to avoid having too many separate groups meeting.

It was RESOLVED to DEFER sending a response to the letter until the newsletter /update report from One Voice Wales has been received.

e) Min. 7/007(d) – Parks

(i) Parc Gele

It was NOTED that a consultation questionnaire and initial drawings had been sent to properties in the immediate vicinity of the park.

It was FURTHER NOTED that, as the local police had now withdrawn their support for a youth shelter in the park, Members hoped the sheltered seating area would now be removed from the plans.

It was RESOLVED to write to request an update on the plans for the park, following the withdrawal of support by the local police for the youth shelter.

(ii) Pentre Mawr

It was NOTED that no further update was available regarding the proposed perimeter pathway around the park and that the Clerk will be meeting Lyn Davies, Parks Manager, later this month to get any update.

f) Min. 7/007(e) - Retail Premises in Abergele

It was NOTED that the letter sent out by C.C.B.C. to the occupiers included a paragraph requesting that it be forwarded to the owners and that a chasing letter will be sent, if there is no response.

g) Min. 7/007(g) –Litter / Dog Fouling Bins

A response to the letter sent regarding locations of litter / dog fouling bins was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that a full list of the current locations of bins was awaited.

h) Min. 7/007(h) - Christmas Lighting

It was NOTED that a meeting with the contractor to review the lighting was held on Monday 29th January and a copy of the Minutes and any recommendations will be available in due course.

i) Min. 7/007(j) –Street Trading

Following the presentation earlier this evening by Mr Rafferty, it was RESOLVED to refer the document regarding Street Trading laws to the Executive Sub-Committee, for full consideration.

j) Min. 7/007(k) - Abergele Regeneration Team

- Cllr. J.A. MacLennan declared an interest, as Chairman.

It was NOTED that a further meeting with the consultant is yet to be re-arranged and that the team is currently looking into WREN and other sources of grant funding.

k) Min. 7/007(l) – Vacancy on Conwy East Community Health Council

- Cllr. J.A. MacLennan declared an interest, as Chairman.

It was NOTED that Cllr. B.C. Roberts has withdrawn his interest in the vacancy, following receipt of further information about the time commitment required.

l) Min. 7/007(m) - Traffic Problems on Faenol Avenue

A response from the Head of the Community College regarding concerns about car parking on Faenol Avenue was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED to write to Highways to request consideration is given to restricting the parking on one side of Faenol Avenue and that all restricted parking areas in the town are reviewed, as some are no longer necessary.

m) Min. 7/007(n) - Car Parks

- Cllr. J.A. MacLennan declared an interest, as Chairman.

It was NOTED that a report of the recommendations of the Car Parks Task & Finish Group (C.C.B.C.) is being drawn up and will then be referred to the Cabinet.

It was FURTHER NOTED that Tesco had now introduced limited car parking (upto 3 hours), but that the rights of residents of Sea Road to parking would be protected.

It was RESOLVED to hold a Special Meeting of the Council to discuss the possibility of the Town Council taking over the lease and running of the Library car park and Water Street car park.

It was NOTED that full details would be needed regarding the running costs of the car parks (including the cost of rates) prior to this meeting.

n) Min 8/007(a) – Achievement Recognition Night

It was NOTED that the Mayor would like to invite approximately 23 local individuals and representatives from local groups to the Town Hall in recognition of their achievements during the past year.

It was RESOLVED to approve the use of the Town Council's slate plaques for presentation at this event, which is to be organised by the Mayor and will not require any additional funding.

- o) Min. 8/007(c) – Safer Routes to School – Ffordd y Morfa
 - (i) It was NOTED that no response had yet been received to the letter sent to the Head of Highways.
 - (ii) An update on the proposed footway works for The Mount, which are due to commence on 5th March 2007, was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that the footpath through The Mount would be for pedestrian use only, limiting both the physical and visual intrusion of the scheme and that the existing path would need to be closed for the duration of the works, expected to take 5 weeks.

- Cllr. J.E.H. Pitt retired from the meeting at this juncture.

62/007

Correspondence

- a) Mayor's Diary

It was NOTED that there are currently no engagements for the Mayor in February.

- b) Forthcoming Meetings

Details of the meetings scheduled to take place during February were NOTED.

It was FURTHER NOTED that the March meetings would be held on Thursday 8th and 22nd, which are not the first and third Thursdays of the month.

- c) National Assembly for Wales

- (i) Visitor Centre

Information on the Visitor Centre in Colwyn Bay and the work of the Regional Public Information Service Co-ordinators was RECEIVED and NOTED.

- (ii) Meeting of the Mid and West Wales Regional Committee

Notice of a meeting, to be held on Friday 16th February at Pembrokeshire College, was RECEIVED.

- d) Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN)

Information on grant funding available through WREN was RECEIVED. It was NOTED that match funding is required for applications. Members were requested to consider any suitable proposals for projects which WREN could assist with.

e) Conwy Licensing and Registration Service

A public consultation questionnaire regarding the unification of the existing registration district and providing a more modern service delivery to meet local community needs was RECEIVED.

Concern was expressed regarding the future of the Abergele office, should all records be centralised in Llandudno.

It was RESOLVED to REFER the document to the Executive Sub-Committee for further consideration and response.

f) Conwy Voluntary Services Council

A copy of the e-mail information for January 2007 was RECEIVED.

g) North Wales Play Association

An invitation to attend a Play Seminar on 19th – 20th March 2007 was RECEIVED.

h) Making the Connections – Delivering Beyond Boundaries

A copy of the Welsh Assembly's Document, issued as a follow-up to 'Making the Connections' (published in 2004) and the Review of Local Service Delivery, chaired by Sir Jeremy Beecham, was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that a further document regarding the proposed Public Service Boards is to be forwarded to the Clerk.

It was RESOLVED to REFER both of these documents to the Community Care Sub-Committee for full consideration.

63/007

Lighting in A55 Underpass

Concern by Cllr. K. Sudlow regarding the delay in repairs to lighting in the A55 underpass was NOTED.

It was NOTED that parts for the new lighting have been delayed and that the underpass will require sand-blasting before the lighting is installed.

It was RESOLVED to write to Highways to request urgent action is taken to reinstate lighting in this underpass, which is used as a route to school, and to include a copy of a dynamic risk assessment, to be undertaken by Cllr. Sudlow and Cllr. G.R.K. Brown.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to request that adequate notice is given to pedestrians (a week) of any closure of the underpass.

- Cllr. J.A. MacLennan retired from the meeting at this juncture.

64/007 **The Minutes of the Following Sub-Committees were RECEIVED:**

- a) The Town Guide Sub-Committee, held on 15th January 2007
- b) The Estimates Sub-Committee, held on 8th January 2007
- c) The Estimates Sub-Committee, held on 22nd January 2007

65/007 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

a) **Town Guide**

It was NOTED that the editorial content and photographs for the guide had been submitted to the publishers and that feedback was awaited regarding advertising and the viability of the guide.

b) **Annual Estimates**

(i) Min. 47/007 – Expenditure and Income

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 s.100a, Schedule 12A and with Standing Order no.68, it was RESOLVED that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

The recommendations of the Estimates Sub-Committee regarding the expenditure and income to be included in the Annual Estimates for 2007/08 were RECEIVED and considered in detail.

It was NOTED that, following a recent meeting of the Joint Burial Board, the precept for 2007/08 had been set at £2,250 for Abergele Town Council.

Several amendments to the spending plans were proposed, but none were carried.

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendations of the sub-committee, as detailed in Schedule 'A' attached, and to accept the proposed budgets for expenditure and income for 2007/08, with one amendment to section 9 – Joint Burial Board, as detailed above.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to seek advice as to the best way to account for carrying forward any under-spend from the current year to the next year's budget.

(ii) Min. 48/007 – Reserves

It was RESOLVED to approve the Council’s policy regarding Reserves, as follows:

General Reserve – That the Council will aim, over the next two years, to build a cash reserve of around 25% of the annual precept, to be held to assist with cash-flow.

Hall & Development Reserve – To be retained as a separate ‘pot’, for future premises acquisition / improvements or other developments.

(iii) Min. 49/007 – Annual Precept Requirement

It was NOTED that the Council Tax Base for 2007/08 is £4,470.38.

It was RESOLVED, by a majority of 11 FOR, 3 AGAINST and 1 ABSTENTION, to APPROVE the annual precept requirement of £167,750, equivalent to £37.52 for a Band ‘D’ property.

(iv) **It was RESOLVED to confirm the Annual Investment Strategy for 2007/08, without amendment, and to approve an inflationary increase to the Schedule of Fees & Charges for 2007/08.**

66/007 **Planning / Licencing**

- a) The planning applications were considered and concluded, as recorded on Schedule ‘A’ attached.
- b) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C. from 4th to 17th December 2006, as detailed on Schedule ‘B’ attached, were NOTED.
- c) It was NOTED that no licensing applications had been made during the period 15th to 26th January 2007.

The Meeting Closed at 10.00 p.m.

..... Chairman

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Planning applications considered on Thursday 1 February 2007:

0/32883 Extension to dwelling at 37 Sea Road, Abergele

Applicant(s): Mr & Mrs Roberts

Conclusion(s): No objections

0/32885 Erection of porch and canopy and extension to garage at
56 Bryn Twr, Abergele

Applicant(s): Mr & Mrs Kumar

Conclusion(s): No objections

Mr D Percy Hedgerow Removal Notice – application for removal of 2 hedges
at land off St. George Road and land off High Street

Applicant(s): Mr Huw Williams

Conclusion(s): The onus should be on the landowner / tenant to make the hedges stock
proof, rather than remove them

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'B'

Planning Decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council from 4.12.06 – 17.12.06

0/32563 Extension and alterations to dwelling at 11 Bryn Derwen, Abergele

Decision: Approved with conditions
