

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 4th January, 2007, at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

1/007 **Attendance Register**

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. G.P. Davies (Chairman)
Cllrs: M. Bird; D.A. Byrne; J.A. MacLennan; M. Medlicott; R. Peacock;
B.C. Roberts; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters
Mrs C. J. Earley
Visitors: Mr. D. Jones (M.P.)

2/007 **Apologies for Absence**

The Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae
Cllrs: C.A. Billington; G.R.K. Brown; D.A. MacRae; R. MacRae; J.E.H. Pitt;

3/007 **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. J.A. MacLennan – see Min. 7/007 (k), (l) and (n)

4/007 **Visitor to the Council**

The Chairman welcomed David Jones, M.P. to the meeting and thanked him for his request to visit the Council. Mr Jones thanked the Council for accepting his request for an invitation, which he hoped would become an annual event. He then went on to outline four issues of concern his constituents in Abergele have raised with him:

a) The Future of Abergele Hospital

Following meetings with the surgical team at Abergele Hospital, David Jones strongly supports this Council's view that Abergele Hospital should be invested in to make it a centre of excellence for orthopaedic surgery in North Wales and to provide an intensive care bed to overcome patient safety concerns. The cost of doing this (approx. £10 million) would pale into insignificance compared with the estimated total cost for additional facilities at Glan Clwyd, which is estimated to be £300 million.

b) Traffic

Mr Jones outlined his concern that, despite several meetings with representatives from the Highways department, the traffic situation in the town is not improving and officers from the County Council are of the opinion that little can be done to improve the traffic flow. With the will and some additional effort, Mr Jones believes improvements could be made. He is also disappointed that insufficient funds are available for traffic calming measures in residential areas.

c) Open Watercourse at Eldon Drive

Mr Jones referred to copies of correspondence he has sent to this Council to apply pressure on C.C.B.C. to culvert the short section of open watercourse at Eldon Drive.

d) Water Mains Work

Mr Jones referred to the recent water mains work in the town and was pleased that local views had been heard and the major works had been delayed until after the peak summer period.

Mr Jones then requested comments from members on any of the matters raised, or any other matters of concern which members wished to bring to his attention.

The following matters were then discussed: proposals for overhead cables for the Rhyl Flats wind farm and progress with the Gwynt y Mor application; the poor condition of roads and footpaths in the town and the lack of investment from the County Council; police redundancies, the use of mounted police and increased helicopter funding and the impact these will have on community policing; pressures on beds and funding at Glan Clwyd and waiting times for Welsh patients at Gobowen.

Mr Jones requested that several of these concerns be put in writing to him, for him to take up on behalf of the Council. The Chairman then thanked Mr Jones for attending and he retired from the meeting.

5/007 **Police Liaison**

The Clerk read out a brief report from Sgt. Craig Jones on matters which had arisen over the festive period. It was noted that there had been no major incidents with anti-social behaviour or crime in the Abergele area.

6/007 **It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 7th December 2006.**

7/007 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

a) Min. 9699(a) – Fly Tipping in Bodtegwel / St. George

It was NOTED that no response had yet been received to the letter sent to the Head of Environmental Services on 9th October 2006 regarding concerns about increasing incidents of fly tipping since the new household recycling centre opened at Gofer.

It was RESOLVED to write to request a response and to add concerns regarding the amount of rubbish accumulating in adjacent fields. It was FURTHER RESOLVED to write to the Environment Agency to request that Thorncliffe are also reminded of their responsibilities to keep the surrounding area free from rubbish.

b) Min. 9699(c) –Public Conveniences Review

It was NOTED that no response had yet been received to the letter sent to the Head of Environmental and Technical Services on 9th October regarding the lack of improvements to Pensarn public conveniences.

It was RESOLVED to send a follow-up letter to request a response.

c) Min. 9699(d) - Communication with Town Councils

It was NOTED that the Mayor, Clerk and Cllr. B.C. Roberts would be attending a meeting in Colwyn Bay on 10th January to discuss communication and consultation between Town and Community Councils and Conwy County Borough Council.

d) Min. 9699(e) – Parks

It was NOTED that Mr Lyn Davies, Parks Manager, would be arranging a meeting with the Clerk in the near future to discuss the proposals for a perimeter pathway around the park and any progress with plans for Gele Park.

e) Min. 9699(h) - Retail Premises in Abergele

A further response to the letter sent to the Conservation Officer regarding the upper storeys of property on Chapel Street was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Mr Birch to query whether any contact had been made with the property owners, who were believed to be a firm from London.

f) Min. 9699(i) –Land at Tower Hill

A copy of the lease agreement made on the 10th March 1930 to the parish council of Abergele for the term of 999 years for land at Tower Hill to be used as a recreation ground was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that succession in title had subsequently passed from Abergele Urban District Council to Colwyn Borough Council and now rests with Conwy County Borough Council and that the land is currently sub-let for agricultural purposes. An enquiry has been made as to the terms of any sub-letting agreement.

g) Min. 9699(k) - Concerns about roads, footpaths and litter bins

(i) It was NOTED that no further details had yet been received regarding the locations of litter / dog fouling bins in the area.

(ii) It was NOTED that Alan Thomas, Area Highways Engineer, will be attending the next meeting of this Council to discuss any concerns about local roads and footpaths.

h) Min. 9699(m) - Christmas Lighting

It was NOTED that the lights will be switched off this weekend and removed during the next couple of weeks.

It was FURTHER NOTED that members are welcome to join the Clerk for a 'walkabout' to review the locations of Christmas lighting, provisionally to take place at 10am on Wednesday 10th January.

It was RESOLVED to request the Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee to review the terms of the Christmas Lighting contract, due to the problems with the Christmas tree lights and the cross-road festoon being out for lengthy periods this year.

- i) Min. 9699(n) – Christmas Celebration Event

It was NOTED that the turnout for this event had been very low, due to the appalling weather on the night.

- j) Min. 9700(c) - Street Trading

(i) A response to the letter sent to the Licensing Department of CCBC regarding street trading and consent streets was NOTED.

(ii) It was NOTED that Mr Rafferty had agreed to attend the next Ordinary meeting of the Council, to be held on Thursday 1st February, to discuss the issue of street trading in further detail.

- k) Min. 9700(f) - Abergele Regeneration Team

It was NOTED that the visitor due to attend the meeting on Thursday 14th December had given apologies at short notice and that the meeting would now be re-scheduled.

- l) Min. 9700(g) – Vacancy on Conwy East Community Health Council

It was NOTED that Cllr. B.C. Roberts has expressed an interest in the vacancy and Cllr. J. MacLennan confirmed that his name had been put forward.

- m) Min. 9700(h) - Traffic Problems on Faenol Avenue

It was NOTED that a response is awaited from the Head of the Community College regarding concerns about car parking on Faenol Avenue.

- n) Min. 9700(j) - Library Car Park

It was NOTED that a date has now been set for the report and recommendations of the Task & Finish group, set up by CCBC to look at all car parks in the County, to be presented to the Cabinet.

- o) Min. 9703(i) – Twinning

It was NOTED that a further meeting of the sub-committee will need to be arranged, possibly in February, to consider:

- (i) The estimated cost of any involvement by this Council in the existing twinning with Roissy-en-Brie and the benefits this currently brings to the Abergele area.

It was NOTED that the current costs of this arrangement are minimal, with the only expenditure in recent years being occasional travel costs (e.g. for 20th Anniversary celebrations) and token gifts for visitors. However, the Town Council may be requested to assist with funding the association in the future, should the County Borough Council cease giving financial support.

It was FURTHER NOTED that the Colwyn Twinning Association is currently liaising with the International Twinning Bureau to address the issues regarding the name and definition of the current twinning. Visits for 2007 are already being planned or discussed by several local groups, including Abergele Junior Football Club, Bro Aled Male Voice Choir and a possible Trampoline Tournament.

- (ii) The cost of developing 'informal links' with any other areas and the possible benefits this may bring.

p) Min. 9703(b) – Town Guide

- (i) **It was RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Town Guide sub-committee will be held on Monday 15th January at 6.00 pm.**

- (ii) **It was RESOLVED to delegate power to the sub-committee to approve the editorial content and pictures for submission to Plus Publishing by the deadline of Friday 26th January.**

8/007 **Correspondence**

a) Mayor's Diary

- (i) It was NOTED that there are currently no engagements for the Mayor in January.

- (ii) A suggestion by the Mayor that an 'Achievement Award Night' is held at the Town Hall, possibly on a Friday evening in February, to celebrate the many achievements of local groups and individuals during the past year, was considered. It was NOTED that the cost of this event would be minimal, to include only a certificate and possibly a slate plaque for each invitee.

It was RESOLVED to support this event in principle, but to suggest that February may be too early, as those invited to attend would need to be given ample notice.

b) Forthcoming Meetings

- (i) Details of the meetings scheduled to take place during January were RECEIVED.

(ii) Details of the approved Council meeting dates for January to June 2007 were RECEIVED.

c) Safer Routes to School – Proposed Traffic Management Scheme

A copy of the proposals sent to residents regarding the introduction of a traffic management scheme at Ffordd y Morfa was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to send the following queries / comments to C.C.B.C.:

- (i) **To request that Highways consider extending the speed ramps in Maes Canol, from the junction with Dundonald Avenue to Ffordd y Morfa.**
- (ii) **To request that consideration be given to a scheme for resident parking permits on Ffordd y Morfa.**
- (iii) **To seek confirmation that the Highways Department will provide funding for the ongoing maintenance of any bollards and railings installed.**
- (iv) **To request that consideration be given to introducing interactive speed warning signs in the vicinity of the schools, as these are considered to be effective in reducing speed.**
- (v) **To query how the parking restrictions will be policed.**

d) Application to Provide Pharmaceutical Services

Notice of an application made to Conwy Local Health Board to provide pharmaceutical services from premises at 46 Marine Road, Pensarn, was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED to welcome and support this application.

9/007 **Planning / Licencing**

- a) The planning applications, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached, were RECEIVED and concluded as recorded on that schedule.
- 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 for the Abergele area for the period 15th to 22nd December 2006.

The Meeting Closed at 8.05 p.m.

..... Chairman

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Planning applications considered on Thursday 4 January 2007:

0/32379 Removal of planning condition 3(ii) and 5 in relation to noise attenuation fencing at field west of Gofer landfill site, Abergele

Applicant(s): Conwy County Borough Council

Conclusion(s): Objections: This Council is not happy about the proposed removal of the condition requiring acoustic fencing and suggests that the fence is placed on top of the bund to add to the noise reduction for local residents. Also, additional tree planting is required.

0/32727 Fell 1no. tree at Auchmacoy House, Llanfair Road, Abergele

Applicant(s): A C Buchan

Conclusion(s): Awaiting Tree Warden's recommendations – to follow

0/32730 Alterations and extensions to Filling Station shop at Threeways Garage, Faenol Avenue, Abergele

Applicant(s): Threeways Garage Ltd

Conclusion(s): No objections

2(d)

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
