

3.

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 6th April, 2006, at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

9271. **Attendance Register**

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae (Chairman)
Cllrs: C.A. Billington (see Min. 9263(d)); G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan;
D.A. MacRae; R. MacRae; R.M. Medicott; J.D. Mortimer (see Min. 9263(d));
R.G. Waters

9272. **Apologies for Absence**

The Mayor, Cllr. B.C. Roberts
Cllrs: J.M.D. Bird; G.R.K. Brown; R. Peacock; J.E.H. Pitt; J. Stubbs

9273. **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. J.A. MacLennan – see Min. 9262 (a), (h) and (o)

9274. **Police Liaison**

It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE the Police Liaison report from Tuesday 4th April.

It was NOTED that Inspector Gary Ashton would attend a full meeting of the Council on a regular basis (suggested twice per year) and that questions would be agreed in advance.

It was RESOLVED to write to both Tesco and the Highways Department regarding concerns about drivers approaching from the town centre not using the roundabout correctly and causing a danger to other road users and pedestrians.

9275. **It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th March, 2006.**

9276. **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

a) Min. 9220(a) – Water Street Car Park Charges

It was NOTED that a final report is awaited from officers of the County Borough Council before any decision is reached.

b) Min. 9220(b) – Town Centre Traffic Problems

It was NOTED that David Jones, M.P. had now become involved in this.

4.

c) Min. 9220(c) - Public Conveniences Review

An update from Cllr. Cossey confirming that the facility will remain open whilst negotiations take place with the Abergele Association of Traders was NOTED.

d) Min. 9220(d) - Speed Limits

A response from Cllr. Glyn Davies and a further response from C.C.B.C. confirming both matters were still under consideration was NOTED.

e) Min. 9220(e) –Water Mains Refurbishment

A further update detailing the schedule for the planned works in the town was NOTED.

f) Min. 9220(f) - C.C.T.V.

It was NOTED that the feasibility study for an additional camera in the park has been completed and that it has not been possible to establish a radio link into the existing cameras. This will mean the costs will be higher than initially anticipated, as a new B.T. line will be required. Further information on the exact cost will follow in due course.

g) Min. 9220(g) – Photograph Gallery

It was NOTED that recommendations regarding framing are awaited.

h) Min. 9220(h) - Fire Service

(i) It was NOTED that the plans to modernise North Wales Fire & Rescue Service have been put on hold to allow more time to consider new risk reduction planning guidelines from the Assembly.

(ii) It was NOTED that the N.W. Fire & Rescue Service had sent out over 500 letters regarding the public consultation, which closed on 1st March, but that the N.W.A.T.C. had not received one, despite being on the list.

i) Min. 9220(i) - A Regeneration Strategy for Conwy 2005-2015

(i) A further response to the comments of this Council on the strategy document was NOTED.

(ii) A report from Cllr. Mortimer on the 'Agenda for Action' was DEFERRED to the next meeting.

j) Min. 9220(j) – Conwy Community Transport

It was NOTED that a further meeting was held in Llanwrst this evening regarding the expansion plans and that a representative would be visiting the Council on Thursday 8th June.

5.

k) Min. 9220(k) - Rural Community Action

A brief verbal report was given by Cllr. J.A. MacLennan on the meeting held on Wednesday 5th April.

It was NOTED that the next meeting would be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 3rd May and that Derek Orme and Shane Wetton would be present.

l) Min. 9220(m) - Reserved Parking

It was NOTED that a quotation was awaited from a recommended contractor for white road markings to reserve two spaces.

m) Min. 9220(u) –Doctors' Surgery Relocation

A further response from Alun Pugh, A.M., enclosing a copy letter from Brian Gibbons, A.M., was NOTED.

n) Min. 9220(w) –Police Reform in Wales

It was NOTED that no further update had been received regarding the proposed merger.

o) Min. 9221(h) - The Standards Committees (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations

It was NOTED that an acknowledgement had been received to the comments of this Council.

p) Min. 9221(j) - One Voice Wales

It was NOTED that the Internal Auditor had recommended that the Council be a member of a national association, not only for access to advice on legal, financial and personnel matters, but also to receive up to date information on local and national government issues.

In accordance with Standing Order no.36(a), a request was made by Cllrs: C.A. Billington; D.A. MacRae; J.D. Mortimer and J.A. MacLennan that in light of this advice, a Special Resolution be considered at the next meeting to reverse the decision no to re-join One Voice Wales for 2006/07.

q) Min. 9223 - Risk Assessment 2005/06

(i) Advice from the S.L.C.C. regarding suitable composition of an impartial appeals panel for grievance / disciplinary matters was considered.

It was RESOLVED to appoint a Staffing Sub-Committee, comprising of The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllrs. G.P. Davies and D.A. MacRae, with delegated decision making powers regarding staffing issues, to include recruitment, development, grievance and disciplinary issues.

6.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to appoint an Appeals Panel, comprising of the Immediate Past Mayor and the Chairmen of the two standing Committees (or vice- chairman where the chairman cannot act).

It was FURTHER RESOLVED that an up to date formal grievance and disciplinary policy would be prepared by the Clerk and Cllrs: J.D. Mortimer and J.A. MacLennan, for adoption by the Council.

(ii) Planned Maintenance

It was RESOLVED to approve the Annual Preventative Maintenance Scheme, completed by Cllrs. D.A. Byrne, C.J. MacRae and the Clerk and to authorise the Clerk to begin progress with the 'High' and 'Medium' Priority items initially, obtaining quotations where necessary.

(iii) Caretaker training

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE an application submitted for the caretaker to attend a one day training course on Monday 19th June at a cost of £25 (arranged by C.C.B.C.)

r) Clerical Assistant

(i) To note that the new clerical assistant, Mrs Ann Roberts, will be commencing during week commencing 18th April, subject to receipt of satisfactory references.

(ii) Members considered the need for a formal Information Technology Policy, as recommended by the S.L.C.C.

It was RESOLVED that this draft document be reviewed, in conjunction with the formal disciplinary procedures.

9277. **Correspondence:**

a) Proposal for Naming of Street by Harron Homes (North West) Ltd

It was RESOLVED that an objection should be sent to the proposed name on the grounds that the Welsh was incorrect and that the name would cause confusion.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to recommend that the name Pen-y-Cae be considered, being an historical name of an adjoining field from the 1841 Tithe Map and to thank Cllr. R.G. Waters for his research.

b) Local Government Ombudsman: Important Changes

Changes to the role, with effect from 1st April were NOTED.

7.

It was RESOLVED to REFER the requirement to include information about how members of the public may make a complaint in any information published about the authority's services to the Newsletter Sub-Committee for consideration.

- c) C.C.B.C. – A Report on the Implementation of the Welsh Language Scheme October 1st 2004 – September 30th 2005 was NOTED.

- d) Forthcoming Meetings
The forthcoming meetings of the Council were NOTED.

- e) Mayor's Diary
The forthcoming engagements of the Mayor were NOTED. It was FURTHER NOTED that the Council was not successful in its nomination for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party, which was drawn by lot.

It was RESOLVED to give one undated mug to St. Elfod School for presentation to a pupil.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to purchase two gifts from the Council for visiting Mayors from France and Germany, to be presented at the Colwyn Twinning Association dinner in April.

- f) Public Rights of Way Network Survey 2005-06

The problems identified in the Public Rights of Way Network Survey in the Community of Abergele were NOTED.

It was RESOLVED to write to C.C.B.C. to see what funding is available for work to public rights of way in the Abergele area for the new financial year.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to send a copy of the report to the Abergele Ramblers, for information.

- g) North Wales Association of Town Councils

(i) It was NOTED that the next quarterly meeting is due to be held on 21st April and that the council representatives would be attending, if available.

(ii) **It was RESOLVED to renew membership for 2006/07 at a cost of £57.50.**

- h) It was NOTED with regret that a letter of resignation had been received from Cllr. J.A. Fowler.

It was RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to Cllr. Fowler and to notify the Monitoring Officer of the casual vacancy for Pensarn Ward.

8.

9278. Missing Capping Stones – Glanrafon

It was NOTED that two capping stones from the wall at Glanrafon are damaged / missing and have been reported to C.C.B.C. Highways Department (Bridges and Structures).

9279. It was RESOLVED to Receive the Draft Minutes of the Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee, held on Tuesday 21st March, 2006.

9280. Matters Arising on Those Minutes:

a) Min. 9242(a)(iii) – Infrastructure

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation of the sub-committee that the installation of new electrical connections and timers should be a priority this year.

b) Min. 9242(a)(iv) – Festoon

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation of the sub-committee that the cross-road festoon should be left in place during the year.

c) Min. 9242(c) – Town Hall Tree

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that a permanent outdoor weatherproof socket be installed for power for Christmas tree lights by the front door of the Town Hall.

d) Min. 9242(d) – Financial Assistance

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that the Council seeks financial assistance from local businesses towards the cost of the Christmas lights.

e) Min. 9242(e) – Switching On

A request made by the Abergele Traders for an earlier 'switch on' of the lights in 2006 was considered.

It was RESOLVED to agree to a switch-on two weeks earlier, to assist local traders.

f) Min. 9243(b)(iii) – Christmas Trees

It was RESOLVED that the Council consults with the residents of Belgrano regarding a possible location for an additional Christmas tree.

9.

g) Min. 9244 – Sub-Committee Membership

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that Cllr. G.R.K. Brown be co-opted on to the sub-committee, with immediate effect.

9281. Planning / Licencing

- 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. from 13th March to 26th March, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- c) It was NOTED that no licensing applications were made for the Abergele area for the period to 31st March.

The Meeting Closed at 8.00 p.m.

..... Chairman