

3.

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 4th May, 2006, at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

9318. **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr.B.C. Roberts – Chairman
Cllrs: M.D. Bird; G.R.K.Brown; D.A. Byrne; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan;
R. MacRae; M. Medicott; J.D. Mortimer; R. Peacock (see Min. 9323(h));
J. Stubbs; R.G. Waters

9319. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs: C.A. Billington; C.J. MacRae; D.A. MacRae

9320. **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. J.A. MacLennan – see Min. 9323(b)

9321. **Police Liaison**

It was NOTED that a police liaison session had been held at very short notice earlier today, following P.C.Duffy's return from leave.

It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE the informal notes from this meeting, along with a brief report from CBM Sgt. Craig Jones.

It was NOTED that Insp. Gary Ashton would be attending the Ordinary Meeting on 6th July. Members were requested to submit questions in advance to the Clerk.

It was RESOLVED to write to Tesco to support P.C. Duffy's request for a fence to prevent people using the wall at the back of Tesco as a short cut and causing damage to it.

9322. **It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 6th April, 2006.**

9323. **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

a) Min. 9260 – Tesco Roundabout

It was NOTED that Highways had contacted Tesco's Consultand Engineers to consider the provision of "No entry" signs at the exit road.

4.

b) Min. 9262(a) – Water Street Car Park Charges

- Cllr J.A. MAclennan declared an interest, as Chairman of the Task & Finish Group set up by C.C.B.C.

It was NOTED that the Task & Finish group were still awaiting a final report from officers.

c) Traffic Problems

(i) Min. 9262(b) – Town Centre Traffic Management

- No further update had been received regarding the ongoing problems.

(ii) Min. 9262(e) - Water Mains Refurbishment Works

Concerns were expressed regarding the proposed temporary restrictions on the main through roads for up to 3 weeks in June and it was NOTED that the Traders had requested this work not take place until September.

It was FURTHER NOTED that a meeting has been arranged by the Highways department at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 9th May at Hesketh House to give Welsh Water an opportunity to explain in detail their programmed works in Abergele and discuss traffic management issues.

It was RESOLVED to write to Highways, with a copy to the contractor and Cllr. Glyn Davies, Cabinet Member for Highways, to object to the town centre works taking place during the busy summer period and to suggest alternatives are looked into, to include delaying this work until September, working evenings only or continuous 24 hour working to cause less disruption.

d) Min. 9262(c) - Public Conveniences Review

It was NOTED that this is now in the hands of Property Services department to negotiate and that Cllr. Brian Cossey is no longer Cabinet Member for the Environment.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Abergele Regeneration Team to request that they look into the possibility of taking over the management of this facility from C.C.B.C. to prevent its closure.

e) Min. 9262(d) - Speed Limits

(i) It was NOTED that no further information had been received regarding the proposed reduction in limit to 40 mph on the A547 Llanddulas Road.

(ii) It was NOTED that traffic monitoring was taking place in St. George following the request for a reduced limit there.

(iii) Concerns were expressed regarding the 40 mph limit on a short stretch of Towyn Road, following the tragic recent death of a young girl.

5.

It was RESOLVED to ask the Police if they have any concerns regarding the speed of traffic along this stretch of road and to then await the results of the inquest before considering any further action.

- f) Min. 9262(f) - C.C.T.V.

It was NOTED that the Public Protection Department are still awaiting a quote from B.T.

- g) Min. 9262(g) – Photograph Gallery

Members were asked to consider sample frames and mounts received to enable a detailed quotation to be obtained.

- h) Min. 9262(h) - Fire Service

(i) **It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE a copy of the Welsh Assembly Government's summary booklet, 'Fire and Rescue Authority Risk Reduction Plan – Wales a Safer County', launched following consultation in January this year.**

(ii) It was NOTED that proposals to modernise North Wales Fire and Rescue Service will be considered at the next Fire Authority meeting, due to be held on 19th June in the Business Centre at Llandudno Junction, to allow the Authority time to consider the new risk reduction planning guidelines from the Assembly. Members were requested to attend, if available.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Fire Authority prior to this meeting to state the hopes of this Council that the proposals to 'modernise' are not used as an excuse for cost cutting and reduction of front line services.

- Cllr. R. Peacock arrived at this juncture.

- i) Min. 9262(i) - A Regeneration Strategy for Conwy 2005-2015

Cllr. Mortimer gave a brief verbal report on the contents of the 'Agenda for Action', which includes details on a series of proposed actions with no mention of availability of funding for these.

It was NOTED that the recently formed Abergele Regeneration Team will also be considering this document.

- j) Min. 9262(k) – Abergele Regeneration Team (Rural Community Action)

The minutes of the last meeting, held on Wednesday 5th April, were NOTED.

Cllr. J.A. MacLennan gave a brief verbal report on the recent meeting and reminded members that all were welcome to attend future meetings. It was hoped that officers from C.C.B.C. would be attending the next meeting.

6.

k) Min. 9262(l) - Reserved Parking

A quotation received for road markings to reserve spaces was considered.

It was RESOLVED to proceed with ordering two wall mounted signs from Barry Drew, to match the existing Town Hall signs, at a cost of £170.00.

l) Min. 9262(m) –Doctors’ Surgery Relocation

A letter from Conwy Local Health Board regarding implementation of the Primary Care Estate Strategy in North East Conwy and representation at a workshop being held on Thursday 25th May at 12.30 p.m. at the Kinmel Manor Hotel was NOTED.

It was NOTED that Cllrs: R. Peacock and J.A. MacLennan would be attending. Other members were asked to inform the Clerk as soon as possible if they were able to attend.

It was FURTHER NOTED that there may be some complications with the Doctors surgery relocation plans and co-location with a medical centre at the same site following a change in developer and implementation of the LHB’s new Primary Care Estate Strategy.

It was RESOLVED to contact Alun Pugh to seek to convene a meeting of the Doctors Surgery Focus group as soon as possible.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to write to Wyn Thomas, Chief Executive of the LHB, to state the concern of this Council regarding these issues and any further delay they may cause to the long awaited new surgery.

m) Min. 9262(n) –Police Reform in Wales

It was NOTED that a further consultation meeting is to be held in Llandudno Junction on 30th May by the North Wales Police Authority and that Cllrs; J.A. MacLennan; G.R.K. Brown; M.D. Bird and R. Peacock hoped to attend.

n) Min. 9262(p) - One Voice Wales

Members considered a Special Resolution, put forward by Cllrs: C.A. Billington; D.A. MacRae; J.D. Mortimer and J.A. MacLennan, in accordance with Standing Order No. 36(a), that in view of the advice received from the Internal Auditor, the Council reconsiders its decision not to rejoin One Voice Wales.

Members agreed that the Council should be a member of an appropriate association and considered information received on the services offered by One Voice Wales and the Association of Larger Local Councils.

A PROPOSAL was made by Cllr. G.R.K. Brown and SECONDED by Cllr. J.D. Mortimer that the Council re-join One Voice Wales.

7.

An AMENDMENT was PROPOSED by Cllr. J.A. MacLennan and SECONDED by Cllr. D.A. Byrne that the Council should join the A.L.L.C.

The amendment was CARRIED by a majority of 8 votes in favour with 3 against.

- o) Min. 9262(q)(i) – Grievance and Disciplinary Policy

It was NOTED that an updated policy is being drafted, to take into account any recent changes in legislation.

- p) Min. 9262(r) - Clerical Assistant

(i) It was NOTED that the new clerical assistant, Mrs Ann Roberts, commenced work on Monday 24th April.

(ii) It was RESOLVED to ADOPT a revised formal Information Technology Policy, as recommended by the S.L.C.C.

(iii) It was NOTED that a letter of thanks has been received from the retired Clerical Assistant.

- q) Min. 9263(a) - Proposal for Naming of Street by Harron Homes

It was NOTED that the developer had agreed to use the proposed name, Pen-y-Cae for the development on Towyn Road.

It was RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to the developer for accepting the proposal of this Council.

- r) Min. 9263(f) - Public Rights of Way

(i) It was NOTED that there is no specific funding available for maintenance of the public rights of way in the Abergele area. Any maintenance issues should be reported to the local inspector and work will be scheduled if funding permits.

(ii) It was NOTED that a series of focus group meetings are being held at Colwyn Bay Cricket Club from 12th to 15th June to consult regarding a Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

It was RESOLVED to forward a copy of this letter to the Abergele Ramblers.

- s) Min. 9263(g) – North Wales Association of Town Councils

The Mayor, Cllr. Brian Roberts gave a brief verbal report on the recent meeting of the N.W.A.T.C.

It was NOTED that a copy of the draft minutes is available from the Clerk.

8.

t) Min. 9263(h) – Casual Vacancy

It was NOTED that the required notices have been put up on the Town Hall notice board, at the library and in the newsagents in Pensarn and that the period of 14 working days in which residents can call for an election will expire next week.

u) Min. 9264 – Damaged Wall – Glanrafon

It was NOTED that a response is awaited from Highways regarding the damaged wall and that photographs taken last year show the wall to already have been damaged then.

9324. Correspondence

a) Zurich Municipal

A letter from Zurich regarding the Local Council Advisory Service, which provides advice and information to local councils on health and safety matters was NOTED.

It was RESOLVED to DEFER any decision on subscription to allow time to enquire about the services offered by the A.L.L.C.

b) Abergele Hospital

(i) A letter from Alun Pugh, A.M. regarding the consultation document recently received and considered by this council was NOTED.

It was RESOLVED to send Mr Pugh a copy of this Council's response to the recent consultation.

(ii) Notification of public information sessions being held in Abergele Community Centre on Thursday 18th May was RECEIVED.
Members were asked to contact the Clerk without delay to reserve a space, if they wished to attend one of the sessions in Abergele.

c) National Assembly for Wales

It was NOTED that a meeting of the North Wales Regional Committee is to be held at 10 a.m. on Friday 19th May at the Craig y Don Community Centre, Llandudno.

d) C.C.B.C. – Proposal to Extinguish Footpath 2 (part)

An application under the Highways Act 1980 (sect.118) to extinguish Footpath 2 on the grounds that the right of way is not needed (matter deferred by the General Purposes and Planning Meeting, for further information on the background to the request) was considered.

It was RESOLVED to respond that the Council has no objections.

9.

e) Forthcoming Meetings

The forthcoming meetings of the Council were NOTED.

It was FURTHER NOTED that the next Ordinary meeting, to be held on 8th June, falls outside the normal pattern due to the Annual Meeting.

f) Mayor's Diary

The forthcoming engagements of the Mayor were NOTED.

Members were asked to support the Mayor's Charity Concert, to be held on Wednesday 10th May in support of St. Kentigern's Hospice.

g) C.C.B.C. Temporary Traffic Notice

Notice of a temporary traffic restriction between the supermarket access points at Pensarn Promenade between 2nd and 6th May, 2006 was RECEIVED.

h) Conwy Economic Development and Regeneration Partnership

It was NOTED that a copy of the Objective 1 Newsletter Spring/Summer 2006 is available from the Clerk

i) Schedule of Listed Buildings

(i) A copy of the schedule of listed buildings in the Abergele Area was RECEIVED.

(ii) Spot listings

A request for a spot listing for a building in Abergele was DEFERRED until the end of the meeting.

j) C.C.B.C. – Expenditure of Public Open Space Funds associated with new housing developments

Cllr. R.G. Waters submitted a list of proposals from C.C.B.C. for expenditure of public open space funds. He advised members that he would like to see some of the funds used for construction of a path around the inside perimeter of Pentre Mawr Park. It was NOTED that Lyn Davies, Parks Manager, had been asked to obtain a quote for a bark path initially.

It was RESOLVED that the Council supports this proposal in principle.

k) The Mount

It was NOTED that Cllr. R.G. Waters had attended a meeting at the Mount to discuss proposals for an interpretive board for the Mount with a representative from Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Linda Beagan (Safer Routes to School Officer and Chris Pastori (Highways Dept).

10.

- l) Welsh Assembly Government – Good Practice Guide for Community and Town Councils in Wales

- Nine members were issued with a copy of the guide and further copies would be circulated to the remaining members when received.

- m) Conwy County Borough Council – Minutes Volume

It was NOTED that a copy of the Minutes of CCBC for December 2005 to February 2006 is available electronically or from the Clerk.

- n) Damaged Milestone – St. George Road

It was NOTED with concern that a milestone on the left hand side up St. George Road has been damaged by contractors undertaking recent work for Welsh Water. The damage has been reported to the local Highways Inspector.

It was RESOLVED to request that the milestone and any missing pieces which can be retrieved are returned to this Council for the damage to be inspected and a decision taken over whether it is repairable.

- o) Safer Routes to School

It was NOTED that a leaflet has been produced by Ysgol Glan Morfa, with assistance from C.C.B.C., Sustrans and Health Challenge Wales, to give pupils and parents information regarding the safer routes to school.

Concern was expressed regarding some of the crossing places, which were not considered to be safe.

- p) Clwb Rygbi Abegele – 30th Anniversary

It was NOTED that an invitation had been received to a dinner to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Clwb Rygbi Abergele and that the Mayor and Cllr. J.A. MacLennan would be attending.

It was RESOLVED to send a letter of congratulations to the club and also to the Abergele Rovers football team, who recently became Clwyd League division two champions.

9325. Abergele Community Centre

Cllr. G.R.K. Brown advised members that the focus group had been unable to meet recently, due to a lack of members attending meetings. A request was made that the council nominate a new representative to replace John Fowler, who had recently retired from the Council.

**It was PROPOSED that Cllr. M. Medicott be appointed onto the focus group, as a representative of this Council.
This was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11.

9326. Nominations

Members considered nominations for the following positions, for further consideration at the Annual Meeting, to be held on Thursday 25th May:

a) Town Mayor – **Cllr. C.J. MacRae**

Proposed by Cllr. D.A. Byrne and Seconded by Cllr. J.A. MacLennan

b) Deputy Mayor

Two proposals were made for Deputy Mayor;

Cllr. G.P. Davies

Proposed by Cllr. J. Stubbs and Seconded by Cllr. D.A. Byrne

Cllr. D.A. MacRae

Proposed by Cllr. G.R.K. Brown and Seconded by Cllr. R. MacRae

The nomination of **Cllr. G.P. Davies** was CARRIED by a MAJORITY of 9 votes FOR and 2 votes AGAINST.

c) Chairman – General Purposes and Planning - **Cllr. G.R.K. Brown**

Proposed by Cllr. R. MacRae and Seconded by Cllr. M.D. Bird

d) Vice Chairman – General Purposes and Planning – **Cllr. M. Medicott**

Proposed by Cllr. M. Bird and Seconded by Cllr. D.A. Byrne

e) Chairman – Policy and Finance – **Cllr. M.D. Bird**

Proposed by Cllr. J.A. MacLennan and Seconded by Cllr. G.R.K. Brown

f) Vice Chairman – Policy and Finance – **Cllr. R. Peacock**

Proposed by Cllr. G.R.K. Brown and Seconded by Cllr. R. MacRae

9327. The Draft Minutes of the Local Government Meeting, held on Thursday 27th April, 2006, were RECEIVED.

9328. Matters Arising on Those Minutes:

a) Min. 9303(iii) – Reserves

(i) It was NOTED that the sub-committee had suggested a maximum of 10% of the annual precept should be held as a general (unspecified) reserve.

(ii) It was RESOLVED to accept the recommendation of the sub-committee that the hall and development funds are specified as being held for 'long term expansion / future development plans'.

12.

It was NOTED that the sub-committee would prepare a draft Business Plan document, for consideration by the full council.

9329. Planning / Licencing

- a) Members considered the planning applications, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached, and concluded these as recorded on that schedule.
- b) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C. from 10th April to 23rd April, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- c) It was NOTED that no licensing applications had been made for the Abergele area.
- d) Proposed Mobile Telecommunications Development at Market Street, Abergele

Members considered a proposal submitted by O2 UK Ltd, to site a mobile phone base station and 15 metre mast outside the library on Market Street, Abergele.

It was RESOLVED to OBJECT to this proposal on the grounds that the proposed location is totally inappropriate, being in a highly visible town centre location. Members also had concerns regarding the possible health risks of a site adjacent to a public library, clinic and youth and community centre, where toddler and other groups frequently meet.

9330. Spot Listings

It was RESOLVED to exclude members of the public and press to discuss the recommendation for a spot listing of a property, considered as in the public interest to remain confidential.

Members discussed a proposal to request a spot listing of an old Abergele property, which had recently been purchased by a developer.

It was RESOLVED to write to CADW, with a copy to David Rigby (CCBC), to request that this property be spot listed pending an inquiry into whether it may be worth preserving as one of the old buildings of Abergele, even though it may not be of outstanding architectural merit.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

..... Chairman