Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, on Thursday 5th October, 2006, at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

9584. Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae

Cllrs: C.A. Billington; M. Bird; G.P. Davies; D.A. MacRae; J.A. MacLennan;

R.M. Medlicott; R.D. Peacock; B.C. Roberts; J. Stubbs (see Min. 9587);

K. Sudlow (see Min. 9587); R.G. Waters

Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

9585. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs: G.R.K. Brown; D.A. Byrne; J.E.H. Pitt

9586. **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. J.A. MacLennan (see Min. 9589(d) – Chair of Task & Finish Group)

9587. Police Liaison

The Police Liaison report from the meeting held on 2nd October was RECEIVED and considered.

It was NOTED with concern that fly tipping had become a greater problem in the Bodtegwel area since the new household recycling plant opened at Gofer. It was RESOLVED to write to the Head of Environmental Services, C.C.B.C., to state this Council's concerns and request assistance in tackling this problem.

It was NOTED that contractors have recently been to Gele Park to prepare a site for play equipment.

It was NOTED with some concern that the A55 will be closed from Abergele to St. Asaph for carriageway resurfacing.

- Cllr. J. Stubbs arrived at this juncture.

It was RESOLVED to guery the timescale for these works.

- Cllr. K. Sudlow arrived at this juncture.

9588. <u>It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the</u> Ordinary Meeting held on 7th September, 2006.

9589. Matters Arising on Those Minutes:

a) Min. 9545(a) - Damaged Milestone - St. George Road

It was NOTED that the damaged stone had now been re-set on a concrete base and, although it is not ideal, the lettering can still be seen and there is little else which can be done.

b) Min. 9545(b) – Proposed Transfer of Housing Stock

It was NOTED that Mr Andrew Bowden, Head of Housing Services, and Cllr. Dilwyn Roberts, Chairman of the Housing Options task & Finish Group, will be making a presentation to the Council on Monday 9th October at 6.30 p.m.

c) Min. 9545(c) – Request for 'No Entry' Signs at Tesco Roundabout

It was NOTED that C.C.B.C. had sent a chasing letter to Tesco on 4th September and no further response had been received.

d) Min. 9545(d) - Water Street Car Park Charges

It was NOTED that the group would be finalising its report in the next month and submitting its recommendations to Cabinet for approval.

e) Min. 9545(e) - Town Centre Traffic Management

It was NOTED that some amendments to the timing of the lights on Chapel Street had been made, to allow more vehicles through.

It was RESOLVED to leave this item on the agenda and monitor the situation.

- f) Min. 9545(g) Public Conveniences Review
 - (i) It was NOTED that Environmental Services had written to confirm that the Water Street facility was not down for immediate closure and if it was proposed to be closed in future, the Town Council would be notified.
 - (ii) Concern was expressed about the poor state of the public conveniences at Pensarn promenade. It was NOTED that approximately £47,000 had been raised from the sale of the nearby conveniences to Slaters several years ago and that some of the proceeds of sale should have been used to upgrade the remaining facility.

It was RESOLVED to write in strong terms to C.C.B.C. to state the dissatisfaction of this Council with the lack of improvements to this facility.

g) Min. 9545(h) - Speed Limits

It was NOTED that a further response from Highways is awaited.

h) Min. 9545(j) – Photograph Gallery

It was NOTED that the frames should be completed soon.

- i) Min. 9545(I) Doctors' Surgery Relocation
 - (i) An update on progress from the Local Health Board, sent to Alun Pugh A.M., was RECEIVED.
 - (ii) It was NOTED that the Minister for Health & Social Services, Dr. Brian Gibbons, feels that it would be premature to meet with a delegation to discuss the new surgery, as the scheme has not yet been submitted to the Assembly.
- j) Min. 9545(m) -One Voice Wales
 - (i) A brief verbal report was given on the recent visit by Simon White, Chief Executive, attended by the Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae, Cllr. R.G. Waters and the Clerk.
 - (ii) It was NOTED that a reduced membership subscription for 2006/07 would apply to all new Councils joining One Voice Wales from 1st October. The subscription for Abergele Town Council is £709.80.

It was FURTHER NOTED that the Chief Executive had indicated that the fee structure would be reviewed, due to concerns about the level of fees for larger councils (possibly after 5 years).

k) Min. 9545(o) - Summer Play-schemes

A brief verbal report was given by the Clerk, on behalf of Cllr. D.A. Byrne. Cllr. Byrne had attended a session of the play scheme in August and was impressed with the level of supervision and quality of play. Although he had not been in favour originally, his view has now changed and he feels the schemes are well worth supporting.

It was RESOLVED to thank Cllr. Byrne for his report and wish him well.

Min. 9545(p) – North Wales Association of Town Councils

The informal notes taken by the Clerk at a Special Meeting of the N.W.A.T.C., which took place at the Town Hall on 12th September to discuss health issues with the Minister of Health, Dr. Brian Gibbons, were RECEIVED.

The Clerk was thanked for producing an accurate and concise record of proceedings.

m) Min. 9545(m) – Communication with Town Councils

It was NOTED that a letter has been sent to John Roberts, Secretary to the N.W.A.T.C., to request that this matter be placed on the next agenda for the next meeting of the association for discussion.

It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to this Council's representatives to discuss this matter and report back on any action agreed.

n) Min. 9545(r) – Colwyn Twinning Association

It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Twinning Sub-Committee is to be deferred until after the Mayor's visit to Roissy-en-Brie in November, to give plenty of notice to invitees from community groups.

o) Min. 9546(n) - Active Lifestyles – Community Capital Programme

It was NOTED that discussion has been taking place between Lyn Davies and Jim Jones of C.C.B.C. regarding the proposal for a perimeter pathway around Pentre Mawr Park and that the total cost of a tarmac path is anticipated to be £65,000, of which only £20,000 would be available from the Active Lifestyles programme.

It was RESOLVED to contact Lyn Davies to suggest that a compact gravel path may be cheaper, or the scheme could be considered for incorporating into a Safer Routes to School project to attract additional funding.

p) Min. 9546(p) - Environment Agency Wales, New Tidal Flood Warning System Informal notes from the presentation held on Monday 18th September were RECEIVED.

q) Min. 9546(q) - Conservation Advisory Panel

A copy of the Draft Appraisal for Abergele, considered at the meeting held on 6th September, was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that some amendments were recommended by the panel and that these would be considered again before the document is approved.

r) Min. 9546(t) – Urdd National Eisteddfod, Colwyn District, 2008

It was NOTED that Abergele has a target of £20,000 to raise towards this event and that support from this Council should go through the local fundraising committee. This would need to be considered as part of the Annual Estimates for 2007/08.

s) Min. 9546(u) - Safer Routes to School

It was NOTED that Chris Pastori, Engineer (C.C.B.C.), will be attending a meeting at the Town Hall on Tuesday 10th October at 4 p.m. to table proposals for the Safer Routes to School Schemes for The Mount (including a bridge across the river) and Ffordd y Morfa. All Members are invited to attend.

t) Min. 9548(a) – Beecham Review of Local Service Delivery

A copy of the notes taken by the Clerk at the recent presentation by Sir Jeremy Beecham, along with the detailed recommendations contained in the report was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that a copy of the full document is available from the Clerk.

u) Min. 9548(b) - Llys Onnen

It was NOTED that a meeting, arranged by Cllr. Darren Miller, had taken place on Friday 15th September and that discussions were ongoing with two voluntary groups, who may be interested in taking over the running of Llys Onnen. The Community Care Sub-Committee would be meeting again shortly to discuss progress.

v) Min. 9549(c) – Building Regulations

It was NOTED that a response is awaited to the letter sent to the Head of Planning suggesting that a copy of the relevant planning approval, or appropriate exemption certificate, should be required as part of any application for Building Regulations approval. The Head of Planning is currently investigating the concerns.

9590. Correspondence

a) Police Funding and Protective Services

An invitation to the Mayor and up to 2 others to attend a presentation on the plan submitted by the Chief Constable to the Police Authority was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED that the Mayor and Councillors M. Bird and B.C. Roberts would attend and report back to this Council.

b) East Promenade Consultative Group

It was NOTED that the next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 7th November and that a copy of the Minutes of the last meeting (11th April) is available from the Clerk.

c) Conwy Countryside Activities

It was NOTED that a copy of the programme of activities for October 2006 – March 2007 is available from the Clerk.

d) Retail Premises in Abergele

An e-mail received stating concern about the state of some retail premises in Abergele was considered.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Public Protection Department to ask them to investigate concerns about the upper properties on Chapel

Street, due to a possible danger to the public.

e) Mayor's Diary

Details of forthcoming engagements of the Mayor were RECEIVED.

f) Forthcoming Meetings

Details of forthcoming meetings of the Council were NOTED.

g) Conwy Voluntary Services Council

A copy of the e-mail information for October 2006 was RECEIVED.

- h) Temporary Traffic Regulations:
 - (i) It was NOTED that the Royal British Legion had applied for a rolling road closure for the Remembrance Day Parade on 12th November.
 - (ii) It was NOTED that the Round Table had applied for a road closure for the fireworks display, to be held on Saturday 28th October.
- i) North Wales Technology Park

A letter giving an update on the current position with sales of units at the business park was NOTED.

It was RESOLVED to invite Mr Len Wilcock, Director, to a future meeting of the Council to give a full update on progress.

j) Land Registry Wales Office

It was NOTED that the Land Registry are encouraging all Town and Community Councils to register any land owned (freehold or leasehold).

It was RESOLVED to ensure that the following land, owned by this Council, has been registered:

- (i) The Town Hall & Council Offices, Llanddulas Road
- (ii) The Mount (to include the new piece of land to be transferred to this Council by Stepnell Ltd)

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to check ownership of the following land:

- (i) The war memorials in St. Michael's Churchyard and St. George
- (ii) Land at Tower Hill
- (iii) Woodland at Tan-y-Gopa
- k) Danger Point

It was NOTED that several County Councillors had recently visited this centre and considered it to be an excellent resource for schools to use to inform and educate children about safety and citizenship, particularly years 5 and 6. I) Proposed Bus Service Changes – Bws Bach 221

Proposed changes for service 221, to come into effect from 11th December, were NOTED.

m) Beacon at Pensarn Promenade

The Clerk gave a brief report on progress with the removal of the old Beacon and its replacement with a large rock.

(i) It was NOTED that C,C.B.C. had kindly arranged the removal of the Beacon by a contractor, without cost to this Council.

It was FURTHER NOTED that Hanson Aggregates (St. George Quarry) had kindly donated a large (7 tonne) rock free of charge and that Laing O'Rourke, with assistance from Bob Francis Crane Hire, had transported the rock and put it in position on the existing concrete base, also free of charge. A brass plaque is also to be provided by Hanson, free of charge, to incorporate wording from the plaque on the original beacon.

It was RESOLVED to write to all those concerned to thank them for their assistance.

(ii) It was NOTED with concern that a key had not been available from C.C.B.C. to allow access to the car park for the large vehicles, as the only key was held in the café, which was closed.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Eastern Promenade Consultative Group to state concern about lack of access to keys to the car park and to suggest that a spare key is held at the Town Hall.

- n) Government of Wales Bill
 - (i) It was NOTED that Alun Pugh, A.M., had offered to visit the Council prior to the meeting on Thursday 21st December to give a briefing on the content of this major legislation.
 - (ii) It was FURTHER NOTED that Ann Jones, A.M. for Vale of Clwyd, would be making a presentation to the North Wales Association of Town & Larger Community Councils on 20th October.

It was RESOLVED to accept Alun Pugh's offer to attend on 21st December, to enable Members to ask questions on the Bill and give an opportunity to raise any other matters.

o) Letter of Concern from Local Resident

A letter received by the Council detailing concerns about the state of roads and pavements and a lack of dog fouling / litter bins was considered.

It was RESOLVED to send a copy of this letter to C.C.B.C. and to request that a representative from the Highways department attends a

future meeting of this Council to address concerns about the state of the roads and footpaths in the town.

p) Local Development Plan Seminar

It was NOTED that there were some additional places available at the seminar, to be held at Bodlondeb on Tuesday 10th October at 6.30 p.m., and that any interested members should speak to the Clerk after the meeting. The Mayor and Councillors D.A. MacRae and G.R.K. Brown were already attending.

q) Board of Community Health Councils in Wales – Press Release

It was NOTED that the reported assurances given by Health and Social Services Minister Dr Brian Gibbons that changes will not happen to hospital services until local services are in place to replace them had been welcomed by the Community Health Councils.

9591. Sound Equipment

It was NOTED that a representative from I.D.B. (Bangor) will be at the Town Hall on Friday 13th October at 9.00 a.m. to discuss concerns over the safety of the microphones and recommend solutions. Any Members with concerns are encouraged to attend.

9592. <u>It was RESOLVED to Receive the Draft Minutes of the following Sub-</u>Committees:

- a) The Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee, held on 18th September 2006
- b) The Local Government Sub-Committee, held on 28th September 2006

9593. Matters Arising on Those Minutes:

- a) Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee Min. 9554(c) Switch-on
- b) It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE a recommendation that the Sub-Committee arranges an event to celebrate the Christmas lights on Friday 8th December and that the Rotary float and Beulah Band be contacted to check their availability on this date.
- c) It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE a recommendation that representatives from local schools and the Abergele Regeneration Team be invited to be involved in any arrangements for this event, which could possibly be held at Slater's forecourt, adjacent to the Bee Hotel.
- d) Local Government Sub-Committee

The response submitted to the consultation on the Gambling Act 2005 Draft Statement of Principles, issued by C.C.B.C., was NOTED.

9594. 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 11th to 25th September 2006, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- c) It was NOTED that no licensing applications for the Abergele area were listed from 18th to 29th September.

The Meeting Closed at 8.25 p.m.	
Chairman	