

### 3.

## Abergele Town Council

### MINUTES

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

9448. **It was RESOLVED that the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. G.P. Davies acts as Chairman in the absence of the Mayor.**

9449. **Attendance Register**

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. G.P. Davies (Chairman)  
The Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae (see Min. 9448(s) and 9452(b))  
Cllrs: C.A. Billington; M. Bird; G.R.K. Brown (see Min. 9450(n)); J.A. MacLennan (see Min. 9452(b)); D.A. MacRae; R. MacRae; M. Medicott; J.D. Mortimer (see Min. 9444(a)); R. Peacock (see Min.9448(h)); J.E.H. Pitt (see Min.9448(h)); B.C. Roberts; J. Stubbs; R.G. Waters  
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

9450. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr. D.A. Byrne

9451. **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. J.A. MacLennan declared an interest in Matters Arising (Min. 9447) items (c) and (j), due to his position as Chairman of these two groups.

9452. **Visitor to the Council**

Inspector Gary Ashton, North Wales Police, was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman. He thanked Members for the opportunity to address them and to answer the questions submitted. He then gave a brief update of recent local issues, including the news that P.C. Neale Duffy had signed a new contract and that The Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae and Cllr. G.R.K. Brown had accompanied P.C. Duffy on patrol last Friday. It was felt that this visit had been very useful and the offer was open to all Councillors to contact Inspector Ashton or P.C. Duffy if they would like to take this opportunity in future.

Inspector Ashton then went on to answer the submitted questions as follows:

- a) Inspector Ashton agreed that the move towards partnership working and the Arrive Alive scheme had left a gap in the enforcement of speed limits on roads not covered by this scheme. This could not be adequately resourced without the necessary equipment.

- Cllr. J.D. Mortimer arrived at this juncture.

He would be willing to involve the Community Beat Officers in enforcing speed limits, but this would require the purchase of a speed gun, which would be for the exclusive use of the officers in Abergele and Colwyn Bay.

## 4.

The Command team has offered to fund half the purchase cost (approx. £1500) and Inspector Ashton asked Members to consider assisting with the remainder of the funds. Other sources of funding would be investigated if the Council was unable to assist.

- b) Inspector Ashton went on to give information regarding the Arrive Alive scheme, which involves other partners including Local Authorities and the Crown Prosecution Service. In the North Wales area over £3,000,000 was raised from fines in 2004/05. These funds are spent on running costs (including staff), education and equipment. A bid is put in by the partnership annually and any surplus funds are returned to the Treasury.

A short question and answer session followed on related issues. Inspector Ashton was then thanked for his attendance and he retired from the meeting.

### 9453. **Police Liaison**

Members RECEIVED the police liaison report from 5<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

Cllr. J.A. MacLennan informed Members that the Abergele Regeneration Team is already co-ordinating a scheme with Abergele Youth Action to tidy up the river. Representatives will be attending the next Policy & Finance meeting and will give further information on progress with this.

### 9454. **Urgent Item – Council Housing**

Cllrs. J.E.H. Pitt and J.A. MacLennan gave a brief report on recent developments at Conwy County Borough Council, which involved proposals to transfer all the housing stock to a newly formed Housing Association, which will comprise 5 County Councillors, 5 tenants and 5 other members, to be chosen by the councillors and tenants.

Cllr. Waters explained that new standards come into force in 2012 and major improvements are required. A Housing Association would be able to borrow against its assets to fund these improvements. However, concern was expressed that only 5% of the housing stock had been assessed and many improvements had already been made.

It was NOTED that tenants will have the final say on the proposal and concerns were raised that Councillors had not been invited to a recent meeting held with tenants to discuss the proposals.

**It was RESOLVED to write to the Director of Housing (copied to the Cabinet Member) to request that this Council receives a presentation on the proposal as soon as possible.**

### 9455. **It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2006.**

## 5.

### 9456. Matters Arising on Those Minutes:

a) Min. 9402(b) –Tesco Roundabout

A further response from Highways regarding their request to Tesco for 'no entry' signs at the exit road was NOTED.

b) Min. 9402(c) – Water Street Car Park Charges

No further update was available from the Task & Finish Group set up by C.C.B.C.

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

c) Min. 9402(d) - Traffic Problems

(i) Town Centre Traffic Management

A response from Paul Evans, CCBC, to the concerns raised about the amended timing of the traffic lights was NOTED.

It was FURTHER NOTED that the yellow boxes were to be removed and replaced by lanes.

d) Water Mains Refurbishment Work

It was NOTED that a temporary traffic restriction had been granted in Gele Avenue and that public information sessions would be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August regarding the September works and road closures.

e) Min. 9402(e) - Public Conveniences Review

It was NOTED that no further update had been received.

f) Min. 9402(f) - Speed Limits

It was NOTED that a letter had been sent requesting a further update on any progress on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

g) Min. 9402(g) - C.C.T.V.

It was NOTED that no further update had been received.

h) Min. 9402(h) – Photograph Gallery

**It was RESOLVED to delegate the final decision regarding suitable wording for the new frames to the Clerk and Cllr. D.A. MacRae and that the forename, initials, surname and year of office would appear under each photograph.**

- Cllrs. J.E.H. Pitt and R. Peacock retired from the meeting at this juncture.

## 6.

i) Min. 9402(i) - Fire Service

The summary of proposals approved by the Fire & Rescue Authority following the 'Maintaining Momentum' consultation, as detailed on their website, were NOTED.

j) Min. 9402(j) – Abergele Regeneration Team

Cllr. J.A. MacLennan, having declared his interest as Chairman of this group, gave a brief report on the meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, where the constitution and policies had been approved.

It was NOTED that the A.R.T. are looking to help the town by drawing down grant funding for projects, which the Town Council are not able to access.

k) Min. 9402(k) –Doctors' Surgery Relocation

Members RECEIVED the informal notes from a meeting of the Doctors' Surgery Focus Group, held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June.

l) Min. 9402(l) –Police Reform in Wales

It was NOTED that the proposed merger had been delayed.

m) Min. 9402(m)(i) – Membership of the A.L.L.C

It was NOTED that the A.L.L.C. is having some administrative difficulties and is not, therefore, recruiting new member Councils at present.

n) Min. 9402(m)(ii) - One Voice Wales

A brief verbal report from the recent AGM of the Area Committee was given by Cllrs. G.R.K. Brown and R.G. Waters.

It was NOTED that a new Chief Executive and North Wales Regional Officer had now been appointed.

**It was RESOLVED to DEFER any further decision re: membership and to request that the new regional officer, Jane Evans, attends a future meeting of the Council to give information on progress being made and answer any questions.**

o) Min. 9402(n) – Grievance and Disciplinary Policy

**It was RESOLVED to approve and adopt the revised Grievance and Disciplinary Policies, drawn up in consultation with Cllr J.D. Mortimer and Cllr. J.A. MacLennan and to thank the Councillors for their assistance with this.**

## 7.

- p) Min. 9402(q) - Damaged Wall – Glanrafon

It was NOTED that this was not a structural wall and that Alan Thomas (Highways Dept.) would request a quotation from a stonemason for repairs to the wall to ascertain if this was viable.

- q) Min. 9402(r) – Listed Buildings

It was NOTED that a response received from CADW requesting further information regarding the old Abergele property to assess whether it may be a candidate for listing had been forwarded to Cllrs. D.A. MacRae and R.G. Waters for comment. The conclusion was that, although the property was built in 1849, it had no architectural importance and there was, therefore, no reason to list it.

- r) Min. 9402(s) – Good Practice Guide

**It was RESOLVED to REFER the guide to the Local Government Sub-Committee for further consideration.**

- s) Min. 9402(t) – Damaged Milestone

It was NOTED that Alan Thomas, Highways Dept., felt that the original stone should remain in place and not be removed, as the lettering was still intact. Members queried whether this was the case.

It was FURTHER NOTED that the contractor had offered to re-set the stone on a concrete base to make it safe and prevent further damage.

- The Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae arrived at this juncture.

- t) Min. 9402(u) – Proposed Mobile Telecommunications Mast

It was NOTED with satisfaction that the application had now been withdrawn.

- u) Min. 9405 & 9406 – Membership of Sub-Committees and Representation on Outside Bodies

**It was RESOLVED to co-opt John Fowler as a non-voting member of the Newsletter Sub-Committee.**

**It was FURTHER RESOLVED to DEFER filling the vacancy on the Community Care Sub-Committee and any vacancies on Outside Bodies until the new member of the Council is elected.**

### 9457. Presentation to the Mayor

Mr Ken Williams, Bible Secretary of the Clwyd Branch of Gideons International, was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman and he presented a copy of the scriptures to the Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae.

## 8.

### 9458. Correspondence

a) Mayor's Diary

The forthcoming engagements of the Mayor were NOTED.

b) Forthcoming Meetings

The forthcoming meetings of the Council were NOTED.

c) Immigration Advisory Service

Information about a new Llandudno surgery was NOTED.

d) Decriminalised Parking Enforcement – Review of Waiting Restrictions

A letter from CCBC including a schedule of roads where Traffic Regulation Orders were needed was NOTED.

e) Application to Site Army Cadet Force Hut

A letter from Major J E Hewitt detailing an application to site an Army Cadet Force hut within the fenced hard standing area in Pentre Mawr Park was discussed.

**It was PROPOSED and SECONDED that the Council should support the application for a hut on the hard standing area in Pentre Mawr Park, linked to the existing sports and recreational provision in the park.**

A recorded vote was requested by Cllr. Mortimer.  
Cllr. R.G. Waters took no part in the decision on this matter.

**The proposal was CARRIED by a majority of 7 FOR with 3 AGAINST and 1 ABSTENTION.**

FOR - Cllrs: M. Medlicott; C.J. MacRae; M. Bird; G.R.K. Brown; R. MacRae; J.A. MacLennan; G.P. Davies

AGAINST – Cllrs: J. Stubbs; C. Billington; J. Mortimer

ABSTENTION – Cllr. B.C. Roberts

f) Sutcliffe Play

It was NOTED that a copy of 'Playback' Issue 11 is available from the Clerk.

g) Local Services Survey

A request for assistance in completing a survey for a Council employee's MBA studies was NOTED.

**It was RESOLVED that members may volunteer to complete the survey, if they so wish.**

## 9.

### h) S.L.C.C. – Welsh Conference

It was NOTED that the Welsh Conference is to be held in Newport on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September and that the Clerk will not be attending on this occasion, due to the distance.

### i) Summer Playschemes

Members NOTED the publicity details distributed by CCBC for the open access playschemes funded by this Council.

### j) Age Partnership Group

It was NOTED that a newsletter has been received giving information on the new legislation, which comes into affect on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2006.

### k) Ombudsman Annual Report 2005/06

The content of the report and the amended pages were NOTED.

### l) North Wales Association of Town Councils

It was NOTED that the Annual and Quarterly meeting of the association is to be held at Connahs Quay on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2006 and that a copy of the agenda is available from the Clerk.

### m) Llys Onnen

Members discussed with concern the recent proposals made by the North Wales Society for the Blind to sell Llys Onnen Home for the Blind and Elderly. A verbal update received from Gwilym Bowen, Director, on 4<sup>th</sup> July was NOTED.

### n) Communication with Town Councils

It was NOTED that Bay of Colwyn Town Council had written to the Chief Executive to query the lack of progress in convening a meeting to discuss this issue.

- Cllr. G.R.K. Brown left at this juncture.

### 9459. **It was RESOLVED to Receive the Draft Minutes of the following Sub-Committees:**

#### a) **Twining Sub-Committee, held on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2006**

#### b) **Newsletter Sub-Committee, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006**

### 9460. **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

**It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the following recommendations made by these Sub-Committees:**

## 10.

### a) Min. 9419(a) – Colwyn Twinning Association

- (i) That the Council should find out more information about the existing twinning arrangement, including querying its legal status, as the old Colwyn Borough no longer exists.
- (ii) That other representatives from local community groups and businesses be invited to attend a future meeting of the sub-committee, to include: Geoff Barclay (Conlan International), Colin Knowlson (Slaters) and representatives from the Association of Traders, Abergele Regeneration Team, the local Sports Association and the schools. Ideas could then be gathered regarding any possible links and the benefits these may bring to the community.

### b) Min. 9446 – Town Guide

- (i) That the Council proceeds with negotiating a contract for Plus Publishing to produce four editions of an Abergele Town Guide, at a maximum cost of £3,600 (minimum £1,600 – subject to advertising revenue achieved) for 16,000 copies of each edition.
- (ii) That the Council investigates alternative methods for distributing the proposed guide to residents, including the Post Office.
- (iii) That the Council writes to the Head of Regeneration at CCBC to enquire as to whether any funding may be available to assist with producing the guide.
- (iv) That the Clerk contact Plus Publishing to agree a revised production schedule for delivery of the first edition by the end of February 2007.  
  
- Cllr. J.A. MacLennan retired from the meeting at this juncture.
- (v) That all Members be invited to make suggestions for editorial topics for the guide. These should be forwarded to the Clerk before the next meeting (proposed to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> July).
- (vi) That Members consider agreeing a Mission Statement for the Town Council, to be published in the guide.  
  
- The Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae, retired from the meeting at this juncture.

### 9461. Planning / Licencing

- a) Members considered and concluded the planning applications, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached.
- b) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C. from 8<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2006, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- c) Members considered one licensing application made for the Abergele Area at Siamber Wen and there were no objections.