

# Abergele Town Council

## MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2007, at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

131/07 **Attendance Register**

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. G.P. Davies (Chairman)  
Cllrs: C.A. Billington; M. Bird; D.A. Byrne; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae; R. MacRae; M. Medlicott; J. D. Mortimer; B.C. Roberts; K. Sudlow; R.G. Waters  
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

132/07 **Apologies for Absence**

The Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae  
Cllrs: G.R.K. Brown; R. Peacock; J.E.H. Pitt; J. Stubbs

133/07 **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. J.A. MacLennan – see Min. 136/007(a)(i) and (h)  
Cllr. M. Bird – see Min. 141/007(a)

134/07 **Police Liaison**

The Police Liaison report from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March was RECEIVED and considered.

A short discussion took place regarding the recent granting of a 'Cr.A.S.B.O.' – Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order - and a drugs raid on a local property, which had not been recorded in the notes, although it was discussed at the liaison session.

The Clerk brought the following items to the attention of the Council:

a) **Street Meetings**

**It was RESOLVED to support the idea of street meetings with local youths, which involves the police distributing invite cards and local councillors, the Community Beat Manager and possibly youth workers meeting with youths in the town to get their views.**

b) **Reporting Disturbances**

It was NOTED that Sgt. Jones had requested members to spread the message that all disturbances should be reported to the police immediately, even if criminal damage had not yet occurred.

c) **Invitation**

Sgt. Jones and P.C. Hall reiterated the previous invitation to all Members to accompany them on patrol in the town. Members who had taken part in these previously had found them to be very beneficial.

135/07 **It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007.**

136/07 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

a) Min. 61/007(a)(ii) – Future of Abergele Hospital

Cllr. J.A. MacLennan declared an interest in this matter, as Chair of the Conwy East Community Health Council.

(i) A copy of a letter from the Chairman of Conwy East CHC to the Chief Executive of the Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust, dated 5 February 2007, and a response dated 19 February 2007 were RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that this matter has not been closed by the CHC and further questions will be asked of the Chief Executive.

(ii) An acknowledgement from the Chief Executive of the Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust to the request that Members be invited to see the presentation about the proposals for a new Child & Adolescent Mental Health Unit at the hospital site was RECEIVED.

**It was RESOLVED to write back to insist that members of the public and local representatives should be consulted on this matter.**

b) Min. 61/007(b) - Fly Tipping in Bodtegwel / St. George

(i) It was NOTED with concern that no response had been received to the letter sent to the Head of Environmental Services on 9 October 2006 (and subsequently chased on 10 January and 28 February), regarding concerns about increasing incidents of fly tipping, since the new household recycling centre opened at Gofer and also the amount of rubbish collecting in the fields neighbouring the site.

(ii) It was NOTED that no further response had been received from the Environment Agency to the request that they re-visit the CCBC and Thorncliffe premises on Rhuddlan Road.

c) Min. 61/007(c) –Public Conveniences Review

It was NOTED with concern that no response had been received to the letter sent to the Head of Environmental and Technical Services on 9 October 2006 (and subsequently chased on 10 January and 28 February) regarding the lack of improvements to Pensarn public conveniences.

It was FURTHER NOTED that no report had been received from the Cabinet meeting held on 22 February and Members of CCBC did not think that this item had been on the agenda.

**It was RESOLVED to write to the Chief Executive and Cllr. Ronnie Hughes, Chair of the Principal Scrutiny Committee of CCBC,**

**regarding the lack of response to the two letters sent to the Department of Environmental and Technical Services last October.**

- d) Min. 61/007(d) - Communication between CCBC and Town Councils

Members considered the enquiry from Bay of Colwyn Town Council as to whether further meetings should be convened, taking into consideration the recent information received from One Voice Wales regarding separate Conwy and Denbigh area meetings (with the first one due to be held on 22 March).

**It was RESOLVED to reply that no further meetings should be convened and that individual departments within CCBC should be calling meetings whenever they have specific issues to discuss which are relevant to all town and community councils.**

- e) Min. 61/007(e) – Parks

- (i) Parc Gele

It was NOTED that the consultation exercise on the proposals for Parc Gele is continuing in its present form and is now being circulated to users of the park, including residents in the wider catchment area and youth groups. The responses will then be collated and reviewed before the final detailed plan and bid is submitted to WREN for funding.

**It was RESOLVED to respond to the consultation that:**

- 1. The Council is very concerned about the withdrawal of police support for the youth shelter and to seek re-assurance that this will be removed from the plans.**
- 2. The Council has reservations regarding the M.U.G.A., following reports of problems with similar equipment in Penrhyn Bay, and would like to see this either supervised or locked at night.**
- 3. To suggest that consideration is given to moving the M.U.G.A. to a site to the east of the river Gele, which is further away from residential properties (especially the row of old peoples' bungalows).**

It was FURTHER NOTED that the £5,000 earmarked in the Estimates for 2006/07 towards the play equipment for Parc Gele will not be required until 2007/08 and members were asked to consider whether this could be added to the £5,000 in the new budget for 2007/08.

**It was RESOLVED to REFER this matter to the Parks & Play Areas Sub-Committee to consider, alongside any proposals for improvements to Pentre Mawr Park.**

- (ii) Pentre Mawr

It was NOTED that the provision of a perimeter pathway around the

park is a priority for the Parks Department and tenders have now been received by CCBC for the first phase (to link the two entrances at Sea Road), although these are all above budget. One further quotation was awaited and this Council has been asked to consider whether it can contribute any funding towards this.

It was FURTHER NOTED that it is the policy of the Parks Department NOT to provide lighting in parks and no budget is available for this.

**It was RESOLVED to REFER these matters to the Parks and Play Areas Sub-Committee for further consideration.**

f) Min. 61/007(f) - Retail Premises in Abergele

It was NOTED that C.C.B.C. have now obtained contact details for the owner of these premises and will be writing to them shortly.

g) Min. 61/007(g) –Litter / Dog Fouling Bins

It was NOTED that an inspector from C.C.B.C. has recently been out to record the locations of all current dog/litter bins and a map with full details will be sent out very soon. The requests for additional bins can then be prioritised accordingly, as and when additional bins become available.

h) Min. 61/007(j) - Abergele Regeneration Team

(i) It was NOTED that the Clerk attended a workshop on ‘Community Plans’ at the recent Clerks’ Conference and has received a copy of a Community Planning Toolkit, which contains lots of useful practical guidance for Parish and Community Councils in England on why and how to produce a Community Plan.

**It was RESOLVED to give a copy of this to the members representing this council on A.R.T.**

(ii) It was NOTED that the next meeting of A.R.T. is to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> March at 6.30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

i) Min. 61/007(l) –Traffic Problems on Faenol Avenue

Members RECEIVED and considered a response from the Highways Department to the letter sent regarding traffic problems on Faenol Avenue and a request to review restricted parking areas.

**It was RESOLVED to reply that:**

- (i) **the contents had been noted**
- (ii) **one specific restricted parking area no longer felt necessary or appropriate was that on Groes Lwyd**
- (iii) **As Bridge Street is currently being re-surfaced, it would be an ideal opportunity to remove the two parking bays.**

j) Min. 61/007(m) - Car Parks

(i) Tesco Car Park

Members RECEIVED and considered three letters regarding the three hour parking restriction recently imposed by Tesco and a copy of a letter sent to Tesco by Property Services, C.C.B.C.

A full discussion took place regarding all the issues surrounding the introduction of limited parking at Tesco, including: the problems caused by vehicles being left for long periods of time (upto a week in some cases); displaced parking to other areas, such as the unrestricted Library car park and Llanddulas Road; improved parking availability at Tesco, especially for disabled badge holders.

**It was RESOLVED to acknowledge receipt of the letters and inform the senders that a Special Meeting is to be arranged to discuss parking issues.**

(ii) Water Street and Library Car Parks

It was NOTED that CCBC were likely to be reluctant to relinquish control of Water Street car park, due to the significant amount of income it generates for the Highways department.

**It was RESOLVED to write to Mr Peel to request that he sends an officer to attend a Special Meeting of this Council, to be called to discuss the current parking issues in the town.**

k) Min 61/007(o) –Safer Routes to School – Ffordd y Morfa

Members RECEIVED and considered a response to the letter sent to the Head of Highways regarding the proposed traffic management scheme on Ffordd y Morfa.

It was NOTED that work on the scheme is now almost complete, but that a H.G.V. recently had difficulties accessing the school site, due to the new railings / bollards near the entrance.

**It was RESOLVED to write to Highways (with a copy to Linda Beagan) to request that a risk assessment is undertaken (if not already done) to ensure that emergency vehicles, such as fire engines, would have no difficulties accessing the site.**

l) Min. 62/007(h) – Making the Connections – Delivering Beyond Boundaries

It was NOTED that the Community Care Sub-Committee will be meeting to consider the two documents received on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm.

m) Min. 63/007 – Lighting in A55 Underpass

(i) It was NOTED that an e-mail had been received on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February to give notice of the closure of the underpass to pedestrians from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February, to allow for sandblasting of the underpass to take place before half term (when work on a mural was planned).

(ii) It was NOTED that the dynamic risk assessment, completed by Councillors G.R.K. Brown and K.J. Sudlow, had been forwarded to Highways and that a patrol crossing had been put in place on the A55 slip road for the week.

**It was RESOLVED to thank Cllrs. Brown and Sudlow for their time and effort in producing this report.**

(iii) It was NOTED that the new lighting had now been installed and was much brighter than before.

n) Min. 65/007(b) – Annual Estimates

Members RECEIVED a copy of the Approved Annual Estimates for 2007/08.

It was NOTED that one minor amendment was required on page 4, where the transfer to the Hall & Development Reserve should read £2,000 and the Projected Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 £66,035.73

## 137/07 Correspondence

a) Mayor's Diary

The engagements for the Mayor in March were NOTED.

b) Forthcoming Meetings

Details of the meetings scheduled to take place during March were NOTED.

c) Twinning

(i) Members RECEIVED a copy of the latest newsletter from the Twinning Association.

(ii) It was NOTED that a meeting of the Twinning Sub-Committee is to be arranged once further details are available regarding any amendments to the constitution of the existing association.

(iii) An invitation from Claude Lefevre to the Mayor to attend an event in Roissy-en-Brie from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May was RECEIVED.

**It was RESOLVED that the Mayor should attend this event, if he so wishes, with any costs to be met from the Mayor's allowance.**

d) C.C.B.C. Minutes Volume

It was NOTED that a copy of the Minutes Volume for September to November 2006 is now available on the Conwy website or on request from the Clerk.

e) Dot Cym Campaign

Members considered a letter regarding a bid for the recognition of .cym as a domain name on the internet.

**It was RESOLVED to write a letter of support for this bid.**

f) N.W. Association of Town & Larger Community Councils

A copy of the Minutes from the quarterly meeting held at Rhyl on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January was RECEIVED.

Several comments made by Sue Essex regarding Community Action Plans, Charters and Local Service Boards were NOTED with interest.

g) Cymuned

An e-mail from Aran Jones, Chief Executive of Cymuned and extracts from the Homes4Locals website were RECEIVED and considered.

**It was RESOLVED to write to Cymuned to declare support for the Homes for Locals campaign.**

h) W.A.G. – The Strategy for Older People in Wales

Information regarding ‘Living longer Living better’ – the Strategy for Older People in Wales was RECEIVED.

**It was RESOLVED to REFER this to the Community Care Sub-Committee for further consideration.**

i) C.V.S.C. – Circulation 38 – February 2007

It was NOTED that a copy of the February circulation is available from the Clerk.

j) One Voice Wales

The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED:

- (i) Notice of a meeting of the Conwy Area on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7pm
- (ii) The Conwy/Denbighshire Bulletin for January 2007

k) Flower Festival

Details of a Flower Festival, planned to take place at St Michael’s Parish

Church from 21-24 June 2007, were RECEIVED.

l) W.A.G. – New Smoke-free Legislation

Details on the ban on smoking in public places, which is due to come into force on 2 April 2007, were RECEIVED.

**It was NOTED that an ‘Incident book’ is required and it was RESOLVED to REFER the sample ‘Smoke-free Policy’ to the Executive Sub-Committee for amending, as required.**

m) New Cemetery

A brief verbal update was given by the Clerk on progress with acquisition of land for a new cemetery, following a recent meeting with Lyn Davies.

**It was RESOLVED to refer this information to the group set up to look at Future Burial Provision, including members of the Joint Burial Board.**

n) North Wales Central Coroner – Room Hire Enquiry

An enquiry from the Coroner regarding the availability of rooms for hearing the inquiry into the tragic deaths of four cyclists in January 2006 was RECEIVED and considered.

**It was RESOLVED to approve this in principle, providing it did not jeopardise the existing arrangement for room hire with the Employment Tribunal Service.**

**It was FURTHER RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Clerk to discuss this request sensitively with both parties to see if an acceptable compromise could be reached.**

138/07

**Promoting the Town**

It was NOTED that the Council has agreed an objective to ‘promote the vitality and viability of Abergele’ and Cllr. Mortimer requested Members to consider how this can best be achieved.

A discussion took place regarding several initiatives already being undertaken by the Council and others locally in furtherance of this objective. These included: supporting Abergele Regeneration Team in producing a Community Action Plan; producing a new Abergele Town Guide, which is to be widely circulated and made available on the Council’s website; producing a town Heritage Trail.

**It was RESOLVED that a group should be brought together to discuss ways in which to promote the town, to include considering both tourism and culture and promoting businesses in the town.**

139/07

**It was RESOLVED to Receive the Minutes of the Following Sub-Committees:**

- a) The Executive Sub-Committee, held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2007
- b) The Executive Sub-Committee, held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007
- c) The Town Guide Sub-Committee, held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007
- d) The Town Guide Sub-Committee, held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2007
- e) The Town Guide Sub-Committee, held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007

140/07

**Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

- a) Min. 83/07 & 130/07(b)– Street Trading

**It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation by the Executive Sub-Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> March that the Council keeps to its original decision (see Min. 9700(c) 7/12/06) of supporting all streets in the Conwy County Borough Council area being Consent Streets.**

- b) Min. 84/07 – Registration Service

It was NOTED that the completed questionnaire, as detailed in Schedule 'A' of the Minutes of the Executive Sub-Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2007, had been submitted to CCBC.

- c) Min. 130/07 - Risk Assessment 2006/07

**It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the updated Risk Assessment and Management Report 2006/07 and Action Points 1-8, as detailed in Schedule 'A' to those Minutes.**

- d) Min. 130/07 - Civic Regalia

Members considered the recommendations from the Executive Sub-Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

**It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that the Clerk obtains up to date quotations for new silver chains for both the Deputy Mayor and the Mayoress's Chains of Office**

- e) Town Guide

- (i) Min. 103/07 to 118/07 – Editorial Content

It was NOTED that three meetings had taken place during the past two weeks and that a substantial amount of work had been done by members of the sub-committee to ensure that the format and content of the guide was acceptable and that the new printing deadlines were met.

- (ii) Min. 112/07 – Acknowledgements

**It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the decision of the sub-committee**

**to acknowledge in the guide the permission given by Cllr. D.A. MacRae to use her photographs and historical content.**

**A vote of thanks to Cllr. MacRae and all Members of the Sub-Committee for their work on the Town Guide was PROPOSED and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

(iii) Min. 118/007(b) – Distribution

**It was NOTED that 16,000 copies of the guide were due to be received shortly and it was RESOLVED to DELEGATE authority to the sub-committee to arrange the distribution of the guide to local residents and via Tourist Information Centres etc.**

141/07 **Planning / Licencing**

- a) The planning applications, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached, were discussed and concluded as recorded on that schedule.
- b) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C. from 29<sup>th</sup> January to 11<sup>th</sup> February 2007, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- c) It was NOTED that no licensing applications had been made for the period 12-23 February 2007.

The Meeting Closed at 9.10 p.m.

..... Chairman

# 8

## Abergele Town Council

### SCHEDULE 'A'

Planning applications considered on Thursday 8 March 2007:

0/32979                      Piping of ditch, re-siting and erection of boundary fence at Threeways Garage, Faenol Avenue, Abergele

Applicant(s):              Threeways Garage Ltd

Conclusion(s):             No objections

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0/32984                      Approximately 8% crown reduction of 1no. oak tree at Carreg y Bryn Pant Lane, off Llanfair Road, Abergele

Applicant(s):              Mr J Fisher

Conclusion(s):             Endorse Tree Warden's recommendations (see attached)

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0/33003                      Alterations and extension to dwelling at Tanrallt Lodge, Llanfair Road Abergele

Applicant(s):              Mr Fletcher

Conclusion(s):             No objections – providing features including finials are retained

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0/33007                      Remove 3no, Ash trees at rear of 1 Church Street, St. George, Abergele

Applicant(s):              Mr M De Salis

Conclusion(s):             Endorse Tree Warden's recommendations (see attached)

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# **Abergele Town Council**

## **SCHEDULE 'B'**

Planning Decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council from 29.01.07 – 11.2.07

0/32730      Alterations and extensions to filling station shop at Threeways Garage,  
Faenol Avenue, Abergele

Decision:    Approved with conditions

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0/32754      Alterations to chimney stack and installation of GRP to house 3no. antennas,  
2no. equipment cabinets at ground level and associated ancillary development  
at Bee Hotel, Market Street, Abergele

Decision:    Approved with conditions

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