

3.

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 9th November, 2006, at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

9635. **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae (Chairman)
Cllrs: C.A. Billington; M. Bird; G.P. Davies; D.A. MacRae; R. MacRae; M. Medicott; J.D. Mortimer (see Min. 9640s); J.E.H. Pitt (see Min.); R. Peacock; J. Stubbs; R.G. Waters
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

9636. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs: G.R.K. Brown; D.A. Byrne; B.C. Roberts; K. Sudlow

9637. **Declaration of Interest** - None recorded.

9638. **Police Liaison**

The Police Liaison report from the meeting held on 6th November was RECEIVED and the following items were discussed:

- a) It was NOTED that members should not attend pub watch meetings, unless specifically asked to do so by a licensee. Any matters of concern regarding licensed premises should be reported to the Licensing Department and the Police for appropriate action to be taken.
- b) **It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that a letter be sent to Inspector Ashton to thank him for his assistance during his time as Inspector for this area and to wish him well in his new post.**
- c) The Clerk gave a brief verbal update on the proposals for Parc Gele, following a meeting held with Lyn Davies on 8th November. It was NOTED that initial drawings should soon be available showing proposals for new paths, play equipment, fencing, planting, a multi-use games area and a youth shelter. The Leisure department will consult locally on the proposals and it is hoped that a bid can be submitted by the next WREN deadline of 7th January, for completion this financial year.
- d) Members were requested to contact P. C. Duffy or the Clerk if they were interested in joining P.C. Duffy on a walkabout on Friday 17th November.
- e) It was RESOLVED to contact P.C. Duffy to ask whether he would consider including a short article in the Council's newsletter to encourage residents to contact him to report any incidents / concerns.

4.

9639. **It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 5th October, 2006.**

9640. **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

a) Min. 9587 – Fly Tipping in Bodtegwel / St. George

It was NOTED that no response had been received to the letter sent to the Head of Environmental Services regarding concerns about increasing incidents of fly tipping since the new household recycling centre opened at Gofer, but that there had also been no further incidents over the past month.

b) Min. 9587 – A55 Carriageway Resurfacing – Abergele to Bodelwyddan

Full details of the proposed works, including timings and proposed carriageway closures, were NOTED.

c) Min. 9589(c) – Request for ‘No Entry’ Signs at Tesco Roundabout

It was NOTED that two ‘No Entry’ signs have now been erected on the roundabout.

d) Min. 9589(d) – Water Street Car Park Charges

It was NOTED that no further update had been received from the Task & Finish Group set up by C.C.B.C., but that charges at the car park had recently been reduced.

It was RESOLVED to query whether free parking would be available for the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 12th November.

e) Min. 9589(e) - Town Centre Traffic Management

It was NOTED that there had been no further complaints about the town centre traffic management since the end of the water mains work, but that the timing of the lights on Chapel Street appears to have been amended recently to allow more vehicles through each change in the lights.

f) Min. 9589(f) - Public Conveniences Review

It was NOTED that no response has been received to the letter sent to the Head of Environmental and Technical Services regarding the lack of improvements to Pensarn public conveniences.

It was FURTHER NOTED that some work appeared to be underway at the conveniences, but it was not certain that this was refurbishment work.

g) Min. 9589(g) - Speed Limits (A548 and St. George)

A further response from Highways was RECEIVED and considered.

5.

It was NOTED that the Council's objection to the proposed reduced speed limit on the A548 (Llanddulas Road) had not yet been reported to Cabinet.

It was FURTHER NOTED, with satisfaction, that the Highways Department have finally agreed to provide a 30 mph speed limit in St. George village, although this would not be progressed until next year.

h) Min. 9589(h) – Photograph Gallery

It was NOTED that the three new frames have now been received and a discussion took place regarding the most suitable location to hang them.

It was RESOLVED that the photographs should be hung in the Main Chamber, not in the corridor, and the Clerk was requested to investigate how they could be safely secured to the walls and report back to the Council.

i) Min. 9589(j) – One Voice Wales

(i) Confirmation of membership was RECEIVED and it was RESOLVED to appoint Cllrs. R.G. Waters & G.R.K. Brown as representatives for the Area Committee.

A copy of a bulletin from a recent meeting of the Conwy & Denbigh Area Committee was RECEIVED.

(ii) A copy of 'The Voice' – Issue 4 was RECEIVED.

j) Min. 9589(m) - Communication with Town Councils

(i) It was NOTED that concerns about the lack of any regular forum to discuss matters of mutual interest between town councils and Conwy County Borough Council were discussed at the recent meeting of the North Wales Association of Town Councils. The quality of communication between town and community councils and their unitary authority seems to vary considerably between Counties.

A copy of the draft Minutes from this meeting were RECEIVED.

(ii) The document 'Joining Forces', issued by the Society of Local Council Clerks at its recent conference was RECEIVED (this was written for English Parish Councils, where Charter agreements are already in place, but is also relevant to Welsh Town & Community Councils).

(iii) It was NOTED that a separate document, specifically about clustering, is also available from the Clerk.

(iv) It was NOTED that a suggestion had been made by Cllr. Brian Cossey, Mayor of Bay of Colwyn, that the Town Councils in Conwy should arrange their own regular meetings to discuss matters of mutual interest and invite representatives from C.C.B.C. to attend, as and when required.

6.

k) Min. 9589(o) –Active Lifestyles – Community Capital Programme

It was NOTED that the Clerk had recently met with Lyn Davies and he had responded to the suggestions made by this Council as follows:

- (i) A non-tarmac surface for the proposed path would not be suitable due to the extra maintenance this would require.
- (ii) He was not sure about how practical it would be to combine the path with a safer route to school, but would talk to Highways about this.
- (iii) Lyn had suggested that the path could possibly be considered in two phases, with the first phase being the shorter length along the western boundary (Sea Road). Alternative funding sources would still need to be found and a response is awaited.

l) Min. 9589(s) - Safer Routes to School

The notes from two recent meetings held with Chris Pastori and Linda Beagan to discuss proposals for the current schemes were RECEIVED and NOTED.

It was RESOLVED to send a letter to Chris Pastori to request that a Clwyd Powys Trust approved archaeologist be used to monitor the works alongside the Mount.

m) Min. 9589(v) – Building Regulations

It was NOTED that application checking arrangements are to be introduced between planning enforcement and building control to aim to identify cases where planning permission has not been obtained. However, this cannot prevent all cases of work proceeding without planning permission.

n) Min. 9590(a) - Police Funding and Protective Services

It was NOTED that Cllrs. M. Bird and B.C. Roberts will be attending a presentation on the 30th November and will report back to the December meeting.

o) Min. 9590(b) - East Promenade Consultative Group

It was NOTED that there was nothing to report from the meeting held on 7th November.

p) Min. 9590(d) - Retail Premises in Abergele

A response to the letter sent to the Public Protection Dept regarding the upper storeys of property on Chapel Street was considered.

It was RESOLVED to write to Dave Rigby, Conservation Officer, regarding the concerns of this Council.

7.

q) Min. 9590(i) – North Wales Technology Park

It was NOTED that Mr Len Wilcock and Mr Steve West will be attending the Council meeting on Thursday 23rd November to give an update on progress.

r) Min. 9590(j) – Land Registry

It was NOTED that the only land owned by the Town Council is the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road and land at the Mount and that the Clerk will confirm with the Council's solicitor that these have been registered.

It was FURTHER NOTED that land at Tower Hill had been gifted to the community by the Featherstone family, but if it was not fenced off and maintained it would revert to the estate. This had not been pursued by the Council at the time.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would make further enquiries to confirm the current position with this.

s) Min. 9590(m) – Monument at Pensarn Promenade

(i) It was NOTED that the plaque has now been mounted and that Laing O'Rourke have kindly assisted with concrete for the base of the rock, at no cost.

It was RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to arrange for slabs to be laid to tidy the area in front of the rock, up to a maximum cost of £100.

(ii) It was NOTED that the lock for the barrier to the car park is to be replaced and a key will be held at the Town Hall, along with four other locations.

- Cllr. J. Mortimer arrived at this juncture.

t) Min. 9590(n) – Government of Wales Bill

(i) A report on the presentation made by Ann Jones, A.M., from the Minutes of the recent meeting of the North Wales Association was RECEIVED.

(ii) It was NOTED that Alun Pugh A.M. will be attending the meeting on Thursday 21st December and would be able to answer any questions members may have on this new Bill.

u) Min. 9590(o) – Letter of concern about roads, footpaths and litter bins

(i) It was NOTED that no written response to the letter sent to Environmental Services regarding the locations of litter / dog fouling bins and the frequency of emptying had been received and that this information would take some time to compile.

8.

- (ii) It was NOTED that Alan Thomas from the Highways Department had agreed to attend a future meeting of this Council to discuss concerns about local roads and footpaths.

9641. Correspondence

- a) Consultation on Draft Guidance on the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

It was RESOLVED to REFER the consultation document to the Local Government Sub-Committee for a response to be drafted by 29 December 2006.

- b) National Assembly for Wales

It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Mid and West Wales Regional Committee is to be held on Friday 17th November, near Llandrindod Wells.

- c) Rhuddlan Road Resurfacing Works

Notice of intended work to resurface Rhuddlan Road from the Faenol Avenue junction to Bridge Street was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to write to Highways to request that the pavements be resurfaced at the same time, as they are in a poor condition.

- d) Proposed O2 Development at the Bee Hotel

A letter of response from O2 to the objections of this Council to the proposed development at the Bee was NOTED.

- e) Christmas Market at Hesketh House

Details of a Christmas market being planned to take place in the parking area at the rear of Hesketh House over the first three weekends in December were NOTED.

It was FURTHER NOTED, with concern, that despite previous contact with the Licensing Department of CCBC, Conlan had recently been informed that they could not go ahead with the market without planning permission, as it falls within an area where open air markets are not permitted. The necessary permission could take up to 16 weeks to obtain.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Chief Executive to seek his assistance in obtaining a dispensation for the proposed Christmas market, which has the full support of this Town Council, is being held under cover (a marquee) on private land and would help to give a much needed boost to trade for the town.

9.

f) Local Works – Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill

It was NOTED that a further letter had been sent to all Members in October regarding further action required.

g) Mayor's Diary

Details of forthcoming engagements of the Mayor were RECEIVED.

h) Forthcoming Meetings

Details of the meetings scheduled to take place during November were RECEIVED.

i) Graffiti Removal Service

Contact details for a new service to tackle graffiti, operated in partnership between Conwy Community Safety Partnership and North Wales Probation service were NOTED.

j) Hands off Dementure Drugs Campaign

It was NOTED that a rally is being held on Friday 17th November at 11.00 am in Sea View Road, Colwyn Bay, to protest against the decision by the Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to deny access to Alzheimers drugs for thousands of NHS patients.

k) Local Council's Update

A copy of the bulletin for November 2006 was distributed to all members.

l) Conwy Federation of Community Health Councils

It was NOTED that a meeting of the Federation, followed by an Annual Joint Meeting with Conwy Local Health Board, was held on 7th November.

m) Planning Site Visit

It was NOTED that a planning site visit regarding application 0/32308, for the erection of five 2 bedroom mews style dwellings at the rear of 13 Market Street, Abergele, had been cancelled at short notice due the withdrawal of the application.

n) Enquiry from Llandudno Magistrates Court re: Room Hire

Members considered a request from the Courts to book rooms at the Town Hall to hear some Family Court Cases, typically regarding contact arrangements. It was NOTED that verbal assurances had been made that only "non-contentious" cases would be listed to be heard here, the parties would have legal representation with them at all times and a security guard would also be present to patrol the building.

10.

Four dates had initially been requested in March and May 2007 and some concern was expressed regarding possible clashes with Employment Tribunals. It was NOTED that no tribunal bookings had yet been received for March 2007.

It was RESOLVED, by a majority vote of 8 In Favour and 3 Against, to accept bookings for Family Court cases, with the cost to be agreed depending on the number of rooms required (refer to Min. 9165(a) and Schedule C, 2nd February 2006, for agreed Room Hire charges for 2006/07).

9642. The Draft Minutes of the following Sub-Committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The Community Care Sub-Committee, held on Monday 16th October
- b) The Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee, held on Monday 16th October
- c) The Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee, held on Monday 6th November

9643. Matters Arising on Those Minutes:

- a) Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee

- (i) The Clerk gave an update on progress with the scheme for 2006:

It was NOTED that the installation work for the festoon and lamp column motifs was now almost complete, with a final visit planned this weekend to test and replace any bulbs etc., prior to switch-on on Friday 17th November.

Two quotations were considered for the installation of a feeder pillar to house the timer and low-voltage transformer for the new lights at St. George.

It was RESOLVED to accept the verbal quotation of £540 received from N.W.P., who had undertaken the other infrastructure work in the town, and to arrange for the work to be completed as soon as possible.

It was NOTED that listed building consent had not yet been received for the additional festoon, planned to run from Costcutter to Regent House, despite initial contact with a Planning Officer in September.

It was RESOLVED to proceed with erecting the festoon, if possible, or alternatively to seek to use Lamp Column 2 to support the catenary wires.

- (ii) Members considered the provisional arrangements for an event to be held in the town to celebrate Christmas:

11.

It was NOTED that the Rhyl Silver Band had agreed to send a small group (possibly 8) on Friday 8th December, to play festive pieces, and that Rotary had agreed for Santa's Float to attend.

It was RESOLVED that the event should preferably take place at Hesketh House, alongside the proposed Christmas Market Event (providing it is able to go ahead), with the band members being able to shelter under the tunnel entrance, should the weather be bad.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Clerk, in discussion with the Mayor, to make the final arrangements for this event, due to the uncertainty over the market, and to agree the amount of a suitable donation for the band.

(iii) Small Christmas Trees for Businesses

A request from the Abergele Association of Traders for funding towards the small Christmas trees and lights for the town was considered, with full details of the cost of providing the trees, lights etc. provided by the Round Table.

It was RESOLVED to approve an increased grant of £600 towards the cost of providing the mini trees and lights for 2006, to reduce the cost to the businesses in the town.

It was NOTED that a request had been received for help from members and the Clerk to attach the new lights to the trees and that further details of the date and venue for this would be circulated in due course.

9644. 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 9th to 22nd October 2006, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- c) One licensing applications was considered, for a temporary event at Slaters Showroom, Market Street, on 16th November 2006 from 7.30pm to 11pm. There were no objections.

The Meeting Closed at 8.50 pm

..... Chairman