

# Abergele Town Council

## MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2007, at 6.30 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

### 330/07 Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. G.P. Davies (Chairman)  
Cllrs: C.A. Billington; D.A. Byrne; J.A. MacLennan; R.M. Medlicott; D.A. MacRae (see Min. 334/07); R. MacRae; J.D. Mortimer; R.D. Peacock; B.C. Roberts; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow (see Min. 334/07); R.G. Waters  
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

### 331/07 Apologies for Absence

Cllr. G.R.K. Brown

### 332/07 Resignation of Member

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter of resignation from Cllr. C.J. MacRae, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007, to take immediate effect.

**It was RESOLVED to accept the letter of resignation and to write to Cllr. MacRae to thank him for the work he has done for the community over the years.**

### 333/07 Declaration of Interest

Cllrs: J.A. MacLennan; R.D. Peacock; B.C. Roberts; J. Stubbs; R.G. Waters (see Min. 339/07 – Planning Applications)

### 334/07 Visitor to the Council

The Mayor, Cllr. G.P. Davies welcomed Jackie Holt, Foundation Trust Programme Director of the Walton Centre, to the meeting to give a brief presentation and answer any questions regarding the application to become an NHS Foundation Trust.

Jackie began by explaining the background of 'Foundation Trust' hospitals, which are being implemented in England. The Welsh Assembly Government does not propose to make similar changes to Welsh hospitals. However, the Walton Centre is currently consulting with the population of North Wales, as users of the hospital.

- Cllrs. D.A. MacRae and K.J. Sudlow arrived during this presentation.

The presentation went on to cover: the freedoms of foundation status; financial benefits; accountability; scrutiny by an independent body; the business plan; the differing targets set in England and Wales and the Council of Governors. Jackie requested that the Council fully considers the consultation document and responds to the 13 questions listed.

Questions were then invited from members and these covered: the possible increased investment in Morrision Hospital, Swansea, to provide services for all of Wales, plans for reductions in waiting lists and the need for 'foundation status' to be able to devolve management responsibilities.

Several members reported on the quality of treatment provided to patients at Walton.

The Council confirmed that it was generally in support of the proposals for Walton Hospital. Jackie Holt was thanked for attending the meeting and giving an informative presentation and she then retired from the meeting.

**It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Community Care Sub-Committee to respond fully to the questions in the consultation document.**

335/07 **Police Liaison**

The Police Liaison report from Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June was RECEIVED and considered.

A discussion took place around legislation, which the council believes bans the consumption of alcohol in certain areas of Pentre Mawr Park. It was NOTED that a representative from the Licensing Department had been requested to attend a future police liaison meeting to clarify this legislation.

The council then considered P.C. Hall's request that the fence panels in the park, near Dundonald Avenue, be removed until funding could be found for railings. Members expressed concern about probable damage to flower beds if the fence was completely removed and several alternatives were proposed.

**It was RESOLVED to write to CCBC to request that the fence is lowered to improve visibility, as a temporary measure until new railings can be provided.**

Cllr. Peacock reported on a recent patrol of the park, on which he had accompanied P.C. Hall, and he suggested that other members should take this opportunity of seeing first hand some of the problems in the park.

336/07 **Minutes**

**It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007.**

337/07 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

- a) Min. 300/07(b)– Public Conveniences Review
  - (i) A letter was received from Environmental and Technical Services, confirming that the Pensarn facility will be upgraded.
  - (ii) A brief verbal report was given by Cllr. Jean Stubbs, following a site visit with an officer from C.C.B.C. to discuss the work required.

It was NOTED that the facility would be cleaned, tidied and upgraded with some new fittings, but that structural work would not be possible with the budget available. It was also confirmed that all £47,500 would be spent on the work, which would not take place until after the busy summer season.

b) Min. 300/07(e) – Abergele Regeneration Team

(i) Cllr. R.M. Medicott gave a brief verbal report from the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June. He reported that A.R.T. had now evolved, and groups were looking into projects such as 'Hidden Britain'. No further progress had been made with bringing in an outside consultant, due to lack of funding opportunities.

(ii) In accordance with the published objectives agreed by this Council, Members considered a proposal by Cllr. J.A. MacLennan and Cllr. R.M. Medicott that the Council should support the production of a 'Community Plan' and that the Abergele Regeneration Team should be formally requested to act as the 'steering group' for this project.

A brief report was RECEIVED, detailing the purpose of such a plan and the recommended process for its development.

Although the council supported the idea of consulting with the local community to produce a 'community plan', some concern was expressed about having an unelected body, such as A.R.T., carrying out such an important community project.

It was NOTED that a 'steering body', which includes representatives from across the community, would be required to be able to access grant funding for projects recommended by the plan.

**It was RESOLVED to ask the Executive Sub-Committee to consider this in greater detail and report back to the Council.**

**It was FURTHER RESOLVED to include a simple bi-lingual 'Love it / hate it' survey in the next issue of the Town Council's newsletter, with copies also being placed in the Library, Post Office etc., if possible.**

c) Min. 300/07(f) –Lifting of Parking Restrictions – Groes Lwyd

It was NOTED that an officer from Highways will be seeking the views of the Fire Station and may then arrange a site meeting to discuss this further.

d) Min. 300/07(h) –Land Adjacent to Castle Cove Caravan Park

A response from Network Rail to the enquiries about ownership of this land was RECEIVED and considered. It was thought that this land was once a tip, possibly under the ownership of Abergele Urban District Council.

**It was RESOLVED to seek legal advice from the Council's solicitor on whether it would be possible for this council to lay claim to the land, possibly for use as allotments.**

e) Min. 300/07(j) –Additional Welsh Lessons

A response to the letter sent to the Head of Education Services for Conwy was RECEIVED and considered.

**It was RESOLVED to write back to request further information about which are the five second language schools and how pupils can access the immersion programme.**

f) Min. 300/07(k) - Abergele Carnival

(i) A comprehensive report from Cllrs. G.R.K. Brown and J. Stubbs detailing the current position of the carnival committee and the organisation of the annual event was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that a further update would be given after this year's event, due to take place on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

(ii) The council considered a request to provide judges for the window display competition, which is due to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

It was NOTED that The Mayor and Deputy Mayor would offer to judge the competition, at a time convenient to them.

(iii) It was NOTED that a request has been sent to Licensing for confirmation of exactly which areas of Pentre Mawr Park are 'Designated Areas', prohibiting alcohol consumption.

g) Min. 300/07(l) - Civic Regalia

(i) The Clerk gave information on the cost of a new chain for the Deputy Mayoress, of the same design as the Mayoress's but in 9ct gold.

**It was RESOLVED to order the chain from Hyde's of Old Colwyn, at a cost of £265, which was within the budget agreed for 2007/08.**

(ii) It was NOTED that two Past Mayor's medals had been returned to Fattorini for replacement ribbons, due to fraying, and that the cost of this was expected to be minimal.

It was NOTED that others may also need repair and it was suggested that a more local company be contacted for a quotation for any future repairs required.

h) Min. 301/07(k) – Doctors' Surgery Relocation

(i) A response from Darren Millar, A.M., was RECEIVED and NOTED.

(ii) A response to the letter sent to Rhodri Morgan and subsequently forwarded to Edwina Hart, was then RECEIVED and considered.

**It was RESOLVED to write to the L.H.B. to query why the application**

**has not yet been submitted to the Forum.**

- (iii) It was NOTED that Doctor Honeybun has asked that the Council be thanked for the positive letters it had sent to the Welsh Assembly Government Minister and Assembly Member.

Members stated their concern about some negative comments made by Dr. Honeybun in the local press.

**It was RESOLVED to write to Dr. Honeybun to request an apology for the comments made.**

- (iv) Members considered a proposal by Cllr. D.A. MacRae that the Council makes a press release detailing the support given by this Council over the past few years to the Doctors' Surgery Relocation.

**It was RESOLVED that a press release should be sent to the Visitor and included in the next newsletter detailing the support that has been given over recent years by this Council to the proposal to relocate the doctors surgery.**

- i) Min. 301/07(o) – Sustainable Communities Bill

It was NOTED that the Bill has now passed through its third reading.

- j) Min. 301/07(s) – Tannery Court

- (i) A positive report was given by members who had recently visited the very sheltered housing development on Water Street.
- (ii) Members considered a proposal by Cllr. R. MacRae that an update article be included in the next edition of the Town Council's newsletter (due to be distributed in September), to inform local residents about what the development hopes to achieve and dispel inaccurate rumours.

**It was RESOLVED to agree to this proposal and request an update article from Retirement Security Ltd.**

- (iii) A response from C.C.B.C. regarding progress with the bridge and footpath improvements at The Mount / Tannery was RECEIVED and considered.

It was NOTED with disappointment that there was not enough funding to provide the information board requested.

**It was RESOLVED to write to state that this was part of the agreement with CADW, who had given Scheduled Monument permission for the work to take place, and to request that this agreement be honoured.**

- (iv) It was NOTED that the Probation team have agreed that the Gele River in The Mount area could be litter picked several times a year, when the water level is not too high.

a) Mayor's Diary

A copy of the Mayor's Diary for July was RECEIVED.

b) Forthcoming Meetings

Details of the forthcoming meetings for July were RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that the proposed Executive Sub-Committee meeting would be postponed to later in the month, to enable the Community Care Sub-Committee to meet next Tuesday evening.

c) One Voice Wales

(i) Notice of the re-arranged Larger Local Councils Committee, now to be held in Bwlth Wells on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007, was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that Cllrs. G.R.K. Brown, R.G. Waters and the Clerk were unable to attend and apologies would be given.

(ii) Notice of the re-arranged Conwy / Denbigh Area Committee AGM, to take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July, was RECEIVED.

d) Play Wales

An invitation for nominations to the Trustee Board of Play Wales was RECEIVED and NOTED.

e) Safer Routes to School Bid 2008-09

Details of the proposals for the Abergele Area to be put forward by C.C.B.C. for funding in 2008/09 were RECEIVED and considered.

Concerns were expressed about possible damage to the Emrys ap Iwan boundary wall, due to a rumoured bus lay-by, and the impact on traffic flow if a zebra crossing is to be permitted at this location.

**It was RESOLVED to write to CCBC to state that, due to these concerns, this council would prefer to see the retention of the existing 'lollipop lady' to assist children to cross safely at this location.**

f) Pensarn Beach – Access Restrictions for Dogs

A copy of a letter sent to the Harbour Master and C.C.B.C. requesting clarification of the access restrictions for dogs on Pensarn Beach was RECEIVED and NOTED.

**It was RESOLVED to write to the Harbour Master to request a copy of his response.**

g) Conservation Area Panel

It was NOTED that a meeting of the panel had been held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2007 and that further details were available from the Clerk.

h) North Wales Association of Town and Larger Local Councils

(i) Notice of the quarterly and annual meetings, to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> July in Connah's Quay, were RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that the summons and agenda had been given to the representatives appointed by the Council.

(ii) **It was RESOLVED to authorise payment of the subscription of £57.50, due for 2007/08.**

339/07 **Tourism Signs**

Members considered a proposal by Cllr. J. Stubbs that the Council should consider making a request for brown, tourist style signs on the A55, headed 'Historic Market Town of Abergele' and detailing the attractions in Abergele / Pensarn, such as the beach / promenade and an historical church (similar to those seen at the Colwyn Bay / Llandudno exits).

**It was RESOLVED to write to Hefyn Lloyd Jones, of the North Wales Trunk Road Agency, to request that the removed sign is replaced.**

340/07 **Building Works**

The Clerk gave a brief update on the gutter re-lining works, which had been postponed due to the forecast for showers next week.

It was NOTED that the work would be re-scheduled for August.

341/07 **Planning / Licencing**

a) The planning applications, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached, were considered and concluded as recorded on that schedule.

County Councillors J.A. MacLennan, R. Peacock and J. Stubbs, as members of the Planning Committee of CCBC, took no part in the discussion and decision on these applications.

Cllr. B.C. Roberts declared a personal interest in application 0/33555 and took no part in the discussion and decision on this application.

b) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C., from 4<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2007, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.

c) It was NOTED that no licensing applications for the Abergele area had been registered by CCBC during the past two weeks.

342/07 **Confidential Business**

**In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 68 and the Local**

**Government Act 1972, Sch. 12, and following advice received from One Voice Wales, it was RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw (please refer to the separate confidential Minutes attached).**

The Meeting Closed at 9.00 p.m.

..... Chairman

# Abergele Town Council

## SCHEDULE 'A'

### Planning applications considered on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2007:

0/33533                      Extension to Hotel function room at Kinmel Manor Hotel, St George Road, Abergele

Applicant(s):              Mr T C Morpeth

Determination Level:      Delegated

Conclusion(s):              No objections

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0/33541                      Extension to Church annexe at English Presbyterian Church Marine Road, Pensarn, Abergele

Applicant(s):              Elders of English Presbyterian

Determination Level:      Delegated

Conclusion(s):              No objections

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0/33544                      Removal and re-build of part front / side wall and installation of replacement shop front, side and first floor windows (Conservation Area Consent) at 38 Market Street, Abergele

Applicant(s):              Reeds Rains Ltd

Determination Level:      Delegated

Conclusion(s):              No objections – refer to Area Conservation panel

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0/33555                      Extension to dwelling at 8 Heol Gomer, Abergele

Applicant(s):              Mr & Mrs Williams

Determination Level:      Delegated

Conclusion(s):              No objections, providing this large extension has no adverse impact on neighbouring properties.

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0/33577                      Extension to dwelling and garage at 19 Kinmel Avenue  
Abergele

Applicant(s):                Mr & Mrs Jones

Determination Level:      Delegated

Conclusion(s):              No objections

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0/33580                      Change of use from (Class A1) retail to office, installation  
of new shop front and removal of canopy structure to front  
at 48 Marine Road, Pensarn, Abergele

Applicant(s):                Amberley Properties Ltd

Determination Level:      Delegated

Conclusion(s):              No objections

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# Abergele Town Council

## SCHEDULE 'B'

### Planning Decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council from 4.6.07 – 17.6.07

0/33303                      Erection of an electricity substation at former North Wales Holiday Camp  
Towyn Road, Abergele

Decision:                      Refused

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0/33318                      Erection of balcony at 38 Lôn y Berllan, Abergele

Decision:                      Approved with conditions

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0/33320                      Extension to dwelling at 31 Heol Conwy, Abergele

Decision:                      Approved with conditions

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0/33378                      Crown reduce by 20-30% and crown thin 2no. Sycamore trees  
at 1 Heol Aled, Abergele

Decision:                      Approved with conditions

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