

Abergele Town Council

DRAFT MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 6th March, 2008, at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

729/07 Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. G.P. Davies (Chairman)
Cllrs: C.A. Billington; M. Bird (see Min. 732/07); G.R.K. Brown (see Min. 738/07);
D.A. Byrne; A. Lloyd-Roberts; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae (see Min. 732/07);
R.M. Medicott; J.D. Mortimer (see Min. 732/07); B.C. Roberts; J. Stubbs; K.J.
Sudlow; R.G. Waters
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)
Member of the Public and Visitors to the Council

730/07 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs: R. MacRae; R.D. Peacock; J.E.H. Pitt

731/07 Declaration of Interest: Code of Conduct

Members were reminded that they must declare the **existence** and **nature** of their declared personal interests (using the form provided for this purpose).

No interests were declared.

732/07 Visitors to the Council

The Mayor, Cllr. G.P. Davies, welcomed Stan Yates, CCBC Planning Officer, and Patti Fitton of the CCBC Community Strategy Team, to give a brief update on progress with the Conwy Local Development Plan.

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

Mr Yates began by giving a brief outline of where Conwy were up to in the process of producing the new Local Development Plan: delays had been caused by the need to wait for further information, including sub-national population projections, Regional Housing Market Assessments and progress with the Wales Spatial Plan. This was followed, in October 2007, by Strategic Officers deciding that new population projections, indicating even higher growth, should be taken into consideration, along with information received about the flood defences on the River Clwyd and the impact this had on the Conwy Flood Risk Study.

As a result of this, a new timetable has been agreed, with public consultation due in August 2008, along with the Community Strategy, and the Detailed Deposit Plan on course for consultation in late 2009, Inspection in 2010 and adoption probably in 2011.

The LDP must meet ten tests of soundness, two of which are that it must have regard to the Wales Spatial Plan and the Community Strategy.

- Cllrs. M. Bird and D.A. MacRae arrived at this juncture.

Patti Fitton gave a brief presentation on the Conwy Community Strategy and an overview paper was given to Members. It was noted that the first Community Strategy had been published in 2004 and focused on five key themes: A Healthy Place, Prosperous Conwy, Strong & Safe Communities, Encouraging Learning & Creativity and A Quality Environment. However, it was felt that the action to address these had not been specific enough and the Welsh Assembly has now issued updated guidance, resulting in the need to review and update the strategy. The County will be split into five areas with no 'one size fits all' approach and will work with the LDP and other plans to try to cover all the important issues. There is a need to engage with communities from the beginning to ensure the strategy is meaningful.

A short question and answer session followed, with comments and/or questions about: CCBC cutting services and getting rid of assets; concerns about more housing in Abergele, due to flood risk issues in other areas of the eastern coastal belt; increase in 'older people' units; affordable housing; open space provision; urbanisation of coastal strip; increasing number of single person households; registered social landlords; government targets for house building; employment opportunities and the need to attract higher quality jobs and encourage tourism.

At the end of this discussion, the visitors were thanked for attending and addressing the Council and they retired from the meeting.

733/07

Police Liaison

Members received and considered the Police Liaison report from Tuesday 4th March.

Further discussion took place around the following items:

- a) Parking of commercial vehicles in residential areas
 - Members reiterated their concerns about commercial vehicles parking in residential areas, where this causes an obstruction or danger to other road users or pedestrians. Further police assistance was called for.
- b) CCTV
 - Concerns that this had not picked up recent instances of damage to windows / bus shelter in the town.
- c) The loss of PCSO Medwyn Lewis, who is to take up a new position as a Community Beat Manager.

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that a letter of thanks and congratulations be sent to Medwyn.

- d) Future Meetings
 - Some members expressed concerns about the benefits of the monthly police liaison meetings.
- It was RESOLVED that the Council reverts to its previous method of police liaison, i.e. inviting the police to come to the Ordinary Meeting each month to give their report.**

734/07 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 7th February 2008.

735/07 **Matters Arising on Previous Minutes:**

a) Min. 530/07(f) – Future Burial Provision

- The following items were RECEIVED and considered:

- (i) A copy of the notes from the meeting held on 18th February
- (ii) A copy of a letter sent by Darren Millar, A.M., to the Chief Executive of C.C.B.C.
- (iii) Written Assembly Question tabled by Darren Millar on 19th February 2008, including the response from the Minister.

Members were concerned that the ability to re-use burial plots will not address the problem of a lack of available plots in Abergele and a new cemetery is the only solution.

It was NOTED that there is a sum of £180,000 in the draft capital programme for Conwy for 2008/09 for cemeteries in Abergele and Llanwrst, but that Llanwrst have already received £100,000 to purchase land.

It was RESOLVED to invite Mr Lyn Davies of CCBC to a future meeting of this Council to give any update on this.

b) Min. 587/07(a) – Library Car Park

A further response from Mark Smith, Parking Services Manager, C.C.B.C., following a meeting with Cllr. J.A. MacLennan, Chairman of the Parking Task & Finish Group, in December, was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED to note this reply and await any further response regarding additional parking on the adjacent land.

c) Min. 632/07(a)(i) – One Voice Wales Training Events

A brief report was given on the following events:

(i) Complaints Handling Seminar, 18th February

The Clerk advised members that she had attended the meeting in Llanwrst, where a member of the Ombudsman's team had spoken about the importance of complaints handling procedures (which this Council already has) and the work undertaken by the Ombudsman's office. Although specific details were not given, the majority of complaints

involving town and community councils were about Code of Conduct matters. The session lasted approximately one hour.

(ii) Land-use Planning, 28th February

It was NOTED that Cllr D.A. MacRae had unfortunately been unable to attend the training seminar, but had requested a copy of the notes.

d) Min. 687/07(c) – Pensarn Public Conveniences

A brief update from Peter Harris, CCBC, was RECEIVED. It was noted with disappointment that the work had not yet commenced and will not be complete by Easter.

It was RESOLVED to write a letter to state the disappointment of the Council regarding these delays.

e) Min. 687/07(e) – Public Attendance at Meetings

Advice from One Voice Wales to confirm that there is no age restriction relating to the admission of the public to meetings of the Council was RECEIVED.

f) Min. 687/07(g) – Assembly Member

It was NOTED that Darren Millar, Assembly Member, has agreed to attend the next General Purposes and Planning Committee meeting, to be held on 20th March 2008.

g) Min. 690/07 – Registrar Services in Abergele

(i) A response from the Head of the Licensing and Registration Service to the query about the current provision of services in Abergele was RECEIVED and NOTED.

(ii) Licensing and Registration Service Annual Satisfaction Survey
A copy of the survey was RECEIVED and NOTED.

h) Abergele Survey

It was NOTED that the Clerk is currently compiling and analysing the results of the survey and hopes to be able to present these to the Council at the next Ordinary Meeting, to be held on 3rd April 2008.

i) Min. 688/07(a) – Footbridge at The Mount

A reply from Highways to the request for an exploratory 'dig' at the site, before commencement of work, was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to write to CPAT to let them know that building work will be taking place at this site and query whether a 'watching brief'

would be appropriate for the duration of the work.

736/07

Correspondence

a) One Voice Wales

An invitation to renew membership of One Voice Wales for 2008/09, at a cost of £1,201 (an increase of 4.16%), was RECEIVED and considered.

It was NOTED that the following benefits of Membership had been received during 2007/08: Member training; national voice for the sector; advice service used on eight occasions; area committees for more local issues; 'The Voice' magazine.

It was RESOLVED by a majority of 11 in favour (3 against) to renew membership of One Voice Wales for 2008/09.

b) C.C.B.C. Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan

It was NOTED that a copy of the draft plan has now been released for consultation and Members considered how best to consider and respond to this.

It was RESOLVED to endorse any response by the Abergele Ramblers and to refer the consultation document to the Local Government Sub-Committee for a brief review.

c) North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party - Regional Technical Statement

Information about the consultation on the R.T.S. was RECEIVED.

d) The Ramblers' Association – Basic Footpath Law Courses

An invitation to attend a training day in Llandudno on Saturday 29th March was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr. R.M. Medlicott would attend on behalf of the Council.

e) Other Correspondence

Copies of the following correspondence were RECEIVED:

(i) Notice of a road closure for the Abergele Churches Palm Sunday Walk of Witness (revised route)

(ii) North Wales Health Organisations Public Consultation – Race Equality

- (iii) Copy of the Inspector's Appeal Decision, relating to Y Gerddi, Groes Lwyd, Abergele
 - (iv) Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
 - copy of 'Rural Wales', Winter 2008
 - notice of AGM, held on 5th March 2008
 - (v) Forthcoming Meetings
 - Details of the forthcoming meetings for March
 - (vi) Mayor's Diary
 - Details of the Mayor's engagements this month
 - An invitation to all members to attend a presentation ceremony by the Royal British Legion on 14th March at the Town Hall.
- f) Urgent Correspondence

The following additional items of urgent correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:

- (i) Local Health Board
 - Press release regarding approval of funding for the new Primary Care Centre in Abergele.
- (ii) North Wales Business Park
 - Notice of cancellation of the meeting due to take place on 17th March regarding a proposed 15 acre medical campus at the site, which is not now proceeding.
- (iii) Colwyn Bay, Abergele & District Twinning Association
 - A request for assistance in finding a suitable minibus for two forthcoming twinning visits, along with suggestions for accommodation for young dancers was considered.
- (iv) Conlan International
 - A copy of a letter from Conlan International, to be sent to the Head teachers from Schio (Vicenza) who visited Abergele last November was RECEIVED.

A request for a short statement of support from Abergele Town Council for the proposed 'summer school' projects was considered.

It was RESOLVED to send a letter of support, as per the draft received, and to agree for the Town Council's logo to be used on supporting correspondence.

- (v) Awel y Mor Local Residents' Meeting

Further details regarding the meeting, due to take place on Monday 10th March, were RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that the Mayor, Cllr. G.P. Davies had been requested to Chair the formal part of the meeting.

It was FURTHER NOTED that Darren Millar, A.M., was not able to attend, but that he had sent a letter to the planning officer regarding the concerns of some residents and requesting that a site visit should take place, prior to determination by the Planning Committee.

737/07 **C.C.T.V.**

A request by Cllr. J. Stubbs for an additional C.C.T.V. camera to cover Sea Road end of Pensarn Promenade was RECEIVED and considered.

It was NOTED that the camera near the station covers all of the promenade and should therefore give adequate coverage to this area.

738/07 **Minutes of Committees and Sub-Committees**

The draft Minutes of the following Committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 21st February 2008
- b) The Policy and Finance Committee, held on 21st February 2008
- Cllr. G.R.K. Brown retired from the meeting at this juncture.

739/07 **Planning / Licensing**

- a) The planning applications, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached, were considered and observations agreed, as recorded on that schedule.
- b) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C., from 11th to 24th February 2008, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- c) It was NOTED that no licensing applications had been listed by C.C.B.C. for the Abergele area for the period 11th to 29th February 2008.

740/07 **Additional Matters**

With the agreement of The Mayor, Cllr. Bird reported concerns about the amount of litter collecting in the verges and bushes along the A547 Rhuddlan Road. It was NOTED that the first section of this road to beyond the 'S' bends is only litter picked twice per year, due to the requirement for lane closures. This is not sufficient, due to the additional waste caused by the nearby public and private (Thorncliffe) waste collection sites.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Head of Environmental & Technical Services, with a copy to the Environment Agency and Darren Millar, A.M., to state that two visits per year is totally inadequate and to request a regular litter pick.

The Meeting Closed at 8.35 p.m.

..... Chairman

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Planning Applications considered on Thursday 6 March 2008

0/34488 Erection of new fencing to front and rear gardens and construction of car hardstanding and pavement crossing to rear of 8 Maes y Mor, Pensarn, Abergele

Applicant(s): Miss L Penlington

Determination Level: Delegated

Conclusion(s) The Council objects to the increased height of 1.8m of the fence at the front of the property, which is out of keeping in a generally open plan area.

0/34549 Erection of single storey conservatory to rear of dwelling at 76 Clifton Rise, Abergele

Applicant(s): Mr & Mrs Stubbs

Determination Level:

Conclusion(s): No objections

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'B'

Planning Decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council from 11.2.08 to 24.2.08

0/33873 Erection of B1, B2 and B8 industrial units (outline application) on land adjacent to Tradeteam Ltd, Abergele Depot, Terfyn, Abergele

Decision: Refused

0/34363 Extension to dwelling at 37 Wenfro, Abergele

Decision: Approved with conditions

0/34377 Display of 5no. illuminated advertisement signs consisting of 2no. fascia signs, 1no. wall mounted roundal sign, 1no. entrance panel sign and 1no. pylon sign at Slaters Garage, Rhuddlan road, Abergele

Decision: Approved with conditions
