

# Abergele Town Council

## DRAFT MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2007, at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

### 581/07 Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. G.P. Davies (Chairman)  
Cllrs: C.A. Billington; M. Bird (see Min.584/07); D.A. Byrne; A. Lloyd-Roberts;  
J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae (see Min.583/07); J.D. Mortimer; B.C. Roberts;  
R.G. Waters  
Several members of the public and press.

### 582/07 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs: G.R.K. Brown; R. MacRae; R.M. Medlicott; R.D. Peacock; J.E.H. Pitt; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow

### 583/07 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).

Cllr J.A. MacLennan declared a personal interest in a planning application – see Min. 591/07(a)

- Cllr. D.A. MacRae arrived at this juncture.

### 584/07 Visitor to the Council

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Jane Banham to the Meeting, to give an update on the current crime figures for the area, along with details of some ongoing initiatives and operations.

Inspector Banham gave the Council details of the crime figures for area CO9 (Gele and Pentre Mawr wards), which had been compiled from control room, crime and custody records. During the period 1/4/2007 to 30/11/2007, Abergele has seen a huge fall in crime, with 'All Crime' down 30% from 583 to 408, compared with the same period last year. Inspector Banham attributed this reduction mainly to the tackling of violent crime and the close working with Licensing, which has reduced the number of alcohol related issues.

- Cllr. M. Bird arrived during this part of the presentation.

Inspector Banham then gave brief details on a number of ongoing police initiatives in this area before inviting any questions from Members.

Questions and comments were raised on matters including: Proceeds from the Arrive Alive campaign; publicising offences which increases the perception of crime; the presence of armed police at The Bee and more visible policing in the town.

Inspector Banham advised Members that she would be happy to come back again in April / May. The Mayor thanked her for attending and she retired from the meeting.

585/07 **Police Liaison**

- a) Members received a copy of the detailed crime figures for the Abergele Area from May to October 2006 and 2007 from P.C. Hall, CBM.
- b) The Police Liaison report from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December was received and NOTED.

**It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should contact the Parks Department to ensure that the request for SP Manweb to fence off the sub-station near the entrance to the park is followed up.**

586/07 **Minutes**

**It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007.**

587/07 **Matters Arising on Previous Minutes:**

- a) Min. 300/07 – Library Car Park

Members received and considered a further response from Mark Smith, C.C.B.C. to the request for enforced short-term parking at the Library car park.

It was NOTED with disappointment that the request had been turned down, with a recommendation instead that a 12 hour maximum stay be considered.

**It was RESOLVED to continue to plead for a maximum stay of 60-90 minutes and to request that this matter be considered by the Car Parking Task and Finish Group, which is due to meet on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December.**

It was FURTHER NOTED that some of these parking spaces may be allocated for residents of New York Terrace / Park Villas and a letter had been received from a resident complaining that the community centre car park had been 'commandeered' by Social Services staff.

- b) Min. 300/07 – Additional Signage off Dundonald Avenue

It was NOTED that the response from C.C.B.C. to the request from the Trunk

Road Agency is expected in the next few days.

c) Min. 416/07(e) – Abergele Carnival

(i) It was NOTED that a copy of the report on this year's event has not been received by the two representatives from this Council and that a request had been made for clarification of how the Council stands on this issue.

**In the absence of Cllrs. G.R.K. Brown and J. Stubbs, it was RESOLVED to DEFER this matter until the next meeting.**

(ii) It was NOTED that an application has been made and granted by CCBC for use of the park on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and concerns were expressed about the possibility of an application for a beer tent again next year.

**It was RESOLVED to discuss these concerns with the local CBM at the next Police Liaison meeting.**

d) Min. 469/07 – Town Centre traffic Lights

Members received and considered a response from Highways to the requests of this Council.

It was NOTED that the timing of the Water Street junction traffic lights would be examined, to see if there is scope to allow a longer delay between stages, but that it would not be possible to have an additional light facing the traffic exiting Chapel Street, due to the confusion this may cause to drivers.

e) Min. 471/07 – Safer Routes to School, The Mount

(i) A report from the meeting with Chris Pastori, Traffic & Transportation Engineer, CCBC, held on 21<sup>st</sup> November, was RECEIVED.

(ii) Members received and considered estimates for the provision of an information board at The Mount and a proposal was made that the Council, as custodians of The Mount, should consider funding an exploratory dig prior to commissioning work on any information board.

**It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the sum of £2,350 be included in the Estimates for 2008/09 for an exploratory dig (£750) and provision of an information board by CPAT (£1600).**

f) Min. 530/07(a) – Parking Restrictions, Groes Lwyd

Members received and considered details on the proposed removal of a short section of waiting restrictions on Groes Lwyd.

**It was RESOLVED to accept the proposal with thanks and to request that it be implemented at the earliest possible opportunity.**

g) Min. 530/07(d) – Land Adjacent to Castle Cove

It was NOTED that the Legal Services and Property Services records do not show any evidence of ownership or maintenance of this land by C.C.B.C.

**It was RESOLVED to request the Council's solicitor to apply for a Caution to be registered against First registration of this land, whilst further enquiries with the Planning Department are undertaken.**

h) Min. 530/07(g) – Problem Trees

A response from Matthew Bardsley, Tree Officer, CCBC, to the request for action to be taken regarding several problem trees was RECEIVED.

**It was RESOLVED to send a request to Highways regarding the trees at the rear of Bryn Twr.**

i) Min. 530/07(h) – Litter and Dog Bins

A report by the Clerk from the meeting with Chris Parry, CCBC, held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that the additional bins would hopefully be received by March 2007, funding permitting.

**It was RESOLVED to write to Mr Parry to request the urgent repair of two broken locks on bins on Market Street.**

j) Min. 530/07(j) – Request for A55 Tourist Signs

(i) It was NOTED that Sheila Potter, Head of Regeneration Service and Rachael Gill, Marketing and Communications Manager had referred the Council to the Highways Department for assistance with signage.

(ii) A response from the Head of Highways, detailing the procedures for obtaining town and village name signs, was RECEIVED and NOTED. Concern was expressed about the lack of knowledge about 'any tourist attraction in Abergele that would qualify for white on brown signing'.

**It was RESOLVED to reply to this letter, enclosing a copy of the Abergele Town Guide to point out the local attractions in Abergele.**

It was NOTED that only the Trunk Road Agency could provide the signage on the A55 requested by this Council and that they were not providing any additional signs at the present time.

k) Traffic Survey of Ffordd Tan yr Allt, Lon Dirion, The Broadway and Lon Ffawydd

It was NOTED that the traffic survey of the four main entrance / exits to the estate is due to take place next week and that Mr Evans had apologised for

the delay, due to problems getting nine enumerators together on one day.

588/07 **Correspondence**

a) Conwy Youth Service

A letter regarding establishing Area Youth Liaison Forums was RECEIVED and NOTED.

It was NOTED that Cllr. G.R.K. Brown had offered to attend the initial meeting, on behalf of this Council, but that the County Councillors had been informed of a change of date.

**It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact Mr Williams to enquire about the change of date.**

b) North Wales Play & Playing Fields Association

An invitation to send a representative to the AGM, to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> December was RECEIVED.

**It was RESOLVED that Cllr. D.A. Byrne would attend, on behalf of this Council, and that Membership should be renewed at a cost of £20.00.**

c) CCBC Disabled Persons Parking Places (No.2) Order 2007

It was NOTED that none of the proposed disabled parking places are within this Council's area.

d) Other Correspondence:

Copies of the following items of correspondence were RECEIVED:

- (i) Town & Country Planning Act 1990 – Appeal
  - Notice of an Appeal by J & T Gizzi (Builders) Ltd against the enforcement notice issued by CCBC relating to an alleged breach of planning control at land at Y Gerddi, Groes Lwyd, Abergele
- (ii) Darren Millar A.M.
  - Copies of correspondence sent to local residents regarding the GP Surgery and Abergele Hospital
- (iii) Adjudication Panel for Wales – Annual Report 2006-2007
- (iv) FreePlay – Issue 2 (glossy play equipment leaflet produced by SMP)
  - copy available from the Clerk
- (v) 'Seen and Heard – Reclaiming the public realm with children and young people' - Details of a new report available

- (vi) Mayor's Diary
  - Details of the Mayor's engagements for December 2007
- (vii) CVSC E-mail information service December 2007

(viii) Play Wales – Members e-bulletin December 2007

e) Forthcoming Meetings

- (i) Details of the forthcoming meetings for December 2007 were RECEIVED.

Concerns were expressed that the Staffing Sub-Committee has only three members this year.

**It was RESOLVED to increase the Membership to five and to appoint Cllrs: A. Lloyd-Roberts and J.D. Mortimer to this sub-committee for the remainder of the year.**

- (ii) Proposals made by Cllr. J.D. Mortimer that the Council should consider ways to reduce the length of future meetings and the possibility of reverting to a 6.30 p.m. start time were discussed.

Possible ways to restrict the length of meetings were considered and Members expressed mixed opinions on the proposed change to the start time of meetings.

**It was RESOLVED to leave the start time at 6.45pm, for the time being, (and ask the Clerk to check whether the Standing Orders need amending in this respect) and to agree an informal target of finishing meetings by 9pm, whenever possible.**

f) Visitors from Italy

- (i) It was NOTED that The Mayor and County Councillors J. MacLennan, R. Peacock and R. Waters had been present at the Town Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> November to welcome a delegation of 18 visitors from the Vicenza region of Italy, including the Mayor of Schio, Members of the local Council, representatives from a variety of educational establishments and the newly appointed Director of Conlan International. An e-mail of thanks had been received by the Clerk today, on behalf of the delegates.

- (ii) An assortment of gifts from the Visitors, including several books on the region and an official banner from the Vicenza region were gratefully RECEIVED.

**It was RESOLVED to have the banner framed for display in Room 4 of the Council Offices.**

- (iii) It was NOTED that a follow-up meeting was arranged between the Director of Conlan International, Mr Diego Zanella, and the three County Councillors to discuss the future of Conlan International, following the

recent closing of the Bistro and departure of Mr Geoff Barclay, the previous Director. Informal notes from this meeting were RECEIVED.

g) **Abergele Association of Traders**

An urgent request for financial assistance towards the cost of the mini trees and lights was received and considered.

**It was RESOLVED to authorise a donation of £700 towards the costs of the mini trees and lights, in accordance with the Christmas Lighting Budget for 2007.**

589/07 **Minutes of Sub-Committees**

The draft Minutes of the following Committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The Executive Committee, held on 20<sup>th</sup> November
- b) The General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November
- c) The Policy and Finance Committee, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November

590/07 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

a) Executive Committee

(i) Min. 556/07(a) – Community Planning

**It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendations of the Committee that a press release be circulated about the survey and that blue copies be circulated to the local youth groups, as detailed in those minutes.**

(ii) Min. 557/07 – Public Seating and Min. 558/07 – Mileage Rate

It was NOTED that the recommendations made by the committee, as detailed in those minutes, had subsequently been endorsed at the Policy & Finance Committee meeting, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

591/07 **Planning / Licensing**

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

Cllr. J.A. MacLennan declared a personal interest in application ref. 0/34160 and took no part in the discussion on that application.

- b) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C., from 5<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2007, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.

- c) It was NOTED that two licensing applications had been made by The Yacht for late night refreshment, alcohol and entertainment on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

592/07 **Staff Employment Contracts and Tesco Car Park**

**In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 and with Standing Order no.68, 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.**

Members of the press and public retired from the Meeting.

**Please refer to separate Confidential Minutes**

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

..... Chairman

# Abergele Town Council

## SCHEDULE 'A'

### Planning Applications considered on Thursday 6 December 2007

0/34160                      Installation of solar panels at 82 Marine Road, Pensarn, Abergele

Applicant(s):                Mr & Mrs Bacon

Determination Level:        Delegated

Conclusions:                 No Objections

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0/34175                      Demolition of existing garage and porch and erection of pitched  
roof extensions to front, side and rear of dwelling at 14 Mor Awel  
Abergele

Applicant(s):                Mr & Mrs G Gill

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 5.11.07 – 18.11.07

0/33816                      Display of 2no. internally illuminated signs and 1no. internally illuminated projecting sign at Barclays Bank plc., 67v Market Street, Abergele

Decision:                      Approved with conditions

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0/33907                      To remove 1 Holm Oak Tree at 1 Brynhyfryd Grove, Abergele

Decision:                      Refused

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0/33915                      Erection of double garage and store at Arfryn, Llanfair Road, Abergele

Decision:                      Refused

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0/33977                      Erection of dwelling at Bryn Teg, Llanfair Road, Abergele

Decision:                      Approved with conditions

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0/33980                      Extensions to dwelling (part retrospective) at 43 Eldon Drive, Abergele

Decision:                      Approved with conditions

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