

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, to be held on Thursday 7th June, 2007, at 6.45 p.m. in the Room 4, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

294/07 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. G.P. Davies
Cllrs: C.A. Billington; D.A. Byrne; C.J. MacRae; D.A. MacRae; R. MacRae;
R.M. Medicott; J.D. Mortimer; R.D. Peacock; B.C. Roberts; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow
(see Min. 300/07(d); R.G. Waters
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)
Mrs J.A. Roberts (Administrative Assistant)

295/07 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs: M. Bird; G.R.K. Brown; J.A. MacLennan

296/07 **Declaration of Interest**

None recorded.

297/07 **Presentation to the Retiring Mayor**

It was NOTED that the Immediate Past Mayor, Cllr. C.J. MacRae, had been presented with a date bar to add to his existing Past Mayor's Medal. The Mayor, Cllr. G.P. Davies, thanked Cllr. C.J. MacRae on behalf of the Council for all his work over the past year.

The Past Mayoress, Cllr. D.A. MacRae, was then presented with a bouquet by the Mayor as a gesture of thanks for all her work over the past year.

Cllr. D.A. MacRae presented the Council with a hand-made letter rack from the Mayor of St. George, Utah, which had been given to the Past Mayor and Mayoress during their recent trip.

A vote of thanks was offered to Cllr. D. A MacRae for presenting this to the Council.

298/07 **Police Liaison**

- a) The Police Liaison report from Monday 4th June was RECEIVED.

A short discussion took place regarding some of the incidents in the report.

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the action points in the report with one amendment: that the fence panels at the entrance to Pentre Mawr Park should be replaced with railings rather than be removed completely. It was FURTHER RESOLVED to write to Sgt. Craig Jones to wish him a full and speedy recovery, following reports that he had received injuries during a recent incident in the town involving a vehicle.

- b) An invitation to attend an Abergele Neighbourhood Meeting for the whole of Abergele town on Wednesday 20th June 2007 was RECEIVED.

299/07 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 3rd May 2007.

300/07 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

- a) Min. 243/07(a)– Future of Abergele Hospital

It was NOTED that the Assembly First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, had announced "...we intend to institute a moratorium on existing proposals for changes at community hospital level and to undertake that already agreed changes in district general hospital services will not be implemented unless and until associated community services are in place."

It was RESOLVED to DEFER this matter, to await any further information regarding how this will affect plans for Abergele Hospital.

- b) Min. 243/07(c) –Public Conveniences Review

It was NOTED that in a telephone response earlier today to the further letter sent to the Head of Environmental and Technical Services requesting urgent improvements to Pensarn public conveniences, the Clerk had been informed that on 29th March the Cabinet of CCBC had agreed to spend £47,500 on upgrading Pensarn Public Conveniences. However, the officer responsible for this work, Peter Harris, had not been informed of this decision and has still not received the funds.

Members discussed their concerns with this further delay, which will inevitably mean that work will not commence until after the summer, at earliest. Concerns were also expressed regarding security of the facility, which has frequently suffered vandalism in the past.

Cllr. J. Stubbs agreed to follow this matter up with the officer concerned to ensure that the required work gets done.

- c) Min. 243/07(d) - Upper Storey Windows, Chapel Street, Abergele

(i) It was NOTED that, following a letter sent by Planning to the owner, the occupier of the premises has now had a meeting with a Conservation

Officer regarding possible grant aided repair work. Further information is awaited on the owner's intentions and possible grant application.

(ii) It was NOTED that the Housing Team have not yet visited to premises to investigate concerns about overcrowding and poor living conditions.

(iii) It was NOTED that an Officer from Environmental Health will also be writing to the owner / occupier to request that improvements are made to the property, following a recent visit where further deterioration was noticed.

d) Min. 243/07(e) – Broken Window at Former Bookmakers, Market Street

It was NOTED that the property owners have been contacted by Planning and requested to put this in order. The owners were due to visit the premises on 21 May to establish what work was required.

- Cllr. K.J. Sudlow arrived at this juncture

e) Min. 243/07(g) –Abergele Regeneration Team

It was NOTED that the next meeting of A.R.T. is to be held on Wednesday 13th June, 2007 at 6.30pm.

f) Min. 243/07(h) – Parking Restrictions - Abergele

(i) A response from the Highways Department to the further letter sent requesting lifting of parking restrictions on Groes Lwyd was considered.

It was RESOLVED to request that an officer meets with Cllr. J.D. Mortimer at the site to discuss this request further.

(ii) It was NOTED that, following a request by this Council, any extension to the waiting restrictions on Faenol Avenue is to be put on hold. The level of parking is to be monitored by Highways and the proposed restrictions could still be pursued if parking is found to be causing an obstruction.

g) Min. 243/07(i) - One Voice Wales

(i) It was NOTED that the Larger Local Councils Committee Meeting, due to be held on 18th May, was postponed.

(ii) A copy of 'The Voice', May 2007, was RECEIVED.

h) Min. 243/07(l) –Land Adjacent to Castle Cove Caravan Park

It was NOTED that a response had not yet been received to the letter sent to Network Rail on 9th May.

i) Min. 243/07(p) – Twinning Association

It was NOTED that no further update had been received on the proposals to amend the name and constitution of the association.

j) Min. 243/07(q) - Additional Welsh Lessons

(i) It was NOTED that no response had been received to the letter sent to the Head of Education Services for Conwy.

(ii) A response from the Head of Performance and Improvement Division, Welsh Assembly Government, was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED to send a copy of this response to the Head of Education and to seek his comments.

k) Min. 243/07(r) - Abergele Carnival

It was NOTED that Cllr. J. Stubbs has not received details of, or an invitation to, any further meetings, despite several attempts.

- The Mayor, Cllr. G.P. Davies, gave a belated welcome to Mrs Ann Roberts, Administrative Assistant, who was attending the meeting as part of her training on agendas and minute taking.

l) Min. 243/07 - Civic Regalia

(i) It was NOTED that the new Deputy Mayor's and Mayoress's silver chains had been received in time for the Annual Meeting of the Council and the total spend was under £1,700 (budget £2,000).

(ii) Members agreed the need to purchase a new chain for the Deputy Mayoress's pendant (gold), to replace the yellow ribbon currently being used.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk seek quotations for a suitable gold chain, of a similar design to the Mayoress's new silver chain.

(iii) It was NOTED that the Mayor's Chain of Office does not hang correctly and that alternative ways of securing it in the correct position would need to be investigated.

m) Min. 244/07(c) – North Wales Association of Town & Larger Community Councils

A copy of the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 27th April, were RECEIVED.

n) Min. 244/07(e) – Public Rights of Way

It was NOTED that Anne Penketh of the Ramblers Association will be visiting the Council on Thursday 19th July.

o) Min. 244/07(g) – Gwrych Towers Camp Site Wall

It was NOTED that no response had been received from Mr Arrowsmith to the letter sent enquiring about repairs to the boundary wall.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Conservation Officer at CCBC, as the boundary walls are believed to be Grade II listed.

p) Min. 244/07(j) – Gwrych Castle

A letter from Geoff Stewart Associates, project consultants for the restoration and redevelopment of Gwrych Castle, was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED to reply that this Council would like to be kept fully informed of the proposals for the restoration project.

q) Min. 245/07 – Nominations

(i) It was NOTED that the Chair and Vice-Chair of each committee and sub-committee will be appointed at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting (in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders).

(ii) It was NOTED that Cllr. D.A. MacRae does not wish to accept the position of Vice-Chair of General Purposes and Planning and further nominations were requested in preparation for the next meeting.

Cllr. D A. Byrne was PROPOSED by Cllr. C.A. Billington and SECONDED by Cllr. B.C. Roberts.

r) Min. 247/07(a) – Car Parking

(i) A response from the Parking Policy & Services Manager, C.C.B.C., was received and considered.

It was RESOLVED to write back to state that the main concern of this Council regarding the Library car park is that it is being blocked by vehicles parking all day (or in some cases for several days), meaning it is not available for users of the library, clinic building and nearby shops. Designating it as short stay parking, enforced without charges like some on-street parking areas, would overcome this problem.

(ii) Tesco plc

It was NOTED that no written response had been to the letter sent to the

Store Manager and subsequently forwarded to Head Office, requesting that the parking time limit be increased from 3 to 4 hours.

301/07 **Correspondence**

a) Mayor's Diary

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

Invitations were issued for the Mayor's Civic Service, which is to be held on Sunday 1st July 2007 at 3.30pm at St. Paul's Church.

b) Forthcoming Meetings

Details of the forthcoming meetings for June were RECEIVED.

c) CCBC Standards Committee – Training on Code of Conduct

An invitation for the Clerk and one or two Members to attend a training event on the Code of Conduct on Monday 9th July at 6.15pm was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED that the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. R. Peacock, Councillors D.A. MacRae, D.A Byrne and the Clerk would attend.

d) Your Home Your Choice

It was NOTED that a copy of the May 2007 newsletter regarding 'Cartrefi Conwy', the proposed local not-for-profit housing organisation, is available from the Clerk.

e) Community Policing

(i) A further letter from David Jones, M.P., regarding community policing, was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that P.C. Hall had confirmed that Abergele is to get an additional dedicated Police Community Support Officer.

(ii) A written report from Cllr. M. Bird from the Neighbourhood Policing meeting, held on 31st May 2007, was RECEIVED and NOTED.

It was FURTHER NOTED that articles in the Journal and Visitor this week had contained information from Mr Brunstrom on the crime figures.

It was FURTHER NOTED that the Chair of the Police Authority is due to visit Westminster to discuss concerns that North Wales Police is not getting its fair share of government funding.

f) Tiger Developments Ltd

(i) A letter of introduction from Tiger Developments Ltd, who deliver sports and art sessions, projects and events to promote health, learning and to combat anti-social behaviour, was RECEIVED.

(ii) It was NOTED that a copy of a 2007 guide to the services offered is available from the Clerk.

g) Darren Millar, A.M.

A letter of introduction from the new Assembly Member for Clwyd West, Darren Millar was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that he hopes to arrange a regular annual meeting with the Council and that he will be in touch to arrange a mutually convenient date for this in due course.

h) Teaching of Politics in Schools

A copy of a letter sent by Jane Davidson regarding the teaching of politics in schools was RECEIVED.

i) Cefn Gwlad – The Rural Resource

Information about the help Cefn Gwlad can offer community groups was RECEIVED.

j) Gender Equality Legislation

A letter from North Wales Health Organisations regarding a consultation on delivering healthcare services that are free from all forms of discrimination and prejudice between women and men was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that the Clerk has three copies of the individual consultation document available, if any members would like to take part.

k) Doctors' Surgery Relocation

(i) A copy of a letter sent by Doctor Jeremy Honeybun to Rhodri Morgan, A.M., including a report from the Design Commission for Wales, was RECEIVED.

(ii) Several e-mails from Doctor Honeybun requesting that a public meeting is held to discuss the ongoing delays were RECEIVED and NOTED.

Concerns were expressed that a public meeting would not help, as the public were all well aware of the delays from reports in the local press. Concern was also expressed that it was not within the remit of this Council to arrange a public meeting on behalf of a private business in the town.

It was RESOLVED to write to Darren Millar, Assembly Member, to ask that he takes this matter up with the Health Minister, and to Rhodri Morgan, First Minister.

- l) Signage off A548 Dundonald Avenue, Abergele

It was NOTED that an acknowledgement had been received for the further request made for additional signage for the A55 slip road off Dundonald Avenue.

- m) Letter of Thanks

A letter of thanks was RECEIVED from the Past Clerk, Gwyn Jones, following the recent Annual Meeting.

- n) C.C.B.C. Mobile Recycling Information Centre

The itinerary for June and July was RECEIVED.

- o) Local Works – Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill

An update on the Bill's progress and a request for further pressure was RECEIVED,

- p) Wales Biodiversity Week 9th – 17th June

Details of events taking place during the week, including a litter clearing event at Pensarn Beach on Wednesday 13th June at 6-7pm, were NOTED.

- q) Notice of Planning Appeal

It was NOTED that an appeal had been lodged in connection with application 0/32562 – Outline permission for the erection of 2 dwellings at Caer Ffynnon, Ffordd y Berth, by Mr S. Ward

- r) Press Release – Welsh Team of Beauty Queens

A press release regarding a forthcoming selection event was RECEIVED.

- s) Tannery Court

(i) An invitation to members to visit the new Tannery Court Development on Monday 25th June at 6 p.m. was RECEIVED.

As numbers were required, Members were requested to let the Clerk know by Friday 8th June if they were able to attend.

(ii) It was NOTED that Mr Bessell had also enquired whether the Town

Council could assist in tidying up the River Gele in the Mount area, as suggested by a Member of this council when visiting the development.

It was RESOLVED to query the progress with the Safer Routes to Schools proposals for a new bridge and improvements to The Mount footpath and to enquire whether any funding was available for tidying up this area and providing an information board, as had been discussed at a previous site meeting with Highways officers.

t) Flower Festival Signage

It was NOTED that 10 signs had been ordered (for vehicles and pedestrians) for the Flower Festival later this month.

It was RESOLVED to authorise the purchase of an 18" x 18" coated aluminium board of the Town Council's colour logo, for use in the floral display, at a cost of £45.

302/07 **Proposed Meeting Dates**

Members considered and approved the proposed meeting dates for 2007/08, as detailed on Schedule 'C' attached.

303/07 **Membership of Sub-Committees**

Membership of sub-committees of the Council for 2007/08 was considered.

Several requests from members to be added or removed from various sub-committees were considered and approved.

It was RESOLVED to approve the Membership of Sub-Committees for 2007/08, as detailed on Schedule 'D' attached.

304/07 **Representation on Outside Bodies**

Representation on Outside Bodies for 2007/08 was considered.

It was RESOLVED to delete the following bodies, which had either not met for several years or no longer invited members from the Council to attend meetings: Abergele Carnival Committee, Conwy Access Group, Local Anti Social Committee.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to remove Cllr C.J. MacRae and Cllr. R. MacRae from the Police Community Consultative Group.

It was then RESOLVED to appoint representatives to Outside Bodies for 2007/08, as detailed on Schedule 'E' attached.

305/07 **Minutes**

The Draft Minutes of the following meetings were RECEIVED:

- a) The Local Government Sub-Committee, held on 15 May 2007
- b) The Executive Sub-Committee held on 21st May, 2007
- c) The Annual Meeting, held on 24th May, 2007

306/07 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

- a) Min. 253/07 – Complaints Procedure

It was RESOLVED to endorse the recommended additions / amendments to the Council’s Complaints Procedure

- b) Min. 254/07 – W.A.G. Local Policy Statement – A Shared Responsibility

It was RESOLVED to endorse the recommendation that a letter is sent to One Voice Wales, as a member of the L.S.B. Advisory Group to state the concerns of the Council, as detailed in those minutes.

- c) Min. 276/07(a) – Fire Risk Assessments

It was RESOLVED to receive and approve the Fire Safety Risk Assessment and action points, updated following receipt of guidance on fire safety measures for small and medium places of assembly.

- d) Min. 276/07(a) – Health & Safety Policy

It was NOTED that the sub-committee had requested advice from One Voice Wales on the need for a written Health & Safety policy.

- e) Min. 277/07 – Committee Structure and Standing Orders

It was NOTED that the sub-committee had requested advice from One Voice Wales on the proposed structure of the Council and Terms of Reference for the General Purposes & Planning Committee and Policy & Finance Committee.

- f) Min. 278/07 – Guidelines for the Office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

It was NOTED that the sub-committee had requested advice from One Voice Wales on whether there was any need for a protocol for the appointment and roles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

- g) Min. 280/07 – Annual Meeting

It was NOTED that the photographs from the Annual Meeting are now available to view and order via the Clerk.

It was FURTHER NOTED that two photographs of Mayors for the gallery would be ordered by the Clerk.

307/07 **Planning / Licencing**

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

County Cllrs. R. Peacock, J. Stubbs and R.G. Waters took no part in the decision on these applications.

- b) It was NOTED that there were no planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C., from 7th to 20th May, 2007, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached.
- c) It was NOTED that there were no licensing applications for consideration.

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

..... Chairman

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Planning applications considered on Thursday 7 June 2007:

0/33418 Alterations and extension to vacant shop to form holiday accommodation (Listed Building Consent) at Annex Building, Glan Aber, Llanddulas Road, Abergele

Applicant(s): Mr J Ward

Determination Level: Delegated

Conclusion(s): x-ref with 0/33086 – No objections (reverting back to previous use)

0/33419 Erection of 2no. office buildings with associated car parking and landscaping and works under Phase 1C incorporating extension to lake associated landscaping (Approval of matters reserved for subsequent approval under Code Ref. 0/23158) at Site 5400 & 5500 and Phase 1C, North Wales Business Park, Abergele

Applicant(s): North Wales Technology Park

Determination Level: Planning Committee

Conclusion(s): No objections

0/33433 Extension to porch and erection of new roof to garage at 10 Min y Don, Abergele

Applicant(s): Mr & Mrs J Wilson

Determination Level: Delegated

Conclusion(s): No objections

0/33439 To reduce 1 oak Tree by 50% at 26 Lon Dirion, Abergele

Applicant(s): Mr & Mrs J Bright

Determination Level: Delegated

Conclusion(s): Endorse Tree Warden's recommendations

Planning applications to be considered on Thursday 7 June 2007 (contd.):

0/33458 Erection of conservatory at 21 Faenol Avenue, Abergele

Applicant(s): Mr J Jones

Determination Level: Delegated

Conclusion(s): No objections – providing does not affect neighbouring properties

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'B'

Planning Decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council from 7.5.07 – 20.5.07

None recorded for Abergele Town Council