

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee, held on Thursday 20th December 2007 in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

609/07 **Attendance Register**

As at the General Purposes and Planning meeting, held earlier today (see Min. 600/07).

610/07 **Apologies for Absence**

As at the General Purposes and Planning meeting held earlier today (see Min. 601/07).

611/07 **Disclosure of Interest**

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

Cllrs. G.P. Davies, J.A. MacLennan, B.C. Roberts and R. Peacock declared an interest in agenda item 6(a) (Min. 614/079A0(ii)– Application for financial assistance from Ysgol St Elfod, as they are all governors of the school. Cllr. K. Sudlow declared an interest in the same item, as his son is one of the pupils selected to attend the event.

612/07 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee, held on Thursday 22nd November 2007.

613/07 **Matters Arising on Previous Minutes:**

a) Min. 445/07(d) – Sea Road Flower Bed

It was NOTED that the new flower bed is due to be constructed once the Christmas tree is removed.

b) Min. 504/07(d) & 572/07(f) – Digital Mapping Software

(i) It was NOTED that the Clerk has met with Alan Cooper of Blue Fox Technologies in Colwyn Bay (previously The Lead Partnership, based at Conwy Business Centre) to discuss the Council's mapping requirements.

(ii) Members received details of Mr Cooper's recommendations, along with costings.

(iii) It was NOTED that a Contractor License for the use of Ordnance Survey Data has been received from C.C.B.C., in connection with the service offered by Blue Fox Technologies, which needs to be signed and returned to

C.C.B.C. to allow access to the required map(s).

- (iv) A letter of update from Pear Technology regarding the use of Ordnance Survey Data was RECEIVED.

Following consideration of these documents, it was RESOLVED to proceed with the mapping system offered by Blue Fox Technologies, as this is a locally based company and the ongoing costs should be less.

- c) Min. 509/07(b) – Christmas Window Competition

It was NOTED that the winners of the competition, judged earlier this week by The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman of General Purposes & Planning and the Clerk, had been presented with their certificates and prize money before the meeting commenced. These were confirmed as:

First: Global Vacations

Second: Star Video

Third: Chic Beautique

- d) Min. 573/07(c) – Gwynedd Pension Valuation Seminar

It was NOTED that the Employer's pension contributions for the next three years would be rising to approximately 20.5% (currently 13.5%) following the recent triennial fund valuation, as the Council has now been 'pooled' with the other Town and Community Councils to share any future risk.

It was RESOLVED to request a list of all the other members of the 'pool' and to calculate the additional cost for 2008/09.

- e) Min. 572/07(h) – Annual Grants

- (i) It was NOTED that letters of acknowledgement have been received from the following grant recipient(s):

Cylch Meithrin Abergele

Abergele Blind Club

Abergele Theatre Club

Beulah Brass

Pensarn Community Luncheon Club

Bangor University – Memorial Arch Campaign

1st Abergele St Michael Scouts

- f) Min. 572/07(e) – Cemetery Storeroom

A letter of thanks from Mochdre Community Council for the old Christmas decorations given by this Council was RECEIVED.

614/07 **Correspondence:**

- a) Grant Applications

Members received and consider the following applications for financial assistance:

(i) Cruse Bereavement Care (late application)

It was RESOLVED to DEFER this application until the October 2008 grants round.

(ii) St. Elfod Junior School – urgent application

- The Members who had declared an interest in this item took no part in this decision.

It was RESOLVED to authorise a payment of £100 towards the travel costs for the five swimmers to go to Swansea to compete.

(iii) Abergele Round Table – Safety Barriers for Fireworks Display
- urgent application

It was RESOLVED to authorise a donation of £150 to the Round Table towards the cost of the safety barriers for the annual Fireworks display.

(iv) Ambrinettes Morris Troupe (late application)

It was RESOLVED to DEFER this application until the October 2008 grants round.

b) Society of Local Council Clerks

(i) **It was RESOLVED to authorise Membership renewal for 2008, at a cost of £182.**

(ii) Details of the programme of Conferences for 2008 were RECEIVED.

c) Shaw & Sons Ltd

Members received and considered details of the updated versions of books available to aid the work of local councils.

It was RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to purchase the following titles for the Town Hall reference library:

The Parish Councillors Guide (2007) @ £14.50

Local Council Finance (2007) @ £15.95

Street Use and the Law @ £22.50

d) Risk Assessment

It was RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to attend a half day course on general risk assessments on Tuesday 15th January, provided by CCBC, Corporate Health & Safety (space permitting).

e) Local Government Pension Scheme

Details of draft proposals to amend the Regulations to provide an additional tier of ill health provision were RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to write to query why any qualifying period at all is needed: if two years is considered to be inappropriate then isn't three months?

f) Local Councils Update

A copy of the legal update for December 2007 – issue 98 – was RECEIVED.

615/07 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the following Sub-Committees were RECEIVED:-

a) Staffing Sub-Committee, held on Wednesday 19th December 2007

616/07 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

Members considered and ENDORSED the recommendations of the sub-committee

It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the sub-committee to approve and sign the updated contracts of employment.

617/07 **Annual Estimates 2008/09**

It was NOTED that a meeting of the Estimates Sub-Committee is scheduled to take place on Monday 7th January at 6.30 p.m. to consider the draft Estimates for 2008/09.

618/07 **The Financial Situation, as at Today, was NOTED :-**

	£
Current Account	5,018.01
Monthly Interest Account	43,353.69
High Interest Bond	<u>30,000.00</u>
TOTAL:	78,371.70
Hall & Development Account	460.50
Hall & Development Reserve	<u>65,906.57</u>
TOTAL:	66,367.07

619/07 **Payment of Accounts**

It was RESOLVED to authorise payment of the accounts, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached.

620/07 **Confidential Business**

It was NOTED that a third quotation for the compound for the wheelie bins had not yet been received and it was therefore RESOLVED to DEFER this matter until the next meeting.

The Meeting Closed at 9.00 p.m.

..... Chairman

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Payments authorised on Thursday 20th December, 2007:

	Chq No:	Total	Incl. VAT	Statutory Powers
		£	£	(new or unusual payments)
a) Salary payments	BACS	2,555.02		
b) Inland Revenue (Salaries)	103031	851.47		
c) Gwynedd Pensions	103032	585.10		
d) Conwy County Borough Council National Non-Domestic Rates	DD	549.00		
d) Tiscali (Broadband)	DD	18.79	2.80	
e) University of Gloucestershire - Training	DD	132.00		
f) Petty Cash Imprest Account	103030	97.42		
g) The Computer Shop - new P.C. labour (data tfr and network set-up)	103022 103033	472.97 67.50	70.44 10.05	
h) North Wales Play Association	103023	20.00		
i) Abergele Assoc of Traders (Christmas trees)	103024	700.00		
j) D H Window Cleaning Services	103025	22.00		
k) BT - quarterly invoice	103026	280.55	42.45	
l) Merlin Lighting (installation contract)	103027	7,602.40	1,132.27	
m) MISCO - Epson Projector	103028	357.78	53.29	
n) Colwyn Link Magazine for Blind (Newsletter)	103029	65.55		
o) N W Newspapers (Direct2Door) deliveries	103034 103035	88.61 99.77	13.20 14.86	
p) S J Ward - light repair	103036	28.20	4.20	
q) WNW - supplies	103037	57.05	4.57	
r) CCBC - Election Pensarn 2006	103039	1,790.74		

** Under the Local Government Act 1972, Sect. 137 & 139, the Council can incur expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interest of the area or it's inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.