

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee, held on Thursday 21st February 2008 in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

703/07 Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. G.P. Davies
Cllr. J.D. Mortimer – Chairman
Cllrs: C.A. Billington; M. Bird; G.R.K. Brown; A. Lloyd-Roberts; J.A. MacLennan;
D.A. MacRae; R.M. Medlicott; B.C. Roberts; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

704/07 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs: D.A. Byrne; J.E.H. Pitt; R. MacRae

705/07 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).

706/07 Minutes

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee, held on Thursday 24th January 2008.

707/07 Matters Arising on Previous Minutes:

a) Min. 661/07(c) – Traffic Calming in Pentre Mawr Park

A response from Paul Evans, Acting Joint Head of Highways and Transportation Services, CCBC, to the request of this Council for assistance in the planning and supervision of traffic calming measures for Pentre Mawr Park was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that Peter Barton-Price (Parks Department) had also received a copy of this letter and had offered to contact the Engineers Department to ask if they would be able to assist.

b) Min. 662/07(e) – Royal Welsh Agricultural Society

A reply from the Society regarding fund raising events to be held in the Conwy area was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED not to make any financial contribution towards these events, as none are being held in the Abergele area and Members were unsure as to whether any Abergele residents would benefit.

Correspondence:

- a) Gwynedd Pension Fund's Draft Compliance Statement

A letter from Gwynedd Council regarding the extent to which the Governance Policy Statement complies with the guidance given by the Secretary of State and detailing any reasons for non-compliance was RECEIVED and NOTED.

- b) Welsh Assembly Government – LGA 1972 S.137

Written confirmation of the appropriate sum under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 for 2008/09 was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that the general Power of Wellbeing referred to in paragraph one of the letter was not yet available to town and community councils.

- c) Letters of Thanks

It was NOTED that letters of thanks have been received from the following recipients of grants:

- (i) Pupils from St. Elfod (Re: Urdd National Swimming Finals)
- (ii) Rhyl Music Club
- (iii) Conwy Whales Swimming Club
- (iv) Coleg Llandrillo International Baccalaureate students

- d) Request for Financial Assistance

A letter from the North Wales International Music Festival, requesting sponsorship towards the community tour events planned for 2008 was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to DEFER consideration of this letter until after the May elections, as a donation has already been made during the current financial year.

- e) High Interest Bond

It was NOTED that the current bond is due to mature on 6 March 2008 and it was RESOLVED to reinvest for a further 3 month term.

Railway Disaster Memorial

Cllr. D.A. MacRae informed Members that she has been given the memorial, which was originally sited on the rail track, by the Conwy Valley Railway Enthusiasts and she asked whether the Council would agree to have this mounted in either gel or perspex, to preserve it (at an approximate cost of £250) and agree for it to be mounted on display at the Town Hall. Members were informed that the accident had taken place in the old Abergele Urban District area and the inquest had been held at the Town Hall in Abergele. A special anniversary of the disaster is to be marked this summer.

It was RESOLVED, by a majority of 9 votes in favour, with 3 abstentions, to have the memorial mounted and receive it for display at the Town Hall.

710/07 **Minutes**

Minutes of the following Sub-Committees were RECEIVED:-

- a) The Newsletter Sub-Committee, held on 29th January 2008
- b) The Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee, held on 4th February 2008

711/07 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

- a) Min. 673/07 – Town Maps

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation of the sub-committee to proceed with an order of three town maps for the first phase, to be mounted on resin coated aluminium board and installed at the following locations:

- (i) **Corner of Water Street / Bridge Street (previously agreed)**
- (ii) **Outside the Library (subject to consent from Highways)**
- (iii) **Pensarn – location to be decided**

and to request the Newsletter Sub-Committee to edit the map and approve any additional photographs and text.

- b) Min. 674/07 – March Newsletter

It was NOTED that the March edition of the newsletter has now gone to print and is due to be delivered to households on Wednesday 5th March.

- c) Min. 675/07 – Terms of Reference of Newsletter Sub-Committee

(i) It was NOTED that the Clerk has been requested to seek clarification on whether or not the Council was now required to adopt a Welsh Language Scheme, under the provisions of section 7 of the Welsh Language Act 1993, before any amended wording for the Terms of Reference could be considered. This would be referred back to the Policy & Finance Committee in due course.

(ii) It was NOTED that a significant increase in budget would be required to continue printing and delivering the newsletter door to door, should the Council decide to voluntarily adopt a Welsh Language Scheme.

- d) Min. 680/07(d) – Christmas Lights ‘Switch-on’ Celebration

It was RESOLVED to endorse the recommendation of the sub-committee that this event should become a Town Christmas Concert and that it should be held in December, possibly also incorporating the presentation of prizes for the Christmas Window Competition.

It was NOTED that Cllr. G.R.K. Brown had made some initial enquiries and a date of Friday 12th December had provisionally been discussed, with entertainment from pupils of Ysgol Glan Morfa and the Gele Singers in St Paul’s Chapel (if available), followed by light refreshments.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to delegate responsibility for the organising of the event to the Christmas Decorations Sub-committee.

712/07 **To Note the Financial Situation, as at Today :-**

	£
Current Account	2,344.57
Monthly Interest Account	77,873.69
High Interest Bond	<u>30,000.00</u>
TOTAL:	110,218.26
Hall & Development Account	460.50
Hall & Development Reserve	<u>66,457.29</u>
TOTAL:	66,917.79

713/07 **Payment of Accounts**

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

714/07 **Confidential Business**

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 is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded.

a) Information Technology Policy

It was NOTED that the current staff I.T. Policy had been written in 2004 and now required some updating, to take into account any relevant legislation.

It was RESOLVED to request Cllr. G.R.K. Brown and the Clerk to work on an updated policy, for approval by this Committee, keeping any additions to a minimum.

The Meeting Closed at 9.00 p.m.

..... (Chairman)

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Payments authorised on Thursday 21st February 2008:

	Chq No:	Total	Incl. VAT	Statutory Powers
		£	£	(new or unusual payments)
a) Salary payments	BACS	2,545.54		
b) Inland Revenue (Salaries)	103072	860.95		
c) Gwynedd Pensions	103073	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 - Clerk's Training	DD	132.00		
f) Petty Cash Imprest Account	103074	112.17		
g) Staples - toner cartridge	103065	69.99	10.42	
h) Shaw & Sons Lts - Book	103066	22.50		
i) E.N. Roberts - Main Chamber Wall repairs	103067	310.20	46.20	
j) Reimburse Clerk re: training weekend at the University of Gloucestershire (1st / 2nd Feb): Mielage claim (363 miles) - 145.20 Hotel and evening meal - 84.95	103068	230.15		
k) Scottish Power - Christmas Lighting	103069	906.83	135.06	
l) J&K Property Services	103070	550.00		
m) Colwyn Link - Tape Magazine	103071	55.25		

** 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.