

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 2nd April 2009 at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

612/08 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. R.D. Peacock

Cllrs: J.M.D. Bird; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae; R.M. Medicott; P.D. Meredith; J.D. Mortimer; J.E.H. Pitt; B.C. Roberts; S. Rowlands; T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters; A. Wood

Mrs C.J. Earley, Clerk

Mr Byron Davies, Chief Executive, Conwy County Borough Council

Mr Paul Evans, Highways Officer, Conwy County Borough Council

Cllr. Ron Hastings, CCBC

Member of the Press

613/08 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr. M. Bond

614/08 **Declaration of Interest: Code of Conduct**

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

Cllr. J.A. MacLennan declared an interest in agenda item 11(a) – planning application 0/35847

615/08 **Visitors to the Council**

- a) The Mayor welcomed Mr Byron Davies, Chief Executive, Conwy County Borough Council to the meeting.

Mr Davies thanked the Mayor and Members for their hospitality and for arranging a tour of the area prior to the meeting. He then spoke briefly about his local government background and five of the challenges he feels face the County Council: financial management; falling pupil numbers; the economy; affordable housing; improving the Council's image and influence, particularly in South Wales.

He stressed the importance of the role of Chief Executive in acting as an ambassador for the county and also mentioned the need to build relationships with town and community councils to provide the best possible services.

Mr Davies was thanked for his attendance and his positive comments and he retired from the meeting.

- b) The Mayor then welcomed Mr Paul Evans, CCBC, to provide a summary of the findings of any recent traffic and/or speed surveys in some of the areas of concern in the town.

Mr Evans issued handouts detailing the results of traffic surveys and speed measurements taken during the past three years in the following areas:

- (i) Ffordd Tan'r Allt
- (ii) Lon Ffawydd
- (iii) Lon Dirion
- (iv) The Broadway
- (v) Maes y Dre

The through traffic survey carried out on 13/12/2007 from 8am to 5.30pm at points (i) to (iv) had identified that the vast majority of traffic entering the estate had business there and was not using it as a 'rat-run' to avoid the town centre. Also, speed data collected in these areas had not identified any major areas of concern – over 85% of vehicles were travelling at less than 30mph. Finally, traffic volumes were considered very low for number of houses on the estate. Data had also been collected on HGVs during a separate survey on 11/3/2009 and this showed only 11 HGVs in total using the estate to avoid the town centre, 6 of which were 'tippers', possibly taking soil from excavation work at the business park.

Results were then issued for the survey undertaken at Maes Y Dre on 24th – 30th January 2009. Although 85% of vehicles were recorded as travelling at 24.6mph or less, the measurement point was only 40 metres from the junction with St. George Road and the narrowness of the road and number of parked vehicles would be expected to give much lower readings. It was also noted that a petition had been received from residents in Maes Y Dre requesting traffic calming measures be introduced for safety reasons.

Mr Evans advised that the Council must be evidence-led when making any decision to introduce traffic calming measures. Based on the data collected from all of the surveys undertaken, he recommended that priority be given to looking at the possibility of introducing traffic calming in Maes y Dre. It was noted that approximately six humps would be required, typically costing £500 each, along with signs and electrical connections. The Clerk advised that the Council had agreed a budget of £5,000 towards traffic calming measures in 2009/10 and Mr Evans informed the Council that although CCBC had no budget to provide funding towards the cost of the measures, it would assist by carrying out the necessary consultation and public advertisements.

It was RESOLVED that CCBC would carry out a consultation with residents of Maes y Dre to ensure that there is support for the introduction of traffic calming measures.

A very brief overview was then given of the policy on 20mph zones – these would only be considered for areas where they can be self-enforced (i.e. with physical measures to reduce speed) and where need can be demonstrated, e.g. outside schools.

Mr Evans was then questioned about a letter received from the North Wales Trunk Road Agency today, advising of the installation of permanent traffic signals and two temporary 78m long vehicle containment barriers along Sea Road Bridge, to protect the parapets of the bridge structure.

He advised that these measures were considered to be necessary until more permanent repairs could be carried out to the parapets and he agreed to find out how long it is expected to be before any permanent repair is undertaken.

The Mayor then thanked Mr Evans for attending and he retired from the meeting.

616/08 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to receive, approve and sign the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting, held on 5th March 2009.

617/08 **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

- a) Future Burial Provision - Min. 553/08(a)
The Clerk gave a brief verbal update from Lyn Davies, CCBC, on the ground investigation carried out at the proposed site in February. It was NOTED that two of the checks carried out had highlighted possible problems and that further work would now be required to see if the required remedial works would be cost effective.
- b) Proposed Gating Order – Groes Lwyd / Alexandra Road – Min. 553/08(d)
An acknowledgement from David Jones, MP, to the action suggested by this Council was RECEIVED.
- c) North Wales Coast Regeneration Area – Min. 435/08(g)
A response from Marianne Jackson to the request that this Council becomes involved in shaping the work of the S.R.A., to include an invitation to attend a meeting on 14th April, was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr. S. Rowlands and Cllr J. Stubbs would attend, on behalf of the council.

- d) Access for Disabled and Pushchair users – Min. 553/08(e)
 - (i) Request for Raised kerb at Tesco bus stop
It was NOTED that Tesco is still awaiting a response from Head Office to the request for a raised pad to be installed at the bus stop.
 - (ii) Water Street Pavement
A response from the Head of Highways to the letter sent to request urgent consideration of carrying out the pavement improvements at the same time as the road resurfacing was RECEIVED and NOTED.

It was RESOLVED to write again in September to remind Highways that the pavement improvements need to be carried out.

- e) Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act – Min. 435/08(c)
A detailed response to the request for information regarding the use of powers given under the Act was RECEIVED and NOTED.
- f) Listed Telephone Kiosks – Min. 553/08(l)
It was NOTED that CADW currently has no plans to undertake a further review of listed buildings in Wales, but that they will continue to keep the current lists up to date.

Concern was expressed that the war memorials in Abergele (St. Michael's Churchyard) and St. George are not listed.

It was RESOLVED to make an application to CADW for these to be protected by an appropriate listing.

- g) Remembrance Day Crosses – Min. 554/08(f)
The Clerk gave a brief verbal report from the recent site meeting.

It was RESOLVED to support in principle the proposal that the Royal British Legion arranges for two long, narrow made-to-measure troughs, possibly constructed from hardwood, to be temporarily fixed on the second step down at each side of the memorial for the placing of Remembrance Day crosses. These would be removed and stored approximately 6 weeks after Remembrance Sunday.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to delegate authority to the working party, comprising Cllrs: J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae; B.C. Roberts and A. Wood, to make any further decisions regarding the final design and construction details for the troughs.

It was NOTED that the Church may be carrying out work on the footpaths in the near future and that this would need to be monitored to ensure that there was no adverse affect on the memorial.

- h) Protection Measure for Pentre Mawr – Min. 505/08
 - (i) It was NOTED that £2,500 has been received from Leisure Services towards the urgent protection measures for the Park, accepted by this Council on 5th February 2009, which can be added to the £2,000 already committed by Lyn Davies from the Parks Service.
 - (ii) **It was RESOLVED to agree to provide funding to cover the shortfall of approximately £1,550, to allow this work to be carried out as soon as possible.**
 - (iii) **It was FURTHER RESOLVED to appoint Cllrs: S. Rowlands, R.G. Waters and A. Wood to attend any pre-contract meeting to discuss the proposed works and to ask that they ensure that the entrances from Pentre Mawr House and Sea Road have been given adequate consideration.**

618/08 Correspondence

- a) Police Liaison
Members received and considered the police liaison report from the

meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March.

(i) Litter – Rhuddlan Road

It was NOTED that during a litter pick carried out by CCBC operatives several weeks ago, approximately 70-80% of all the rubbish collected from Faenol roundabout to the S-bends originated from McDonalds. The Clerk circulated photographs showing the amount of litter seen blowing from McDonalds onto Rhuddlan Road one day last week. It was FURTHER NOTED that Cllr. Sam Rowlands had been in correspondence with the manager to seek additional litter picks by McDonalds and that a further meeting has been arranged, following receipt of photographs from the Clerk.

b) CCBC – Provision of cycle rack at Abergele Library

It was NOTED that CCBC are now in receipt of a third quotation for the supply and installation of a cycle rack and the installation of a Town Map at Abergele Library.

It was RESOLVED to accept the latest quotation of £568, which is considerably lower than the quotations previously obtained, and to instruct work to commence as soon as possible.

c) Hanging Baskets

It was NOTED that a call has been received from Jeanette Dew, Secretary of the Abergele Association of Traders, to inform the Council that they will not be supplying hanging baskets again this year, due to key buildings, e.g. Banks, Post Office, Spar and Superdrug, not being able to allow their staff to climb to water them. The Public Houses will continue to provide their own displays.

It was RESOLVED that the funds set aside for the hanging baskets be redirected towards spring flowering bulb planting in some of the grassed areas in the town.

Members were asked to bring suggestions to the next meeting of any grassed areas considered suitable for bulb planting, which would then need to be submitted to CCBC for approval.

d) The Year of St Elfod

Details of events planned to celebrate the Year of St Elfod were RECEIVED.

e) Cytun - Palm Sunday Walk of Witness

Notice of the arrangements and an invitation to attend were RECEIVED.

f) Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales

A copy of the first Newsletter – A Line in the Sand, was RECEIVED.

g) Forthcoming Meetings

Details of meetings to be held during April were RECEIVED and NOTED.

h) Mayor's Diary

Details of the Mayor's engagements during April were RECEIVED.

- i) Urgent items
- The following urgent items of correspondence were RECEIVED and NOTED:

- (i) Notice of commencement of work on the new zebra crossing on Rhuddlan Road, due to commence on 20th April for four weeks maximum.
- (ii) Further details regarding the closure of Sea Road Bridge on 6th April for installation of permanent traffic signals and vehicle containment barriers.

It was RESOLVED to write to Darren Millar, A.M., to seek his assistance in ensuring that the vehicle containment barriers are a temporary measure and that the required repairs will be carried out as soon as possible.

619/08 **Update from County Councillors**

The following updates were RECEIVED from County Councillors on matters relating to their Wards:

- a) Cllr. Ron Hastings thanked the Mayor and Members of the Council for their good wishes during his recent period of ill-health.
- (i) He advised members that he has requested a detailed estimate for the proposed alley gates for Groes Lwyd / Alexandra Road, which he had been advised would be more in the region of £5-£6,000.
- (ii) He also advised that he would be carrying out a 'Ward Audit' with a senior officer from CCBC to point out any problems which need to be addressed, such as access from Tannery Court and bus stop locations.

620/08 **Minutes**

The draft Minutes of the following Committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The Executive Committee, held on 12th March 2009
b) The General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 19th March
c) The Policy and Finance Committee, held on 19th March

621/08 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes**

- a) **Executive Committee**

- (i) Submission of Proposals for the Annual Estimates – Min. 570/08(c)

Members considered the revised recommendations of the Committee that a concise 'Project Brief' be prepared and submitted to the Council for all new community projects expected to cost in excess of £2,500, as detailed in Schedule 'A' to those Minutes.

It was NOTED that this was considered necessary to assist the Estimates Committee in preparing the Annual Estimates and planning ahead for future years, especially where partnerships are required.

Several members stated concerns about the bureaucracy of form-filling and their preference for making verbal proposals for projects, in the first instance.

After further discussion, it was RESOLVED to agree that a 'Project Brief' should be completed by the relevant committee/sub-committee for any project estimated to cost over £2,500, only once the initial proposal has been accepted in principle by the Council.

(ii) Governance and Accountability Guidance – Min. 570/08(d)

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendations of the Committee that Terms of Reference for Internal Audit are approved annually, by the end of July, and that an Audit Plan is agreed, to ensure that it takes into account the risks facing the Council.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that members may take up any training offered by One Voice Wales or the SLCC.

(iii) Insurance – Min. 571/08

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that the insurance policy is renewed, at a cost of £3,172.48, and that further checks are undertaken by the Clerk, as detailed in those Minutes, to confirm that the correct level of cover is held.

(iv) Scout Parade – Min. 574/08

It was RESOLVED to DEFER this item until the end of the meeting, due to the need to exclude members of the public and press.

622/08 **Planning / Licensing**

- a) The planning applications were RECEIVED and concluded, as detailed schedule 'A' attached.
- b) It was NOTED that there were no planning decisions available as yet from C.C.B.C. for the preceding two week period.
- c) Notice of the following licensing applications listed by C.C.B.C. was RECEIVED:
 - (i) An application for a premises license for a betting premises at 46 Marine Road, Pensarn (standard opening hours to apply).

623/08 **Deferred Item**

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 and with Standing Order no.68, it was RESOLVED that, 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 and they were instructed to withdraw.

Scout Parade – Min. 574/08

It was proposed that the recommendation of the Executive Committee to print the statement made by Cllr. J.D. Mortimer in the June edition of the newsletter should not be endorsed.

It was NOTED that an article had now been published in the Journal and that the next Town Council newsletter was not due out until June.

It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED not to endorse the recommendation made by the Executive Committee.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

..... Chairman

Abergele Town Council

Schedule 'A' - Planning Applications

Date Considered	Planning Ref No	Description	Applicant(s)	Determination Level	Observations
2.4.09	0/35776	Variation of condition no.12 & 13 granted under planning reference 0/30252 to allow for amended operating hours and to include food waste collection and bulking at Gofer Bulking Station, CCBC, Rhuddlan Road, Abergele	Mr G Edwards - CCBC		No objections
2.4.09	0/35821	Extension to rear of dwelling at 33 Heol Colwyn, Abergele	Mr & Mrs P S Hughes		No objections
2.4.09	0/35833	Installation of Directional Patch Antenna and pole at Abergele Clinic, Market Street, Abergele	Mr M Martin - CCBC		No objections
2.4.09	0/35844	Single storey extension to kitchen/diner at 2 Lon y Dail, Abergele	Mr T Griffiths		No objections
2.4.09	0/35847	Display of 2no. non-illuminated pole mounted signs at Manorafon, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.	Mr Arrowsmith		The Council requests that any sign should reflect the character of the historic park of Gwrych.
2.4.09	0/35853	Erection of retaining wall and wooden trellis fence to rear of property (retrospective application) at 49 Bryn Castell, Abergele	Mr A Spillane		The Council is aware of encroachment into the woodland, but is happy to leave the decision to a Planning Officer.
2.4.09	0/35054	AMENDED PROPOSAL Siting of 1 above ground 1 tonne gas tank and pipework at The Kinmel Arms, Church Street, St George, Abergele	Mr T Watson		The Council continues to object to this proposal, as per its previous submissions, and adds its concern about the impact an above ground gas tank of this size in a prominent location will have on the Conservation Area. The Council requests that a more suitable location be found within the curtilage of the Kinmel Arms