

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 3rd July at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

97/08 Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. R.D. Peacock
Cllrs: M. Bird; M. Bond; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae;
R.M. Medicott; D. Meredith; J.D. Mortimer; B.C. Roberts; S. Rowlands;
T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; R.G. Waters
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)
Members of public and press

98/08 Apologies for Absence

Cllr: K.J. Sudlow

99/08 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).

100/08 Police Liaison

a) Visitor to the Council

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Jane Banham to the meeting to give a brief presentation on recent crime statistics and local policing matters.

Inspector Banham gave details of the crime figures for area CO9 (Abergele) for the year from April 2007 to March 2008. It was noted that a reduction had been seen in all types of crime, compared to the previous year.

A brief report was then given on recent policing initiatives, including test alcohol purchases, use of alcohol testing strips for drinks, voluntary breathalyser tests for young people, work with schools and partnership activities with young people.

Inspector Banham then invited questions from Members and discussion took place around the following matters: use of PCSOs and Special Constables; police presence for the carnival; work with young people; increase in training vehicles locally; recruitment.

It was RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to allow a question from County Cllr. R. Hastings, who asked Inspector Banham whether the police helicopter was cost effective. Inspector Banham did not have information available to be able to comment.

Inspector Banham agreed to return in two or three months time to give the crime statistics for the first six months of 2008/09 and she was requested to also provide statistics for area DE3, which includes Pensarn, Belgrano, Towyn and Kinmel Bay.

b) Monthly Police Liaison Meetings

Inspector Banham stated her disappointment that the separate monthly police liaison meetings were no longer taking place and requested that the Council considers reinstating these.

Standing Orders were reinstated, Inspector Banham was thanked for her attendance and she retired from the meeting.

101/08 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of

- a) **The Ordinary Meeting held on 5th June 2008**
- b) **The Special Meeting held on 19th June 2008**

102/08 **Matters Arising on Previous Minutes:**

- a) Request for Tourism Signs on A55 – Min. 631/07(f)

(i) It was NOTED that a reply has still not been received to the letter sent to Transport Wales on 14 January 2008 (chased 19th March and 19th May).

(ii) A response from Darren Millar, A.M., to the letter he sent to the Deputy First Minister on 22 April 2008 was RECEIVED and NOTED.

(iii) To receive any advice from the Principal Tourism Officer, CCBC

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report, detailing the advice received from George Brookes, Principal Tourism Officer with Conwy County Borough Council, regarding the Council's request for tourism signs.

It was NOTED that the process to obtain new signs on a Trunk Road is complicated and expensive and that sufficient evidence would be required to demonstrate the need for any additional signage. Consideration first needs to be given to improving signage within the town, possibly to include improved 'Welcome to Abergele' signs, brown directional signs to attractions, signs in car parks to give directions and fingerpost type signs for pedestrians.

It was RESOLVED to request that George Brookes attends a future meeting of the Council to discuss how the request for signs can best be progressed.

b) Meeting with Darren Millar on 11th April

(i) A brief update from Darren Millar, AM, on some of the matters discussed at the meeting in April was RECEIVED.

(ii) An update regarding the clinical review at Abergele Hospital and a copy of the Environment Agency's response to the request for permission to culvert the short stretch of watercourse at Eldon Drive was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that the new North Wales Health Authority is now up and running (covering the old Clwyd area).

c) Extension to Opening Hours at the Castle Hotel – Min. 056/08(b)

(i) It was NOTED that a number of residents had contacted Members of the Council regarding their concerns about the extension to the licence and that a meeting had taken place on Monday 9th June.

(ii) A copy of a background paper prepared by the Clerk for the meeting was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Head of Regulatory Services to state the concern of this Council that letters from the Council, as a representative body, are not being accepted as a relevant representation unless specific residents' details are included

(iii) It was NOTED that the meeting had gone well and that the advice given to residents by the Head of Licensing had been useful.

Some concern was expressed that not all Pentre Mawr members had been invited to attend the meeting, which had initially been arranged by a member from Gele ward.

(iv) It was NOTED that a Planning Enforcement Officer had visited the premises to discuss works taking place in the rear yard and establish whether or not planning permission is required.

(v) A further update from a local resident was RECEIVED, confirming that the variation to licence application has now been rejected on technical grounds.

d) Pensarn Public Conveniences – Min. 058/08

It was NOTED that Cllr. D. Holland has received assurances that the work will be completed before the schools finish for summer.

e) Representatives on School Governing Bodies – Min. 058/08

It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr. D.A. MacRae as this Council's representative on the governing body of St. George School.

f) One Voice Wales AGM – Min. 060/08

(i) **It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the motion submitted to One Voice Wales for consideration, requesting that Town & Community Councils be treated as ‘responsible authorities’, not ‘interested persons’ following two recent instances of letters from this Council relating to Licensing applications not being accepted as ‘relevant representations’.**

(ii) It was NOTED that no report was available from the AGM of the Conwy/Denbigh Area Committee, held on Thursday 26th June.

(iii) It was NOTED that a copy of the Minutes of the last meeting are available from the Clerk.

(1) Correspondence from Cllr. G.R.K. Brown – Min. 074/08

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

103/08 **Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED:

a) Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
- Notification of AGM, to be held in Newtown on 28th June 2008
(copied to Cllr. G.P. Davies)

b) Colwyn Bay, Abergele & District Twinning Association
- notice of forthcoming events

c) Local Works
- Guide to the Sustainable Communities Act

d) Welsh Assembly Government
- Local Government Partnership Scheme Report 2006-2007
- Local Government Partnership Scheme March 2008

e) Clwyd Community Chest

(i) Notice of the AGM, to be held on 29th July 2008

(ii) **It was RESOLVED to authorise the renewal of membership for 2008/09, at a cost of £50**

f) CCBC Standards Committee – Training on the Code of Conduct

An invitation to attend a training session on the new Code of Conduct, to be held at Venue Cymru on Wednesday 16th July, was RECEIVED. Members were asked to speak to the Clerk if they wished to attend.

g) Pentre Football Club

A request for support from a newly formed junior football club was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to send out a pack for applying for an annual grant, to be considered in October, along with details of other grant sources, e.g. WREN, Sports for All and Sportslot.

h) Peel Street

A letter received from a resident requesting action to tidy up the Peel Street area was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED to contact the gas and electricity boards to request assistance in repairing / replacing the damaged meter boxes.

i) Forthcoming Meetings

Details of the forthcoming meetings in July were RECEIVED.

j) Mayor's Diary

Details of the Mayor's engagements in July were RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that the Mayor's Civic Service has been provisionally arranged for Sunday 5th October at St. Michael's Church.

k) Npower Renewables

A letter of introduction regarding the plans for onshore work in connection with the proposed Gwynt y Mor Offshore Wind Farm was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that the map copied to Members was difficult to understand, due to the lack of colour, and it was RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to purchase a colour printer/copier to enable documents to be reproduced in colour, where required.

Members stated their disappointment that the Rhyl Flats offshore wind farm, which is currently under construction, could not have shared the same underground cabling route as the proposed Gwynt y Mor scheme.

l) CCBC – Proposed Taxi Ranks

Members received and considered proposals to move the taxi rank on Market Street to the westbound side, adjacent to the bus stop.

It was RESOLVED to write to Highways to state that the taxi rank is never used during the day and should therefore be removed, as spaces could be better used for shoppers.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to chase progress with the removal of the two parking spaces on Bridge Street, which were requested to be removed over two years ago now.

m) North Wales Police – Abergele Neighbourhood Meeting

Notification of the next Abergele and Pensarn neighbourhood meetings was RECEIVED.

n) Abergele Swimming Club

It was RESOLVED to send a letter of congratulations to Members of Abergele Swimming Club, who achieved a number of records, medals and personal best times at the recent Bangor Open Meet.

104/08 **Request for Bus Shelter**

Members considered a request received by Cllr. M. Medlicott for a new bus shelter on Llanddulas Road (east bound), at the bus stop by the path through to Eldon Drive.

It was RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders, to allow Cllr. Ron Hastings, CCBC, to give a brief update on matters he has been involved in.

It was NOTED that Cllr. Hastings had received a number of requests from residents to move the bus stop from near The Broadway (west bound) to opposite the path to Eldon Drive and that this was currently being considered by Highways.

Cllr. Hastings then gave a brief report on other matters he was involved with, including the alley way from Groes Lwyd to Alexander Road and the pedestrian access to Tannery Court.

105/08 **Dogs on Pensarn Beach**

Members considered advice received from the dog warden following complaints about dogs regularly being seen in the 'dog ban area' of Pensarn Beach.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Public Protection Manager to request that this area be considered for a new Dog Control Order, under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, and that signage be improved.

106/08 **Minutes**

The draft Minutes of the following Committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 19th June 2008
- b) The Policy and Finance Committee, held on 19th June 2008

107/08 **Planning / Licensing**

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

- Cllr. D.A. MacRae declared an interest in application 0/34992, under paragraph 13 of the Code of Conduct, and took no part in the consideration of this application.

- b) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C., as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- c) It was NOTED that there were no new licensing applications listed by C.C.B.C. for the Abergele area.

108/08 **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.**

Further correspondence from Cllr. G.R.K. Brown was RECEIVED and considered (see separate confidential Minute: 109/08).

The Meeting Closed at 9.15 p.m.

..... Chairman

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Schedule 'A' - Planning Applications

Date Considered	Planning Ref No	Description	Applicant(s)	Determination Level	Observations
3.7.08	0/34992	Alterations and extension to dwelling at Lynton, Highfield Park, Abergele	Mr & Mrs Knowlson	Delegated	
3.7.08	0/35024	Erection of garage and laundry room at Arfryn, Llanfair Road, Abergele	Mr T Morgan	Delegated	
3.7.08	0/35030	Erection of detached dwelling with integral garage (Approval of matters reserved for subsequent approval under Code Ref: 0/34359) at Tegan Gardd, Tan y Fron Road, Abergele	Mr & Mrs Mycock		

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SCHEDULE 'B'

Planning Decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council from 2.6.08 to 15.6.08

0/34632 Construction of road layout, balancing pond, and associated drainage (Approval of matters reserved for subsequent approval under Code Ref: 0/23158) at Phase 2A north east corner of North Wales Business Park, Abergele

Decision: Approved with conditions

0/34795 Variation of Condition No 11 of planning permission granted under Code Ref: 0/25936 (Alterations and additions to existing buildings to form 10no. dwellings units) to allow culverting of open ditch at Bodoryn Fawr, St George, Abergele

Decision; Refused
