

# Abergele Town Council

## MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

183/08 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. R.D. Peacock (Chairman)  
Cllrs: M. Bond; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae (see Min. 186/08);  
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 the public and press

184/08 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs: M. Bird; K.J. Sudlow

185/08 **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).

186/08 **Police Liaison**

- a) A brief Police Liaison Report from the local C.B.M was given by the Clerk, in the absence of P.C. Hall, who offered his apologies for not being present at the meeting.

It was NOTED that P.C. Hall had returned to duties last Sunday, after a period of parental leave, and was still catching up on correspondence and crime reports from the past month. However, he thinks that it has been fairly quiet, for the time of year, apart from the issue of the traveller encampment in Pentre Mawr Park. P.C. Hall requested that he be invited to attend any meetings to discuss protection measures for the park, as he is concerned that barriers at the main entrance may not be sufficient and special locks may be required. He also suggested the use of oak type posts for other possible access routes. A brief update was also given on an assault which had taken place last year and on the pub-watch scheme.

- Cllr. D.A. MacRae arrived during this report.

A discussion then took place on issues surrounding the recent itinerant encampments in Conwy.

**It was RESOLVED to contact One Voice Wales to enquire whether there is any statutory obligation for the County Borough Council to provide sites for itinerants.**

- b) **It was RESOLVED, by a majority vote of 9 FOR and 0 AGAINST (4 abstentions) that the Council reverts to holding a separate monthly**

**Police Liaison meeting with the local Community Beat Manager(s) and/or Sergeant to discuss local policing matters, in addition to inviting Inspector Jane Banham to attend full Council meetings at least twice per annum.**

187/08 **Minutes**

**It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008.**

188/08 **To Consider any Matters Arising on Previous Minutes:**

a) Future Burial Provision – Min. 784/07(e)

It was NOTED that engineers have been instructed with regard to surveying, planning application and land acquisition and that a further update will be provided in due course.

b) Pensarn Public Conveniences – Min. 058/08(c)

(i) It was NOTED that work is due to commence by 15<sup>th</sup> September.

(ii) A letter was RECEIVED from Lyn Davies, CCBC, explaining the limited cleansing regime and apologising for the delays with the refurbishment work.

(iii) A response from One Voice Wales to the request made for advice on whether or not this matter could be referred to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales was RECEIVED. It was NOTED that a complaint would need to be made by a person aggrieved by the delays and that the Council, as a local authority, is excluded from being able to make a maladministration complaint.

(iv) It was NOTED that the representative from One Voice Wales also suggested that the Council may wish to request a meeting with the Acting Chief Executive to discuss its concerns.

Concerns were also expressed about other matters involving CCBC, such as the decision taken to amalgamate certain departments with Denbighshire without any prior public consultation.

**It was RESOLVED to write to the Acting Chief Executive of CCBC to attend a meeting with the Council to discuss general service delivery concerns.**

c) Litter on Rhuddlan Road – Min. 740/07

A response from Lyn Davies to the request for more regular litter picking along Rhuddlan Road was RECEIVED and considered.

**It was RESOLVED to request an update on whether the necessary staff training has now taken place.**

d) Representations on Licensing Matters – Min. 102/08(c)

A response from the Head of Regulatory Services to the concerns of this Council regarding representations on Licensing matters was RECEIVED and considered.

**It was RESOLVED to thank Mr Rafferty for his letter, which contained some useful information, and to invite him to attend a future meeting of the Council to provide further advice on this matter.**

e) The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) Order 2008

(i) It was NOTED that the training session, due to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, was cancelled due to lack of attendance.

**It was RESOLVED to hand out packs containing notes from the sessions run by CCBC to any Members who have not already received the training.**

(ii) **It was RESOLVED to adopt the new Model Code of Conduct, as circulated to all Members, under section 51 of the Local Government Act 2000.**

(iii) **It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would ensure that copies of the new code are available for inspection by members of the public at all reasonable hours.**

(iv) **It was RESOLVED to publish in one or more local newspapers circulating in the authority's area a notice stating that a new code has been adopted and giving details of where and when the code may be inspected (to include the next edition of the Town Council's own newsletter).**

(v) **It was RESOLVED to send a copy of the new code to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.**

f) Untidy Meter Boxes – Peel Street

It was NOTED that the Housing Department would be moving over to Cartrefi Conwy very soon and that the Officer hopes then to be able to consider some low maintenance planting to tidy up the area around the untidy meter boxes.

g) Proposed Taxi Ranks – Min. 103/08(l)

It was NOTED that an acknowledgement has been received to the comments of this Council and that a response from the Head of Regulatory Services is now awaited.

h) Dog Control Orders – Min. 105/08

A response to the request that the Pensarn Beach and Promenade Area be considered for the introduction of a Dog Control Order, under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, was RECEIVED and NOTED.

- i) Draft Protocol for Officers / Members
  - (i) A copy of the Protocol for Member / Officer Relations adopted by C.C.B.C., which includes a protocol for liaison with local members, was RECEIVED and considered.
  - (ii) **It was RESOLVED to ADOPT paragraph 3 of section 7.1 of the protocol, with slight amendments, which relates to the need to invite Members to relevant meetings.**
- j) Update from Darren Millar, Assembly Member

A brief update was RECEIVED from Darren Millar on several local issues.

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### **Correspondence**

**The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:**

- a) Eldon Drive Watercourse

Two further letters from Mr Tecwyn Jones, along with a copy of an acknowledgement letter sent by the Clerk to the first letter.

It was NOTED from the recent update received from Darren Millar, A.M. that he is still seeking to progress this matter on behalf of Mr Jones.

Cllr. Meredith volunteered to assist in clearing out the debris himself, but was advised not to do so, as he would not have the appropriate insurance and any necessary health and safety equipment.

- b) Neurological Services in North Wales

Letters from North Wales Assembly Members Darren Millar, Janet Ryder, Ann Jones and Sandy Mewies, enclosing copies of the following:

- (i) A letter from Edwina Hart AM MBE, Minister for Health and Social Services, to all Assembly Members summarising the recommendations of the independent review of adult neurosciences for Wales.
- (ii) A copy of the Recommendations for North Wales, as published by the Welsh Neuroscience External Expert Review Group.

The letters and accompanying documents were gratefully NOTED.

- c) Setting Local Speed Limits

- A Consultation Document from the Welsh Assembly Government

Cllr. J.D. Mortimer circulated a written paper setting out his recommendations for a response to this document.

**It was RESOLVED to refer the consultation paper and the paper submitted by Cllr. Mortimer to the Local Government Sub-Committee, with delegated authority to respond by 12<sup>th</sup> September.**

d) Post Office Ltd Network Change Programme

The Area Plan proposals for North Wales, which had been copied to all members on 30.7.08, were considered.

Concern was expressed about the proposed closure of the Post Office in the neighbouring community of Betws yn Rhos and its replacement with an outreach service.

**It was RESOLVED to write to Betws yn Rhos Community Council to offer the support of this Council in any efforts to save their Post Office from closure.**

e) Pensarn Beach

A letter of complaint received from a visitor, along with a copy of a letter sent by the Clerk to the Harbour Master requesting a response.

**It was RESOLVED that Cllr. J.A. MacLennan would take this matter to the next meeting of the East Promenade Consultative Group, to enquire about the possible provision of a first-aid post.**

f) Local Councils Update

(i) A copy of the August edition

**(ii) It was RESOLVED to renew the subscription for a further 12 month period, at a cost of £65 for the print edition only.**

g) One Voice Wales

(i) Notice of acceptance of motion submitted by this Council for debate at the AGM and Conference update.

**It was RESOLVED that Cllr. R.G. Waters would speak directly with One Voice Wales regarding a seconder for the motion.**

(ii) Notice of a meeting of the Larger Local Councils, to take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September in Builth Wells

It was NOTED that Cllr. R.G. Waters and the Clerk hoped to be able to attend this meeting.

h) Traffic Regulation Orders, CCBC

(i) A response to a query about the lack of progress in removing the two parking spaces on Bridge Street.

It was NOTED that the delay had resulted from a moratorium for about 18 months on new Traffic Regulation Orders, which has now been lifted.

(ii) A discussion took place regarding other possible proposals for changes to on street parking restrictions, which included consideration of traffic

obstructions on Pentre Avenue, Dundonald Avenue, Faenol Avenue and in Pensarn.

**It was RESOLVED to set up a Car Parking Task & Finish Group, comprising Cllrs: R.M. Medicott; D. Meredith; J.D. Mortimer and B.C. Roberts, to consider these and any other concerns submitted by Members and report back to the Council.**

i) High Interest Deposit Bond

**It was RESOLVED to authorise the reinvestment of the bond, due to mature on 8 September, for a further 3 month period.**

j) W.A.G. National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan

An invitation to attend a stakeholder workshop on 17th September.

It was NOTED that Cllr. J.D Mortimer hoped to be able to attend this workshop and report back to the Council.

k) Dormant Accounts Fund – Consultation Events

An invitation to attend a consultation event at WCVA Morfa Hall, Rhyl, on 23 September 2008 from 1.30 to 4.00pm

l) Off-road Motorcycles on Pensarn Beach

Correspondence (e-mail) between Mr Colin Masters, Cllr. Dave Holland and the Harbour Master regarding problems with motorcycles and quad bikes being ridden on the beach.

It was NOTED that this matter is due to be discussed at the next meeting of the East Promenade Consultative group.

m) Planning Application for Floodlighting at Pentre Mawr Park

**(i) It was RESOLVED to authorise the payment of an additional £159 application fee, due to an error in the original advice provided by the Planning Department.**

**(ii) It was RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to make an application to WREN for grant funding of £15,000 towards the total cost of the project, to enable all three elements of the scheme to progress as soon as planning consent is obtained.**

n) Hesketh House Proposals

An urgent application for grant funding of £5,000 towards a project by Abergele Youth Action to take over a 15 year lease on the whole of Hesketh House from Conlan International.

- Cllr. J. Stubbs declared an interest, as a Director of Abergele Youth Action, and she withdrew from the meeting prior to any discussion on this request.

A discussion took place about the business plan and supporting statements and several queries were raised, including the amount of a 'donation' included in the 2008 set of accounts for Abergele Youth Action Café Limited.

It was NOTED that, providing the project is successful in obtaining the necessary grant funding, it plans to extend the work of Itaca and develop the property for general use by the whole community.

**It was RESOLVED to agree in principle to the request for one-off start-up funding of £5,000, subject to the successful outcome of further discussions between the Council and the Directors of Abergele Youth Action and a satisfactory explanation of the donation(s) made during the past year.**

**- The following additional items of correspondence were RECEIVED:**

- o) Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales : Review of the Community Boundaries in the County Borough of Conwy  
- a copy of the draft proposals, which do not affect Abergele.
- p) Scottish Power and Trinity Mirror North Wales  
- Request for nominations for the 'your champions' awards 2008
- q) Play for Wales newsletter – Summer 2008  
- copy available on request from the Clerk
- r) Community Health Council Federation  
- Notice of the Federation meeting, which took place on 28 July 2008
- s) CCBC – Empty Homes Pilot Scheme  
- Details of the scheme published on the CCBC website
- t) Colwyn Bay, Abergele & District Twinning Association  
- Details of 'Treasure Hunt' walk on 7<sup>th</sup> September
- u) CCBC Conservation Area Panel  
- Extract from Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2008, regarding planning application 0/34901 & 0/34902 – Kinmel Arms Hotel, St. George
- v) Rhyl & Abergele Branch of RAF Association  
- Invite to members to attend a service to celebrate the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain and the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the end of World War 2
- w) Play Wales  
- A request for nominations from members to fill two vacancies on the Board of Trustees for a 3 year term from October 2008  
(Terms of reference, code of conduct, person specification and eligibility details available on request from the Clerk)
- x) North Wales Police Authority  
- Invitation to attend the Community Forum for Conwy, being held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September in Glan Conwy

- y) Parish of Abergele
  - Invitation to attend an open meeting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in St. Michael's Parish Church to discuss possible events to highlight the story of Abergele
- z) Conwy Licensing and Registration Service Approved Premise Newsletter
- aa) CCBC Safer Routes to School – Link to Water Street
  - An update from Chris Pastori regarding the near completion of the bridge, delays with the supply of bow topped railings and the supply and erection of the incorrect street lighting columns.

**It was RESOLVED to request a site visit by Cllrs. J.A. MacLennan, D.A. MacRae and R.G. Waters to view the installed columns, prior to the opening of the bridge and foot/cycleway.**
- bb) International Sheep Dog Trials, St. George
  - A limited number of tickets/passes are available for Council members on request from the Clerk.
- cc) Forthcoming Meetings
  - details of September meetings circulated, with one amendment: Executive Committee will meet on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> or Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

190/08 **Update from County Councillors**

- a) A brief update was received from Cllr. Dave Holland – Pensarn Ward:
  - (i) Pensarn Public Conveniences
    - It was NOTED that concerns about the delays to the work on the Pensarn Public conveniences was raised by Cllr. Holland at a CCBC Scrutiny Committee meeting, held on 28<sup>th</sup> July.
  - (ii) Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation
    - It was NOTED that Pensarn Ward is now included in the top 10% of the recently published multiple deprivation index and is the third most deprived ward in Conwy. Cllr. Holland has met with Rob Dix, Regeneration Officer, and hopes to arrange a walkabout with representatives of a number of relevant organisations in the near future.
  - (iii) Section 106 Monies
    - It was NOTED that Cllr. Holland has met with officers from CCBC to discuss the possible use of S.106 monies to obtain improvements in Pensarn, e.g. height barriers for the promenade, and that he is hoping to arrange a further meeting, to include representatives from this Council, to consider this matter further.
  - (iv) Speeding Legislation
    - Councillor Holland submitted his views on the consultation document received from W.A.G. and asked that the Council considers including these in its response.

- b) Cllr. Ron Hastings – Pentre Mawr Ward

Cllr. Hastings requested the support of this Council in allowing him to use the Town Hall for a meeting to discuss issues surrounding the alleyway at Groes Lwyd. It was requested that the meeting be held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm and that all interested parties be invited to attend, to include residents of houses backing on to the alleyway, local police, elected members and a representative from British Telecom.

**It was RESOLVED to agree to Cllr. Hastings' request and allow the use of the Town Hall on the date requested.**

191/08 **Minutes**

The draft Minutes of the following Committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2008
- b) The Policy and Finance Committee, held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2008
- c) The Executive Committee, held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008
- d) The Executive Committee, held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2008

192/08 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

- a) Executive Committee, held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008

- (i) Terms of Reference – Min. 151/08(a)

**It was RESOLVED to approve the Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee, as detailed in Schedule 'A' to the Minutes, after some minor amendments/additions.**

- (ii) Developing a Strategy and Business Plan – Min. 152/08

**It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendations of the Committee that the Annual Estimates should become an Annual Financial Plan, including a written commentary to give further explanation, where necessary.**

**It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that a Special meeting of the Council should be held near the beginning of each four year term of office to review the Mission Statement, Aims and Objectives of the Council and agree policies for the term ahead.**

- b) Executive Committee, held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2008

- (i) Annual Budgetary Process – Min. 177/08

The importance of the budgetary process, which is to commence in October this year, to both short and medium term business planning of the Council was NOTED.

- (ii) CADW – Revised Entry for The Mount – Min. 178/08(a)

**It was RESOLVED to DEFER this matter, pending receipt of advice from C.P.A.T. regarding the possible implications of any revisions.**

(iii) Casual Vacancy – Min. 178/08(c)(ii)

It was NOTED that no request for an election was received by CCBC within the required period and that a co-option is now required as soon as practicable.

It was FURTHER NOTED that notices have now been placed in the locations listed to request applications in writing from any interested persons.

(iv) Canolfan Dewi Sant Centre – Min. 178/08(f)

It was NOTED that further bids are now being made to the Welsh Assembly (CFAP), a Church Charity and WREN for funding towards the project.

It was FURTHER NOTED that the architect has been asked to replicate the eastern end of the existing internal roof into the proposed worship area and to consider what other elements of the existing church could be re-used in the new building, for example some doors and the tapestry.

(v) Confidential Business – Min. 181/08

**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 was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.**

A copy of the Confidential Minutes from the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August was RECEIVED and considered (see separate CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES 194/08 to 196/08).

193/08 **Planning / Licensing**

- a) Members considered and concluded the planning applications, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached.

A letter from D. Jones, M.P. regarding applications 0/35196 and 0/35197 was RECEIVED.

- b) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C., as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- c) It was NOTED that no further licensing applications had been listed by C.C.B.C. up until 22/8/2008.

The Meeting Closed at 9.15 p.m.

..... Chairman