

# Abergele Town Council

## MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

371/08 **Attendance Register:**

The Mayor, Cllr. R.D. Peacock (Chairman)  
Cllrs: M. Bond; G.P. Davies; D.A. MacRae (see Min. 375/08(b)); R.M. Medicott;  
P.D. Meredith; S. Rowlands; T. Rowlands (see Min. 379/08); J. Stubbs (see  
Min. 375/08(d)); R.G. Waters; A. Wood  
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

372/08 **Apologies for Absence:**

Cllrs: M. Bird; J.A. MacLennan; B.C. Roberts; T. Rowlands; K.J. Sudlow

373/08 **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. Sam Rowlands declared a personal interest in an urgent item of correspondence received from NPower (see Min. 376/08(h)). As this item was just for information, no further action was considered necessary.

374/08 **Minutes**

**It was RESOLVED to receive, approve and sign the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting, held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008.**

375/08 **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

The following matters arising from previous minutes were considered:

- a) Future Burial Provision – Min. 188/08(a)  
It was NOTED that a further update on the proposed compulsory purchase order from Lyn Davies, Conwy County Borough Council, was still awaited.
  - b) Pensarn Public Conveniences – Min. 320/08(a)  
It was NOTED that no response had been received to the request that an Officer from CCBC attends a future meeting to discuss concerns about the refurbishment works.
- Cllr. D.A. MacRae arrived at this juncture
- c) Service Delivery Concerns – Min. 320/08(i)  
It was NOTED that no response has been received to the request that the Acting Chief Executive of C.C.B.C. attends a future meeting to give information on the restructuring and amalgamation of services.

It was FURTHER NOTED that the new Chief Executive does not take up post until 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009.

- d) Pensarn Beach – Min. 320/08(c)  
A response was RECEIVED from the Principal Harbour and Maritime Officer, CCBC, confirming that he will investigate methods within his available resources for providing first aid facilities at Pensarn beach.

- Cllr. J. Stubbs arrived at this juncture

- e) Request for Raised Kerb – Min. 320/08(j)  
A reply from Bob Saxby, Public Transport Officer, CCBC, advising the Council that Tesco would be responsible for the provision of a raised kerb at the Tesco bus stop, was NOTED.

**It was RESOLVED to write to Tesco, enclosing a copy of the letter received from Mr Saxby.**

- f) Licence at the Castle Hotel – Min. 248/08  
(i) It was NOTED that noise monitoring equipment had been offered to one of the residents living adjacent to the Castle Hotel, but that this had not been taken up.

(ii) An acknowledgment from Councillor Bob Squire, Chair of the Licensing Committee, to the concerns of local residents was RECEIVED.

- g) Strategic Regeneration Area – Rhyl and Colwyn Bay  
Correspondence was RECEIVED from Darren Millar, A.M., including a copy of a reply he has received from the Deputy Minister for Regeneration, stating that “there may be some scope for supporting additional projects in surrounding areas during the project period but they would to generally demonstrate that they benefit the wider regeneration area in Rhyl and Colwyn Bay.”

**It was RESOLVED to write back to Mr Millar to enquire whether it was possible that regeneration projects such as housing improvements in Pensarn could satisfy this proviso.**

- h) Area 1 Youth Liaison Forum – Min.321/08(k)  
Cllr J Stubbs gave a brief verbal report following the recent meeting. It was NOTED that the summer activities programme had been very successful and that the forum will keep the Council informed about future youth projects.

- i) Hedge at Bryn Awelon – Min. 323/08  
(i) A response from the Director of Development and Technical Services, Pennaf Ltd, confirming that the landscape contractor has been instructed to trim the hedge, was RECEIVED.

(ii) A copy of a letter sent by CCBC Highways to Clwyd Alun Housing, Rhyl Office, requesting that the hedge be removed or cut down in height, was RECEIVED.

**It was RESOLVED to forward a copy of this letter to the Director of Pennaf.**

**Correspondence**

- The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:

- a) Information Commissioners Office  
Information regarding the new model publication scheme, to be adopted by all public sector organisations by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009.

**It was RESOLVED to adopt the new Model Publication Scheme and to approve the content drafted by the Clerk for the accompanying template, which details the information available from the Council under the model publication scheme and how it can be accessed.**

**It was FURTHER RESOLVED to make the scheme and the accompanying template available on the Council's website by the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Information Commissioner.**

- b) Welsh Assembly Government  
National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan Update, October 2008
- c) The Adjudication Panel for Wales  
It was NOTED that a copy of the Annual Report 2007-08 is available on request from the Clerk.
- d) National Assembly for Wales  
Call for evidence for a public review of the financial support provided for Assembly Members.
- e) C.C.B.C. Regulatory Services  
It was NOTED that the Licensing Office will be moving from Llandudno to the Civic Offices, Colwyn Bay on 10<sup>th</sup> December.
- f) Forthcoming Meetings  
Notice of forthcoming meetings for December.
- g) Mayor's Diary  
A copy of the Mayor's Diary for November
- h) Urgent Correspondence

The following additional urgent items of correspondence were RECEIVED and NOTED:

- (i) N Power Renewables  
A letter to advise of changes to the construction programme for the Rhyl Flats Offshore Wind Farm, as a result of one of the vessels to be used for the installation of the turbines being lost at sea during transport from the USA.

377/08 **Old People's Club Rooms**

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order no.21, it was **RESOLVED** to adjourn this matter, without discussion, until the next available meeting, due to the absence of Cllr. J.A. MacLennan.

378/08 **Update from County Councillors**

It was NOTED that no report was available from the two absent County Councillors, due to illness and a family bereavement.

379/08 **Police Liaison**

- a) The Police Liaison Report from the meeting held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December was RECEIVED.

- Cllr. Tim Rowlands arrived at this juncture

- b) It was NOTED that Inspector Essi Ahari will be attending the Council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2008 to give his six-monthly report. Members were asked to contact the Clerk if they had any specific questions to put to Insp. Ahari.

380/08 **Minutes**

The draft Minutes of the following Committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 20<sup>th</sup> November
- b) The Policy and Finance Committee, held on 20<sup>th</sup> November
- c) The Estimates Committee, held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008

381/08 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

a) **Estimates Committee**

- (i) A copy of the prioritised list of needs, used by the Estimates Committee to assist in the drafting of the budget for 2009/10, was RECEIVED.

- (ii) It was NOTED that the Committee had produced three draft versions of the budget for consideration by the Council:

- Version 1 included a 2% increase in the precept (of £3,400), equivalent to less than £1 increase per annum (Band 'D' equivalent)

- Version 2 included a 5% increase in the precept (of £8,600), equivalent to less than £2 increase per annum (Band 'D' equivalent)

- Version 3 included a 10% increase in the precept (of £17,200), equivalent to less than £4 per annum.

The Committee had recommended that any increase in precept of over 2% be directed towards additional community schemes and improved grants to local groups.

(iii) A full discussion took place regarding the precept to be levied in 2009/10, with some members favouring an inflation-only increase, due to fears about the perception of any larger increase during difficult economic times. Other members were in favour of raising the precept by a higher amount, to enable the Council to take more action on the needs identified by members, which will be of direct benefit to the local community. It was noted that it may be possible for the Council to find additional grant funding to enable some projects to go ahead without the need for an increase in precept.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr. S. Rowlands and SECONDED by Cllr. G.P. Davies that a 5% increase in the precept be approved.

An AMENDMENT was PROPOSED by Cllr. M. Bond and SECONDED by Cllr. A. Wood that a 7.5% increase be approved.

A SECOND AMENDMENT was PROPOSED by Cllr. R.G. Waters and SECONDED by Cllr. D.A. MacRae that a 4% increase be approved.

The Clerk calculated what these two additional options would mean in terms of increase in the precept, total cost per annum per Band 'D' equivalent property and the increase in cost to households both per annum and weekly.

**It was RESOLVED to decide this matter by a Majority vote, with the option gaining the least number of votes being eliminated, if necessary, until a majority decision is reached.**

The Voting for the first round was recorded as follows:

5% increase – 3 votes for  
7.5% increase – 2 votes for  
4% increase – 4 votes for

As there was no outright majority, the option of a 7.5% increase in precept, which received the least votes, was therefore eliminated and a further round of voting took place.

**It was RESOLVED, by a majority of 6 Votes to 5, to approve a 4% increase in the precept for 2009/10, which will raise an additional £6,800 per annum, at a cost of approximately £1.50 per Band 'D' equivalent property, per annum.**

It was NOTED that the final detail of the budget cannot be confirmed until several outstanding matters have been settled, including the outcome of a WREN grant application and notification of the Council Tax Base for 2009/10.

**It was therefore RESOLVED to refer this matter back to the Estimates Committee in order that a detailed draft budget can be prepared for consideration and approval at the January Ordinary meeting.**

382/08 **Planning / Licensing**

- a) Members considered and concluded the planning applications, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached.
- b) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C., as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- c) It was NOTED that one new licensing application had been listed by C.C.B.C:

A 'Temporary Event Notice' application had been made by Somerfield, Pensarn, for the sale of alcohol on the 24/12 and 31/12 between the hours of 07:00 and 18:00. It was NOTED that this was one hour earlier than the usual opening hours and no objections were raised.

The meeting Closed at 8.30 p.m.

..... Chairman

## Abergele Town Council

### Schedule 'A' - Planning Applications

<b>Date Considered</b>	<b>Planning Ref No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	<b>Determination Level</b>	<b>Observations</b>
4.12.08	0/35512	To remove 1no. Beech tree and to remove 0.5HA of natural regeneration scrub at Tan y Gopa Road, Abergele	Coed Cadw / Woodland Trust	Delegated	Endorse recommendations of the Tree Warden (see attached)
4.12.08	0/35517	Erection of dwelling and construction of means of access at 20 Trem y Mor, Abergele	Mr & Mrs Blears	Delegated	The Council has concerns about possible over-development of the site and feels the proposed dwelling is not in keeping with the surrounding properties, due to the restricted size of the plot and its prominent corner position

# Abergele Town Council

## SCHEDULE 'B'

Planning Decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council from 3.11.08 to 16.11.08

0/35057                      Extension and alterations including new rear boundary wall (amended scheme to that granted under Code Ref: 0/32818) at White House Primrose Hill, St George, Abergele.

Decision:                      Approved with conditions

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0/35325                      Extension to dwelling at 8 Heol Conwy, Abergele.

Decision:                      Approved with conditions

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0/35340                      Extension to dwelling at 6 Lon y Berllan, Abergele.

Decision:                      Approved with conditions

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