

# Abergele Town Council

## MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

### 494/08 Public Session

Members of the public were invited to address the council. Representations were made regarding planning application 0/35703 & 0/35704 – alterations at the Castle Hotel, Water Street.

**It was RESOLVED that the Council would continue to object to the alterations at the rear of the property, due to the adverse impact on neighbouring residents.**

### 495/08 Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. R.D. Peacock (Chairman)  
Cllrs: M. Bird; M. Bond; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae;  
P.D. Meredith; J.D. Mortimer; S. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow;  
R.G. Waters; A. Wood  
Mrs C. J. Earley (Clerk)  
Inspector Essi Ahari and Sgt. Helen Madeley, North Wales Police  
Members of the public and press

### 496/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the following:  
Cllrs: R.M. Medlicott; J.E.H. Pitt; B.C. Roberts; T. Rowlands

### 497/08 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).  
None were declared.

### 498/08 Police Liaison

- a) The Mayor welcomed Inspector Essi Ahari to the meeting to present crime statistics for the Abergele, Pensarn and Belgrano area and respond to the questions submitted in advance by members, as follows:
  - (i) Inspector Ahari confirmed that there are on average 5.5 to 6 police officers on duty on Thursday/Friday/Saturday evenings, but not all will be visible on the streets, with response officers waiting for calls and others possibly attending incidents.

A number of representations were made by members regarding the need for a more visible police presence to reassure residents and seek to prevent serious assaults, like those seen over recent weeks.

Inspector Ahari responded that the gap between the perception of crime and actual crime levels was still too great and he agreed that the police needed to ensure that the CBM and PCSOs were out and visible on the streets. However, budget restrictions meant that there was a limit as to how much they could do. He referred to the increase in the number of police officers over the past ten years and the changing nature of the demands on the force, mentioning the “huge terrorism problem” as being a significant demand on resources.

Reference was made to the promise made by the Chief Constable four years ago of one CBM per ward, which has not materialised in this area (one CBM covers three wards).

Issues concerning CCTV cameras and the pub watch scheme were briefly discussed.

- (ii) A brief mention was made of the crime statistics for the Abergele area from June to December 2008 (compared to the same period for the previous year). These show that the level of crime has remained static over this period, with a reduction from 2006 levels. The total crimes equate to less than one per day.

Inspector Ahari acknowledged that perception of crime was also important and if people don't feel safe then this is a problem. He hoped that the 'Quest' project, funded by the Home Office to improve communication and transparency, would help to address this. He also assured members that there would be a police presence on the streets at the weekend, but this may need to be called away to respond to incidents elsewhere.

- (iii) Inspector Ahari confirmed that there were 18 shield trained officers in the district, enough for at least one for every rota.
- (iv) Inspector Ahari explained the reason for the gap between the police statistics, where calls are automatically registered on the record management system, and the British Crime Survey, which is a random sample of 5,000 calls made quarterly.

Reference was also made to those crimes which are not reported, which Inspector Ahari guesses may amount to about 10%.

Inspector Ahari closed by confirming his remit to serve the public to the best of his ability. He was thanked for attending and responding to questions by The Mayor, on behalf of the Council.

- b) Members received the Police Liaison Report from the meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

**It was RESOLVED to convene a meeting of the CCTV and Crime Prevention Sub-Committee and to invite Phil Rafferty, Head of Regulatory Service, CCBC, to attend to address some concerns about the CCTV system.**

499/08 **Minutes**

**It was RESOLVED to receive, approve and sign the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting, held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009.**

500/08 **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

The following matters arising from previous minutes were considered:

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

It was noted that a brief update on progress with the purchase of land for a new cemetery had finally been received today, after several chasing phone calls: A ground investigation is due to take place this week and, providing the ground is suitable, a compulsory purchase order will be served on the landowner. The expected timescale for this process is unknown at this stage. The design of the new cemetery is nearly finalised, after taking into account comments from the Countryside section.

b) Pensarn Public Conveniences – Min. 320/08(a)

A brief response confirming a tender has been issued by CCBC for the remedial work was received. Concern was expressed that any further work must be completed before Easter.

**It was RESOLVED to ask for a further update on the tender process.**

c) Rhuddlan Road Cleansing Operations – Min. 435/08(d)

A further explanation of the schedule for cleansing operations for Rhuddlan Road was received and considered. Concern was expressed that the section from beyond the S-bends to the County Boundary was being overlooked.

**It was RESOLVED to write to state this concern and request action is taken.**

d) Raised Kerb – Min. 375/08(e)

(i) It was NOTED that Tesco have received details from Highways of what is required and will be putting the proposal forward to their Head Office shortly.

(ii) It was FURTHER NOTED that CCBC had confirmed that improvements would be made to the pavement at Water Street when the road is resurfaced (in 18 months to 2 years). Cllr. Rowlands has recently met with residents from Tannery Court and will be taking this matter up with CCBC.

e) North Wales Coast Strategic Regeneration Area

A response was RECEIVED from the Programme Director for North Wales Coast Regeneration (W.A.G.), confirming that the removal and/or improvement of the HMOs in Pensarn may be an area which can be

addressed through this programme, if HMOs in Colwyn Bay and Rhyl are also addressed.

**It was RESOLVED to send a copy of this letter to Marianne Jackson, CCBC, and to request that this Council be involved in shaping the work of the SRA.**

501/08 **Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED:

- a) Nursing & Midwifery Council
  - A draft public information leaflet Re: the standard of care that older people should expect from a nurse.
- b) CCBC Highways
  - Notice of a request for a rolling road closure for the following events:
    - (i) 1200<sup>th</sup> anniversary parade for St. Elfod
    - (ii) St. George's Day Parade
  - It was RESOLVED to write to the Scouts to enquire whether they could call this a 'Centenary Parade', so residents understand its significance.**
- c) CCBC Environmental Services
  - An offer of a community skip during Feb/Mar 2009, as part of the Government's Tidy Towns initiative.

**It was RESOLVED to accept the offer of a skip for the community and request that this be placed in Maes Canol.**

- d) North Wales Association of Town & Larger Community Councils
  - (i) Copy of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January
  - (ii) Town Twinning questionnaire
  - It was RESOLVED to ask the Clerk to complete and return this.**
  - (iii) A request for support for representation on the Partnership Council for Wales
- e) CCBC Strategic Housing
  - An update regarding the Affordable Housing Delivery Plan consultation.
- f) CCBC Highways
  - An update on the traffic survey undertaken on several roads in Gele Ward in December 2007
  - It was RESOLVED to invite Paul Evans, CCBC, to attend a future meeting of the council to give a presentation to explain the findings of the full report from the traffic survey.**
- g) CCBC Corporate Improvement & Development
  - Details of a response by CCBC to a request for funding for the sponsorship of telephone kiosks.
  - It was RESOLVED to ask the Clerk to enquire when the listed building protection expires for the telephone kiosk at The Harp.**

- h) AYA / ITACA
  - An update on Hesketh House and details of facilities available
- i) Kidney Wales Foundation
  - Details of the Walk for Life 2009
- j) Forthcoming Meetings
  - Details of meetings to be held during February
- k) Mayor's Diary
  - It was NOTED that the Mayor currently has no engagements during February.
- l) Eldon Drive - Open Watercourse
  - A copy of a letter sent by an Eldon Drive resident to Environmental Services, CCBC.

502/08 **Press Reporting**

- a) Concerns regarding inaccurate reporting in the North Wales Weekly News of 15<sup>th</sup> January, where Cllr. K.J. Sudlow was incorrectly attributed as having made comments at a meeting he did not attend, were NOTED.
- b) An apology from the reporter, David Simister, was RECEIVED and accepted.

503/08 **Fly Tipping and Civic Amenity Sites**

Concerns regarding increased incidents of fly tipping, possibly due to restrictions on accessibility to civic amenity sites by vans and trailers, were considered.

**It was RESOLVED to enquire about the cost of reinstating the community skip scheme, to provide 2 skips each month to help resolve the problem of disposing of larger household items.**

It was also NOTED that householders should contact Crest directly to seek help with the recycling of large amounts or bulky recyclable garden waste.

504/08 **Road Surface – Bridge Street, Water Street and St.George Road**

Concerns about the temporary patching and further deterioration of some sections of the above roads were considered. It was NOTED that the resurfacing work, which was urgently required, could not take place until the first week of April, due to budget constraints.

**It was RESOLVED to write to CCBC to request that an urgent risk assessment is carried out and seeking assurance that CCBC would take full responsibility for any accidents caused by the poor road surface.**

505/08 **Proposed Protection Measures for Pentre Mawr Park**

Members received and considered the informal notes from a meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009 to consider protection measures for Pentre Mawr Park.

It was NOTED that Property Services had recommended extending the existing railings at the entrance to the park and installing a height barrier and bollards, as urgent measures to restrict access for high vehicles.

**It was RESOLVED, by a majority of 9 votes in favour to 3 against, to accept the recommendations as a temporary measure and to convene a meeting of the Parks and Play Areas Sub-Committee, to include Nia Carrington-Jones and Jim Jones from Leisure and Lyn Davies from Environmental Services, to draw up plans for a bigger scheme of improvements to the park, possibly with the eventual aim of green flag status.**

506/08 **Update from County Councillors**

The following update was received from County Councillors on matters relating to their Wards:

a) Cllr. D. Holland (Pensarn)

(i) Tidy Towns Scheme

- Concerns about three unsightly wheelie bins which are currently being stored at the front entrance to flats on Marine Road (near launderette) and are attracting dumping, due to the flats having no rear entrance, were NOTED. An officer from CCBC has been looking at the possibility of installing a container to house the bins, but has not been able to find funding. A suggestion has been made that Lyn Davies may be approached for funding under the Tidy Towns scheme.

(ii) Community Sports Field in Pensarn/Belgrano

- A copy of a letter sent to the Principal Planning Officer regarding the possibility of a s.106 agreement to provide land for a sports field, subject to the development of its landholding was RECEIVED. It was NOTED that the Planning Officer had responded to say that the land was unsuitable for development, due to its location in a high flood risk area.

507/08 **Minutes**

The draft Minutes of the following Committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January
- b) The Policy and Finance Committee, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January

508/08 **Planning / Licensing**

- a) The planning applications, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached, were considered and concluded as recorded on that schedule.
- 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 licensing applications listed by C.C.B.C. for the Abergele area during the last two weeks.

**Confidential Business**

**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.**

- a) Members received and considered the advice received from CCBC regarding the Tenders submitted for the new floodlighting for Pentre Mawr Park.

**It was RESOLVED to accept the tender received from Centregreat Limited, at a total cost of £25,663.56.**

**It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Clerk to sign the necessary contract agreement and send out letters to the unsuccessful tenders.**

It was NOTED that Peter Adderley, the Street Lighting Engineer, would arrange a meeting with representatives from Centregreat to discuss the details of the contract and agree a start date for the works.

It was FURTHER NOTED that Centregreat Ltd would be undertaking lamp column replacement work for CCBC in the Woodlands estate, commencing on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

- b) A further update was RECEIVED from CCBC on a planning enforcement matter. It was NOTED that additional information was required before a decision could be taken regarding possible enforcement action.
- c) A copy of a response from the Charity Commission to enquiries about a Scheme for the Charity of Robert Roberts for the Old Age Pensioners was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that further enquiries were necessary.

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
5.2.09	0/35671	Display of 3no. non-illuminated fascia signs at Tesco Stores Ltd, Market Street, Abergele	Mr S Quinney - Tesco Stores Ltd		No Objections
5.2.09	0/35703	Demolition of existing building, formation of new escape staircase, removal of lower section of wall to former window to form new emergency exit and new lean-to slate roof to form covered bin storage area. (Listed Building Consent)	J W Lees & Co (Brewers)		The Council is very concerned that demolition and other building work has taken place at a Listed building, within the Abergele conservation area, without the necessary planning permission and listed building consent. See further comment below.
5.2.09	0/35704	Demolition of existing building, formation of new escape staircase, removal of lower section of wall to former window to form new emergency exit and new lean-to slate roof to form covered bin storage area.	J W Lees & Co (Brewers)		<p>The Council objects to this application on the following grounds:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Loss of privacy for neighbouring properties, due to the new rear emergency access door (ground level) with large window. As there is already an emergency exit door to the rear yard (to be widened) this additional door is not considered necessary.</li> <li>2. The application should state it is retrospective, as the work was completed last year.</li> <li>3. Location of escape staircase, adjacent to neighbouring flat roof, which still gives security and privacy concerns to neighbours, despite the addition of a low gate.</li> <li>4. The possible use of the rear yard as a beer garden is not considered acceptable in close proximity to domestic dwellings.</li> <li>5. Concern that the Access statement implies that disabled access will be via the rear year yard.</li> </ol> <p>The alleyway at the rear of the property is private and is not considered suitable for a public access.</p>
5.2.09	0/35709	To remove a secondary stem from 1no. tree and to crown lift 1no. tree at Auchmacoy House, Llanfair Road, Abergele	Mr A Buchan		The Council endorses the recommendations of the tree warden. The Tree Warden has no objections to the proposed work on the two trees.