

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

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

548/08 Attendance Register

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. D.A. MacRae (Chairman)
Cllrs: M. Bird; M. Bond; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; R.M. Medicott (see Min. 551/08); P.D. Meredith; J.D. Mortimer; J.E.H. Pitt (see Min. 554/08(j)); S. Rowlands; T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters (see Mins. 553/08(o) & 558/08(a); A. Wood
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)
Alun Jones, Recycling Officer, Conwy County Borough Council
Members of the public and press

549/08 Apologies for Absence

The Mayor, Cllr. R.D. Peacock
Cllr. B.C. Roberts

550/08 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.

551/08 Visitors to the Council

The Chairman welcomed Alun Jones, Recycling Officer, Environmental Services, CCBC, to the meeting to give a brief presentation on the new pilot scheme for kerbside recycling.

Mr Jones outlined his role and the three phases of publicity for the new pilot scheme: public consultation (already done); presentations (like today's) and leaflet drops to all properties in the pilot scheme areas. He advised that the pilot schemes were due to commence in May and would include kerbside collection of food waste (cooked and uncooked) and some plastics. The proposed recycling receptacles were displayed and it was noted that bio-degradable bags would be supplied for the kitchen caddy and the larger food waste container was lockable and would be collected weekly. The food waste would then be separated and transported to a site on Anglesey, where it will be mixed with garden waste and composted at a temperature of 78 degrees over a period of six to eight weeks. The frequency for the collection of plastics had not yet been decided.

Questions were invited from members and the following matters were discussed: where food waste is to be stored; garden waste collections; unsuitability of some existing receptacles; future of wheelie bins; cardboard

recycling; length of pilot schemes; provision of additional bags for caddy; help for disabled residents; initiatives to reduce packaging, transportation and energy costs. Members welcomed the initiative. Mr Jones was thanked for attending and he retired from the meeting.

- Cllr. R.M. Medlicott retired from the meeting at this juncture.

552/08 **Minutes**

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

553/08 **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

- a) Future Burial Provision – Min. 784/07(e)
A further update from Lyn Davies, CCBC, was received and NOTED.
- b) Pensarn Public Conveniences – Min. 500/08(b)
Details of the remedial work and additional work due to take place before Easter were RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to query whether the drains have been inspected and whether any further work is necessary to improve these.

- c) Rhuddlan Road Cleansing Operations – Min. 500/08(c)
 - (i) A reply from CCBC to the recent letter querying the schedule for litter picking was RECEIVED.
 - (ii) Two e-mails from Cllr. Sam Rowlands regarding litter in this area were also RECEIVED.
It was NOTED that there were still concerns about the amount of litter, despite a recent litter picking operation.

It was RESOLVED to obtain photographs of the litter in the hedges and ditches and forward these to CCBC with a request for action.

- d) Alleyway from Groes Lwyd to Alexandra Road– Min. 244/08(i)
 - (i) A letter and enclosures from David Jones, MP, confirming that the proposal for alley gates had not received political support from CCBC was NOTED with disappointment.
 - (ii) A copy of an e-mail sent by Cllr. Sam Rowlands to Mr Banholzer, CCBC, was RECEIVED.
It was NOTED that Cllr. Rowlands had taken over this file from Cllr. Hastings and was meeting Cllr. Joan Vaughan to discuss the lack of political support. He also reported on a meeting with Inspector Essi Ahari to discuss possible solutions, with the use of 'mosquito' equipment to deter youths from gathering being one proposal for consideration.

It was RESOLVED to ask the Estimates Sub-Committee to consider including a sum in the Estimates for 2010/11 towards the cost of the gates (estimated at £8 - £10,000), with match funding to be requested from CCBC / North Wales Police.

- e) Access for the Disabled and Pushchair users
- (i) Request for Raised Kerb at Tesco Bus Stop – Min. 375/08(e)
It was NOTED that the local store has been asked to submit some further information to Head Office about the proposed level access pad.
 - (ii) Improvements to Pavement at Water Street
A reply from Alan Thomas, CCBC Highways, to the enquiry as to whether the footpath improvements would be done when Water Street is resurfaced was RECEIVED.
Concern was expressed that the footpath was not going to be improved until possibly later in the year and that the road would need to be dug up again at this time.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Head of Infrastructure, CCBC, (cc. Alan Thomas) to ask whether, in the interests of safety for both pedestrians and road users, and with the desire not to waste public monies, further consideration could be given to the possibility of carrying out both jobs at the same time. This would prevent unnecessary disruption and use of resources for the newly resurfaced road to be dug up again for kerb replacement and pavement improvements later in the year.

- f) Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act
It was NOTED that the letter sent to the Head of Environmental Services had been passed to an Office in Regulatory Services to respond and that a reply had not yet been received.
- g) Regular liaison between Town Councils – Min. 441/08(a)
It was NOTED that only three replies had been received to the suggestion of a regular (possibly quarterly) meeting of town councils along the coastal belt in Conwy and that one of those was not in favour of any regular meetings.
- h) Conwy District CAB Request for Funding – Min. 441/08(a)
Members reconsidered the application for funding, previously deferred at the meeting held on 8th January 2009.
It was NOTED that the application had been received too late for any provision to be made in the budget for 2009/10.

It was therefore RESOLVED to write to the C.A.B. to request that they reapply in September 2009, as part of the normal annual grants application process.

- i) Road Closure for St. George's Day Parade – Min. 501/08(b)
- (i) A reply from the applicant acknowledging that reference would be made of the significance of the parade (Centenary of Scouting in Abergele) in all publicity was RECEIVED.
 - (ii) Copies of five representations submitted to the Council as a result of the article published in the North Wales Weekly News on 12th February were RECEIVED and considered.

Cllr. J.D. Mortimer read out the following statement, in response to these representations:

"I should like to make a statement on this agenda item as I have been mentioned by name in one or two of the email correspondences and I feel that my views have been misunderstood by the writers and this has caused me considerable upset. I wish to set the record straight.

It would appear that some people have interpreted my remarks made about the application to hold a St. George's Day parade in Abergele as indicating anti-English sentiments on my behalf.

Anyone who knows me knows this is ridiculous. I have lived in England for many years, am married to an English woman, have many English friends and I have no antipathy whatsoever towards English people. I am, however a proud Welshman and always have a desire to support Welsh culture and traditions in Wales.

When expressing my views, I did not, nor would I ever, seek to ban or restrict a lawful activity as I believe strongly in free speech and democracy and I have been very upset by the insulting, defamatory and intimidating language in one or two of the emails."

It was RESOLVED to send a copy of this statement to those correspondents who had requested a response to their representations to the Council.

(iii) It was RESOLVED to agree to a request to DEFER consideration of concerns about the draft Minutes of the Council being in the public domain before they have been confirmed as a true record until the end of the meeting, under confidential matters.

j) Community Skips – Min. 501/08(c)

(i) It was NOTED that a skip is to be placed in Maes Canol for one day only on 19th March and that this has been publicised in the March newsletter. A request from CCBC for assistance on the day of the skip was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED to respond that the Council finds this request difficult to understand and it would prefer to see trained staff available to handle arrangements on the day.

(ii) It was NOTED that no reply had been received as yet to the request for details of the cost of re-instating the community skip scheme.

k) Traffic Surveys & Traffic Calming Measures – Min. 501/08(f)

(i) Details about recent traffic surveys undertaken in Maes y Dre and Kinmel Avenue were RECEIVED and considered.

Members expressed concern about the placing of the monitoring equipment in Maes y Dre and the levels of speed recorded, close to a junction.

(ii) It was NOTED that Paul Evans will be attending the next meeting, to be held on 2nd April 2009, to discuss the survey findings and provide advice on traffic calming measures for these and other problem areas in the town.

l) Red Telephone Kiosks – min. 501/08(g)

It was NOTED that listed building status did not expire but was reviewed periodically by CADW.

It was RESOLVED to write to query when the next review would be taking place.

- m) Fly Tipping Problems – Min. 503/08
Copy correspondence from Cllrs. Sam Rowlands and Andrew Wood was RECEIVED and considered.
It was NOTED that the increasing problem of fly tipping could be attributable to the shortfalls in the current system for accepting disposal of domestic rubbish at the civic amenity sites.
It was FURTHER NOTED that Alun Jones had agreed to take this matter up with Andrew Wilkinson, CCBC, and that Cllr. Wood will report back when a response is received.
- n) Pentre Mawr Park – Min.505/08 & 509/08
(i) It was NOTED that the closing date for receipt of tenders for the urgent protection measures for Pentre Mawr Park is mid-day on Monday 9th March and that further information should then be available regarding any contribution required from this council.

(ii) **It was RESOLVED to authorise the signing of the WREN contract for funding towards the floodlighting and payment of the ‘match-funding’ element of £1,753.62, subject to receipt of written confirmation from CCBC that they are happy to agree to the conditions in the WREN contract regarding the future availability and maintenance of the skate park and M.U.G.A.**
It was FURTHER RESOLVED to REFER this matter to the Executive Committee, due to meet on 12th March, if CCBC are unable/unwilling to provide this assurance.

(iii) It was NOTED that WREN have requested that publicity be given to the ‘switch-on’ of the new floodlights.

It was RESOLVED to arrange a press release and photograph, to include the Mayor and WREN project officer, once the works are completed.
- o) Road Resurfacing – Min. 504/08
A reply from Alan Thomas giving details of the proposed schedule for road resurfacing works on Market Street, Water Street and Chapel Street was RECEIVED.
- Cllr. R.G. Waters retired from the meeting at this juncture

554/08

Correspondence

- a) Police Liaison
The police liaison report from the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March was RECEIVED and NOTED.
- b) Conwy Community Safety Action Plan Consultation
It was RESOLVED to REFER the summary of priorities and action plan and Strategic Assessment report to the Executive Committee, for a response by 16th March.

- c) CCBC New Chief Executive
It was NOTED that the new C.E., Mr Byron Davies, took up his post on 23rd February and that his personal assistant had called to make a provisional appointment for him to visit the Council to introduce himself on Thursday 2nd April.

It was RESOLVED to invite Mr Davies to arrive at the Town Hall at 5.15pm for a tour of the town council area prior to the Council meeting, to be accompanied by The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllrs. J.A. MacLennan; T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs

- d) Abergele Carnival
Notice of an application to hold the event on 4th & 5th July 2009 was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to forward a copy of the letter to Highways and the local police.

- e) Wales In Bloom
Notice of the availability of entry forms for 2009 was RECEIVED.

- f) The Royal British Legion
A request for permission to place a suitable receptacle on the base of the memorial to old personal Remembrance crosses was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED to arrange a site meeting to establish further details, including the type of receptacle to be used, how much it would cost, where it would be sited and whether it was to remain in place permanently. It was FURTHER RESOLVED that Cllrs. D.A. MacRae, J.A. MacLennan, B.C. Roberts and A Wood be invited to attend this meeting.

- g) Local Gov't Boundary Commission for Wales
A copy of the Commission's final proposals for the review of community boundaries in the County Borough of Conwy was RECEIVED and NOTED.

- h) CCBC Community Development Service
Notice of the proposed bus service changes for Summer 2009 was RECEIVED.

- i) One Voice Wales
Details of a project to determine the feasibility of town and community councils joining the xchangewales programme were RECEIVED and NOTED, with some reservation.

- j) Pentre Mawr Park
Cllr. J.D. Mortimer gave a brief verbal report on concerns about work which has taken place recently involving the laying of a concrete base and the installation of a number of wooden posts adjacent to the football field in Pentre Mawr Park. An e-mail from Lyn Davies, confirming that the required permission for this work had not been given by CCBC, was also

RECEIVED. It was NOTED that a meeting would need to be held with the relevant parties to establish a way forward.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Head of Leisure Services to seek an explanation and to request that the situation is remedied as soon as possible, to include putting the site back to its original condition, explaining to the Rugby Club the limits of its lease and ensuring that the existing changing facilities in the park are made available for use by the football club, if the need for changing facilities is part of the reason for the work. It was FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this letter to Lyn Davies and the Planning Enforcement section, CCBC.

- Cllr. J.E.H. Pitt retired from the meeting at this juncture

k) Fairtrade Steering Group

(i) A copy of the minutes of the recent meeting was RECEIVED.
It was NOTED that a coffee morning held earlier today had been very well supported.

(ii) It was RESOLVED to agree to the request for Nia Higginbotham to give a presentation to the town council at a future meeting (date to be agreed).

l) The Planning Inspectorate

A copy of the Inspector's decision on the appeal regarding Sarn, Queens Road, Abergele was RECEIVED and NOTED.

m) CCBC

An invitation addressed to all Members to attend an open session at Abergele Health Clinic on 24th March was RECEIVED.

n) Forthcoming Meetings

Details of meetings to be held during March were RECEIVED.

o) Mayor's Diary

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

p) Urgent items

The following urgent items of correspondence were RECEIVED and NOTED:

(i) N.E. Wales Veterans Group – notice of meeting

(ii) N.W. Police – notice of next Neighbourhood Meetings

(iii) Mono Consultancy Ltd – pre-application consultation re: proposals to upgrade the Vodafone base station at Peel Street Industrial Estate to give 3G coverage.

It was RESOLVED to request that details are also sent to the nearby schools.

(iv) CCBC Road closure notice for St. Elfod Parade – Sunday 22nd March

555/08 **Update from County Councillors**

The following update(s) from County Councillors on matters relating to their Wards were RECEIVED:

- a) Cllr. Dave Holland, Pensarn
 - (i) An update regarding unforeseen delays to the first phase of the project to install barriers to protect the car parks at Pensarn Promenade, due to staff sickness leave, was RECEIVED.
 - (ii) An invitation to members to attend a public meeting, to be held on Thursday 26th March at 6.30pm at St. David's, to discuss proposals to set up a residents association for Pensarn/Belgrano was RECEIVED. It was NOTED that Peter James, Housing Regeneration Officer, CCBC, would be attending, along with a Councillor who has experience of working with residents associations.

556/08 **Minutes**

The draft Minutes of the following Committees were RECEIVED:

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

557/08 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes**

a) **Executive Committee**

(i) Min. 514/08(a)

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the resolution to write to Marianne Jackson to request an update on the production of a revised Conwy Community Strategy.

(ii) Min 514/08(b)

It was NOTED that the Clerk has been requested to draw up draft guidance and procedures for lone working, in accordance with the risk assessment undertaken by the Committee.

(iii) Min. 515/08

It was NOTED that the committee has examined the reasons for any under-spend during the past three financial years.

It was RESOLVED to REFER the RECOMMENDATION that a written business case should be put forward for any new community projects to be considered by the Council over the next three years, before a financial commitment is made in the budget, back to the Executive Committee, due to concerns that this procedure may be too bureaucratic and cumbersome to operate.

(iv) Min. 516/08

Governance and Accountability – Practitioner’s Guide

It was NOTED that the Council is now required to undertake an annual review of its Internal Audit arrangements, covering scope, independence, competence, relationships, audit planning and reporting and that this should be carried out before the end of the financial year.

It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to undertake this review.

558/08 **Planning / Licensing**

- a) The planning applications, as detailed on Schedule ‘A’ attached, were considered and concluded as recorded on that schedule.
- Cllr. R.G. Waters returned at this juncture.
- b) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C., as detailed on Schedule ‘B’ attached, were NOTED.
- c) Notice of the following licensing applications listed by C.C.B.C. was RECEIVED:
 - (i) A Temporary Event Notice application by Hillary Floral Designs for retail sales of alcohol between 10-23 March from 10:00 to 16:00 hours.

559/08 **Confidential Business**

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

- a) A further update from CCBC on an ongoing planning enforcement matter was RECEIVED and NOTED.
- b) **It was RESOLVED to authorise T. J. to make further enquiries about the status of the Old People’s Club Rooms, on behalf of this Council.**
- c) A DEFERRED matter, in connection with the release of Draft Minutes into the public domain before they have been confirmed by the Council, was considered. Information and advice was RECEIVED from Cllr. J.D. Mortimer and the Clerk.

It was RESOLVED that the Draft Minutes and the proposed Agenda for meetings should be confirmed by the Chairman of the relevant meeting before they are released into the public domain and that the Draft Minutes should state clearly on every page that they are Draft and Subject to Confirmation.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

..... Chairman

Abergele Town Council

Schedule 'A' - Planning Applications

Date Considered	Planning Ref No	Description	Applicant(s)	Determination Level	Observations
5.3.09	0/35751	Installation of new shop front at 52 Marine Road, Pensarn, Abergele	Mr S Taylor and Mr S Darbey	Delegated	No Objections
5.3.09	0/35767	Erection of 5kW wind turbine with tower height of 12m at Corsydd, Rhuddlan Road, St George, Abergele	Mr & Mrs Goddard	Delegated	No Objections
5.3.09	0/35772	Extension and alterations to dwelling, alterations to conservatory roof at Berain Cottage, Tan y Fron Road, Abergele	Mr A Hall		No Objections

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'B'

Planning Decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council from 9.2.09 to 22.2.09

None recorded.