

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 6th November 2008 at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

315/08 Attendance Register

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. D.A. MacRae (Chairman)
Cllrs: M. Bond; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; R.M. Medlicott; P.D. Meredith;
J.D. Mortimer; B.C. Roberts; T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; R.G. Waters; A. Wood
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)
Member of the press

316/08 Apologies for Absence

It was NOTED that apologies for absence had been received from:
The Mayor, Cllr. R.D. Peacock
Cllrs: M. Bird; S. Rowlands; K.J. Sudlow

317/08 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).

318/08 Visitor to the Council

It was RESOLVED to change the order of the agenda and take items 5(c) and (g) early, due to the attendance of Mr P Rafferty, Head of Regulatory Services, CCBC.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Rafferty to the meeting and invited him to address members regarding making relevant representations on licensing matters.

Mr Rafferty reminded members of the four grounds for objecting to licence applications and the application procedure. He stated that it was helpful if evidence could be provided if objections are submitted; although he acknowledged that in some cases it could be a fear of increased crime or noise, which it may be difficult to evidence.

He acknowledged that the present system means that residents may not always be aware of licensing applications, but that the Licensing Authority are not permitted to be more proactive in notifying neighbours, as this could be seen as inviting representations.

The most important point to note is that the Council can only make representations on behalf of residents living in the immediate vicinity of the premises and this must be evidenced in any objections submitted. It is therefore important that local Members consult with residents regarding any licensing applications to be considered. Once a proper link for prompt notification of new licensing applications is established, the Council needs to

decide how it will conduct consultation with local residents. One possible method of doing this would be for ward members to meet with residents to establish any objections relating to the four main principles, which are: crime & disorder, public nuisance, public safety (inside the premises) and the protection of children.

If objections are made, the licensing officers seek to discuss these with the applicant and see if they can be successfully mitigated. If not, a formal hearing will be held with three members of the Licensing Committee before a decision is made.

A brief discussion then took place regarding a recent application for extended opening hours at the Castle Hotel. Mr Rafferty advised the Council that, after discussions with the Licensee, the application had been withdrawn and the Licensee was currently operating under the terms of the existing licence. If residents were experiencing problems with the licensed premises, formal complaints need to be submitted to enable an action plan to be issued to seek to address these. A 24 hour helpline for people experiencing problems with Licensed Premises was issued – 01492 515777.

It was NOTED that the recent planning application for alterations to the rear of the premises had been refused and that enforcement action would now be instigated.

A brief discussion took place regarding Registrar fees for attending services at an Approved Premise, following concerns raised by this Council. Mr Rafferty advised the Council that the current law made it very difficult to differentiate between hotel/commercial properties and local authority owned premises and that it was only permitted to have one Registry Office within the registration district, for which fees are set by statute. However, he advised the Council that changes to the registration law were being considered which could result in it being possible to appoint more than one registry office.

Finally, Mr Rafferty advised the Council that he would be attending a site meeting on Monday in Towyn, Kinmel Bay and Pensarn, instigated by Cllr. D. Holland, to conduct a multi-agency Environmental Audit and investigate the possibility of using Convergence Funding to improve these areas.

319/08 **Minutes**

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

- a) **The Ordinary Meeting, held on 2nd October 2008 and**
- b) **A Special Meeting of the Council, held on 23rd October 2008**

320/08 **To Consider Matters Arising on Previous Minutes:**

- a) Pensarn Public Conveniences – Min. 244/08

A brief verbal report was given by Cllr J. Stubbs on the recent site meeting to discuss the refurbishment work. It was NOTED that both the County Councillor and Cabinet Member shared the disappointment and concerns of this Council about the perceived poor value for money of the works completed to date.

Specific concern was expressed about the drainage and flooring.

It was RESOLVED to write to CCBC to request that an appropriate Officer visits the Council to give a detailed breakdown of the work that has taken place and explain what could be done to improve the drainage and flooring.

- b) Litter on Rhuddlan Road – Min. 188/08(c)

A brief further update on the training given to operatives and the schedule for litter picking the stretch past the bends was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to write back to seek further clarification, as the original letter had stated that it was desirable that litter picking on this stretch would be undertaken monthly, not quarterly.

- c) Pensarn Beach – Min. 189/08(e)

A brief verbal report was given by Cllr. R.G. Waters, including progress made by Cllr D. Holland in seeking to obtain barriers to protect the promenade car parks.

It was NOTED that the request for a first aid post had not been discussed and it was RESOLVED to write to ask that this matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for consideration.

- d) Car Parking Task & Finish Group – Min. 189/08(h)

Members received and considered each of the recommendations of the Task & Finish group, which had been appointed to consider a number of problem parking areas in the town.

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendations of the task and finish group, with several additions, and to submit details to the Highways Officer to enable the necessary Order to be prepared for consultation.

- e) Boundary Commission AGM – Min. 245/08(b)

(i) A brief verbal report was given by the Clerk on the recent AGM and it was NOTED that two further workshops are to be held in South Wales.

(ii) It was NOTED that a copy of the Annual Report for 2007/08 is available from the Clerk

- f) Actions for Current Term of Office – Min. 305/08(b) and (c)

It was NOTED that not all Members had submitted their prioritised lists of action points. The Clerk requested that these now be submitted by Friday 14th November, at latest. Several members requested a copy of the letter previously sent out.

- g) Level of Precept – Min. 305/08(a)
- A discussion took place regarding whether the Council could agree the level of precept to be levied before considering the prioritised list of action points.

It was RESOLVED to DEFER any decision on this matter until the next meeting.

- h) Mission Statement, Aims and Objectives – Min. 307/08
- Members received an updated copy for their files.
- i) Request for Acting Chief Executive to meet with Council – Min. 244/08(a)
- A response from the Acting Chief Executive, CCBC, was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to write back to state that the Council wishes to discuss general service delivery, not specific issues.

- j) Disability Discrimination Act Compliance – Pavements – Min. 246/08
- A response to the letter sent by this Council was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED to write back to request further clarification regarding points 2) and 3).

321/08

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:

- a) Abergele Library Update
- information regarding a delay in the re-opening of the library
- b) Temporary Traffic Regulation
- notice of a rolling road closure for the annual Remembrance Parade
- c) Morgan Allen Moore Cymru – Legislate
- information regarding a new legal briefing document: Legislate
- d) Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan
- An urgent application for grant funding for the PACE programme, deferred at the last Policy & Finance Committee meeting, was considered.

It was RESOLVED, by a majority of 6 For to 3 Against (2 abstentions) to make a grant of £300 towards the catering elements of the course.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED, unanimously, to make an additional grant of £200 towards the motor vehicle maintenance course.

- e) Strategic Regeneration Area
- a copy of a letter sent by Darren Millar, A.M., to Mr Leighton Andrews, Deputy Minister for Regeneration, requesting the inclusion of Towyn, Kinmel Bay and Pensarn with the strategic Regeneration Areas of Rhyl and Colwyn Bay.

It was RESOLVED to thank Mr Millar for his efforts and to offer him the support of this Council.

- f) Plans for Awel y Mor
 - (i) An e-mail from Cllr. S. Rowlands regarding the proposed access to the site for construction traffic through Pentre Mawr Park.
 - (ii) It was NOTED that a draft copy of the revised plans for the site is available from the Clerk.
- g) Travellers on Pensarn Beach
 - A copy of a letter sent to CCBC by Darren Millar AM, enquiring what action is being taken to prevent future illegal encampments.

It was NOTED that Cllr. D. Holland is currently progressing enquiries into the cost of height barriers and other protection measures for the promenade car parks and that he has secured £11,000 towards these measures, which may need to be constructed in phases as funding is found.

It was FURTHER NOTED that this matter appears on the future action list currently being considered by this Council and that provision may need to be made in the annual Estimates for 2009/10 to assist with this project.

- h) Pensarn Public Conveniences
 - A letter of complaint regarding the public conveniences being closed was considered.

It was RESOLVED to send an apology to the visitor and to send a copy of the complaint to CCBC for appropriate action.

- i) Forthcoming Meetings
 - (i) Notice of forthcoming meetings for November
 - (ii) It was NOTED that the re-scheduled presentation on the Community First Responder Scheme will take place at 7pm on Monday 10th November.
- j) Mayor's Diary
 - A copy of the Mayor's Diary for November.
- k) Urgent Correspondence

The following urgent items of correspondence were RECEIVED:

- (i) Community Facilities Brochure
 - details of an event to launch the third edition of the brochure, to held on Wednesday 12th November 2008.
- (ii) Abergele Youth Action
 - a request for a letter of support for a WREN application to provide a disabled chair lift

- (iii) Area 1 Youth Liaison Forum
- notification of the next meeting, to be held on Monday 17th November

322/08 **The Mount**

- a) Cllr. D.A. MacRae gave a brief verbal report on the recent geophysics survey undertaken at The Mount. It was NOTED that the survey results had initially been disappointing, due to 'noise', but after closer investigation proved to be very interesting. However, the site is considered not suitable for geophysics and a full excavation would be necessary to show the exact nature of the structure, which it is believed could have been a 'Peel', prevalent in the North of England. A full report will be submitted in due course.
- b) Cllr. MacRae reported concerns about litter in the vicinity of The Mount and a number of photographs were circulated.

It was RESOLVED to seek assistance from CCBC in arranging for this to be cleared.

- c) A photograph showing the new footbridge over the river was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to thank Chris Pastori, CCBC, for his work on this.

323/08 **Bryn Twr**

Cllr. D.A. MacRae presented a petition containing over 100 names regarding concerns about the height of a hedge bordering Bryn Awelon, the Clwyd Alyn Housing Association flats on Llanfair Road. This is causing a visibility obstruction to vehicles leaving Bryn Twr and residents are concerned that there will be accidents if action is not taken. A number of requests have been made to the Housing Association, but no action has been taken to date.

It was RESOLVED to send a copy of the letter and petition to both Clwyd Alyn and the Highways Authority and to request that the local CBM visits the site, with a view to submitting a hazard report to Highways.

324/08 **Update from County Councillors**

A brief verbal update from Cllr. D. Holland on several matters affecting Pensarn Ward was passed on by the Clerk:

- a) It was noted that a multi-agency walkabout would be taking place in Pensarn and Belgrano next Monday.
- b) Along with pursuing height barriers for the promenade car parks, Cllr. Holland is to have a meeting with Sian Williams, of Williams' Arcade, to discuss ideas for further improvements to the promenade area.
- c) Members were informed that a caravan will be in Somerfield Car Park on Tuesday 11th November, from 9am to 12 noon, to give information on the new recycling scheme, which will be piloted in Pensarn from April 2009.

325/08 **Police Liaison**

- a) A Police Liaison Report from the meeting held on Tuesday 4th November was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendations made at the meeting, but taking into consideration the additional information received from Mr Rafferty regarding the Castle Hotel.

- b) **It was RESOLVED to invite the new Inspector to attend a future meeting of the Council, possibly in February 2009.**

326/08 **Minutes**

The draft Minutes of the following Committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 16th October
- b) The Policy and Finance Committee, held on 16th October

327/08 **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 no licensing applications had been listed by C.C.B.C. during the preceding three week period.

328/08 **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 considered advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw. See separate confidential Minutes.

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
6.11.08	0/35407	Erection of driving range bays and existing practice range for use by members and guests only at Abergele Golf Club, Tan y Gopa Road, Abergele	Abergele Golf Club		No objections, but request structure is painted green to help with screening
6.11.08	0/35410	Erection of fascia board at Commodore House, North Wales Business Park, Abergele	Mr R Jones		No objections
6.11.08	0/35417	The installation and operation of onshore underground 132kv cables and associated infrastructure for the Gwynt y Mor offshore wind farm between MLW near Belgrano and A547road west of the Borth Farm roundabout	Mr M Thomas- Gwynt y Mor Offshore Wind Ltd		No objections
6.11.08	0/35423	Engineering operations to form short game practice area and erection of equipment shed at Abergele Golf Club, Tan y Gopa Road, Abergele	Abergele Golf Club Ltd		No objections
6.11.08	0/35434	Replacement parking hardstand and extension to dropped kerb at 48 Towyn Road, Pensarn, Abergele	Mrs E Edge		No objections
6.11.08	0/35442	Erection of conservatory to rear of dwelling (retrospective application) at 90 Lon Glanfor, Belgrano, Abergele	Mr Baker		No objections
6.11.08	0/35450	Change of use from shop/office to café and variation of condition No.4 granted under planning reference 0/33095 to allow extension of opening hours at 9 & 9B Market Street, Abergele	Ms L Pritchard - The Departure Lounge at Travel Unlimited		No objections, but that changes to shop frontage be referred to the Conservation Area Panel (more detailed plans required)