

# Abergele Town Council

## MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

666/08 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. R.D. Peacock  
Cllrs: J.M.D. Bird; M. Bond; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae;  
R.M. Medicott; P.D. Meredith; J.D. Mortimer; S. Rowlands; J. Stubbs;  
K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters  
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)  
Several members of the public and press

667/08 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were RECEIVED from  
Cllrs: B.C. Roberts; T. Rowlands; A. Wood

668/08 **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).  
The following personal interests were declared:  
Cllr. S. Rowlands – items 7(m) – request for financial assistance from Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan and 4 – Abergele Fairtrade Coalition

669/08 **Visitor to the Council**

The Mayor welcomed Nia Higginbotham, Chair of the Conwy Fairtrade Coalition, to give a brief update on the efforts to make Abergele a Fairtrade Town.

Nia gave a brief presentation explaining what Fairtrade is and how Wales became the first Fairtrade country in the world. The need to keep growing the number of Fairtrade towns to maintain momentum was stressed.

Although the Council has previously agreed a motion to support Fairtrade, a more robust resolution was now required to enable the Town to push ahead and achieve Fairtrade status. Information was provided to members on the five goals which the town must meet to achieve this, which include: support from the Town Council; the ready availability of Fairtrade products in shops, cafés and catering establishments; the use of Fairtrade products by a number of local businesses and community organisations; media coverage and popular support for the campaign; the establishment of a local steering group to ensure continued commitment, which must include a council representative.

A brief question and answer session followed, which included questions about the mark-up by big companies selling Fairtrade products and the location of specialist shops.

**It was RESOLVED that Abergele Town Council will support Fairtrade by:**

- a) **Using Fairtrade refreshments at meetings, in its offices and at its functions.**
- b) **Promoting the status of Abergele as a Fairtrade town and supporting media coverage relating to the scheme where possible.**
- c) **Nominating Cllr. Sam Rowlands to be its representative on the Abergele Fairtrade Coalition.**
- d) **Promoting and advertising the scheme to other parties, wherever possible.**

The Mayor thanked Nia for attending and giving a most informative presentation and she retired from the meeting.

670/08 **Minutes**

**It was RESOLVED to receive, approve and sign the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009.**

671/08 **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

- a) Pensarn Public Conveniences – Min. 553/08(b)
  - (i) It was NOTED that no further update had been received on the remedial works and that there were still concerns about the smell.
  - (ii) It was NOTED that no response had been received to the letter sent to the Head of Technical Services on 11<sup>th</sup> March querying what investigative work was carried out on the drainage systems, despite several chasing e-mails.  
Concern was expressed about the furniture in the disabled toilet, which has been put back in the wrong position and is obstructing access by wheel chair users.  
  
**It was RESOLVED to write to CCBC to request that an inspection be carried out by a suitably qualified Clerk of Works and remedial work be carried out as soon as possible.**
- b) Untidy Meter Boxes at Peel Street – Min. 103/08(h)  
It was NOTED that the repair/repainting of the meter boxes on Peel Street has now been scheduled by Cartrefi Conwy.
- c) Proposed Taxi Ranks – Abergele – Min. 103/08(l)  
An update regarding the ongoing delays to the proposed amendments to taxi ranks was RECEIVED. Concern was expressed about the money wasted by CCBC in recently repainting the taxi rank which it proposes to remove.  
**It was RESOLVED to write to CCBC to express concern about the waste of public money and that the views of local members have not been listened to.**
- d) Strategic Regeneration Area – Min. 435/08(g)  
Cllr. Sam Rowlands gave a brief verbal report on the recent meeting with Marianne Jackson regarding how the Town Council can be involved in the shaping the work of the SRA.

It was NOTED that a steering group is to be set up for East Conwy, to be chaired by Cllr. Ronnie Hughes. Cllr. Rowlands will be attending as a County Councillor and will recommend that a representative also be appointed from the Town Council.

**It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr. Jean Stubbs as the representative of this Council.**

- e) Litter at the Mount – Min. 322/08

It was NOTED that the litter has been removed and that the area will now be regularly policed.

- f) Request for Raised Kerb at Tesco Bus Stop – Min.553/08(e)

It was NOTED that the Clerk had received a verbal response from an Assets and Estates Officer at Tesco Head Office to say that, following a programme of merges and changes, there have been severe budget cuts and they will only now consider work which is absolutely necessary, for example where a breach of the Disability Discrimination Act can be proven.

**It was RESOLVED to seek assistance from Highways in providing detailed plans and an indication of cost and to submit this to the Estates and Assets Department with a written request re: DDA compliance.**

- g) Broken Windows at Vacant Building adjacent to Castle Hotel – Min. 439/08

It was NOTED that no update had been received on enforcement action, despite chasing this on several occasions. County Councillors agreed to assist the Clerk in seeking an update.

- h) Proposed Traffic Calming – Min. 615/08(b)

A copy of the consultation letter sent to residents about the proposals for traffic calming at Maes y Dre was RECEIVED.

- i) Pentre Mawr Park Protection Measures – Min. 617/08(g)

(i) The Clerk gave a verbal report on the site meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April, where the following amendments to the scheme were proposed:

- changes to the design of barrier to make to the lock accessible from ground level (for parks maintenance staff)
- to move the barrier further into the park to allow room for ornamental gates at a later date
- to install protective plates for the locks at both gates on Sea Road
- to install wooden bollards by the Pentre Mawr House entrance

(ii) Members considered the revised drawings detailing the height barrier and bollards.

**It was RESOLVED to accept the amendments to the scheme and to delegate authority to the Clerk to approve any additional cost as a result of the amendments up to a maximum of £1,000, to allow the scheme to proceed as soon as possible.**

- j) Floodlighting in Pentre Mawr
- (i) It was noted that the first stage of the electrical connection is scheduled to be completed on 8<sup>th</sup> May, but that SP have now advised that they are not taking on any new business supplies, so an alternative supplier will now have to be found.
  - (ii) **It was RESOLVED that the switching-off time for the lights will be 10pm, in accordance with the planning permission granted, but that this will be reviewed if it results in unacceptable disruption to adjoining residents.**
  - (iii) **It was RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to arrange the provision of suitable signage to inform users of the switch-off time.**
- k) War Memorials – Min. 617/08(f)
- (i) A response from CADW to the enquiry about listing was RECEIVED and considered.  
It was NOTED that the memorial in St. Michael's churchyard will be protected by the parish church listing.  
**It was RESOLVED to make a written application for the memorials in St George village, the main entrance of Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan and Salem to be considered for listing.**
  - (ii) It was NOTED that a questionnaire had been received from the North Wales Association of Town and Larger Community Councils regarding responsibility for war memorials.  
**It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Clerk to complete and return the questionnaire, once a response had been received from CCBC to confirm any responsibility it may have.**
- l) Bulb Planting – Min. 618/08(c)
- (i) Correspondence regarding the watering of hanging baskets was RECEIVED. It was NOTED that Cllr. A Wood has offered to visit all the local traders to encourage them to have hanging baskets and to repair any defective brackets.  
**It was therefore RESOLVED to contact David Lloyd Contractors to request a quotation for the twice-weekly watering of the baskets.**
  - (ii) In response to the previous resolution of the Council, it was NOTED that Mark Earp of the Parks Department recommends that the Council considers the planting of drifts of snowdrops and/or crocuses on the grass borders either opposite the Town Hall or on Llanfair Road.  
**It was RESOLVED to ask Mark to provide a quotation for the planting of snowdrops and/or crocuses in both areas.**
- m) Sea Road Bridge – Min. 618/08(i)
- (i) A response from Darren Millar's Office regarding the 'temporary' lights was RECEIVED.
  - (ii) A copy of a response received by Cllr. R. Waters to a letter sent to the North Wales Trunk Road Agency was RECEIVED.  
**It was RESOLVED to write back to Darren Millar to ask if a more definite timescale could be given for the completion of the work.**

**Correspondence**

- a) One Voice Wales
- (i) An update from OVW, to include details of the final salary award 2008/09 (already received), an update regarding the pay claim for 2009/10 and details of news items on the website was RECEIVED.  
**Following a proposal made by a member, it was RESOLVED to write to the NJC to state that this Council does not believe that the pay offer should be accompanied by a threat of withdrawal and that it considers this type of behaviour to be unacceptable for an employer body.**
  - (ii) Details of a series of Community Action for Climate Change Networks, the first of which was held on 6<sup>th</sup> May, were RECEIVED.
  - (iii) Confirmation of the renewal of membership was RECEIVED and members considered the appointment of representative(s) for 2009/10.  
**It was RESOLVED to re-appoint Cllrs. J.A. MacLennan and R.G. Waters as the representatives of this Council.**
  - (iv) The Clerk gave a brief verbal report from a meeting of the Larger Local Councils Forum, held in Builth Wells on 29<sup>th</sup> April and attended by the Clerk and Cllr. Richard Waters. It was NOTED that a number of interesting presentations had been given on topics including websites, employment law, welsh language schemes and ‘customer counting’ in town centres.  
**It was RESOLVED to circulate copies of the three template Welsh Language schemes for members to consider and to refer this matter to the Executive/Estimates Committee for provision for additional translation costs to be made in the budget for 2010/11 onwards.**
- b) North Wales Assoc. of Town & Larger Community Councils
- (i) The Clerk gave a brief verbal report from the recent meeting, attended by the Clerk and Cllr. B.C. Roberts.
  - (ii) It was NOTED that a copy of the Minutes are available on request from the Clerk.
  - (iii) **It was RESOLVED to authorise payment of the subscription for 2009/10 of £57.50**
- c) CCBC Development Control – Notice of Appeal  
Notice of an appeal regarding applications 0/35041 and 0/35517 for the erection of a dwelling and construction of a means of access at 20 Trem y Mor, Abergele was RECEIVED.
- d) Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd  
A letter of introduction from the Community Development Team was RECEIVED.
- e) Play Wales
- (i) A request for members to support the response from Play Wales to a WAG consultation was RECEIVED and NOTED.
  - (ii) It was NOTED that a copy of Play Wales Issue 28 is available from the Clerk.
- f) Conwy Walking Week  
Members RECEIVED an extract from the brochure for 2009 and it was NOTED that a full copy is available on request from the Clerk.

- g) WAG Consultation – Towards Zero Waste  
A copy of the consultation document and notice of a local event, to be held at Llandudno on 17<sup>th</sup> June was RECEIVED.  
**It was RESOLVED that the document be referred to the Local Government Sub-Committee and that members should contact the Clerk if they wished to attend.**
- h) Library Car Park  
It was NOTED that Highways will be introducing an ‘off street parking order’ for the library car park, to enable enforcement.  
**It was RESOLVED to write to enquire whether this would make it possible to introduce limited waiting of 90 minutes between the hours of 9am and 6pm.**
- i) Police Liaison  
A report from the recent meeting was RECEIVED.
- j) Conwy Local Development Plan 2007-2022  
Notice of the public consultation was RECEIVED and Members discussed how best to consider and respond to the proposals.  
It was NOTED that the main areas of interest for Abergele were likely to be housing allocations, a transit gypsy and traveller search area, the proposed by-pass and allotments and that a second exhibition is to be held in Abergele library on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June between 4pm and 6.45pm.  
It was FURTHER NOTED that a residents meeting had been arranged by residents concerned about the proposals and that councillors were invited to attend.  
  
**It was RESOLVED to request the Clerk to arrange a SPECIAL MEETING of the Council to consider the proposals, to be followed by a PUBLIC MEETING, possibly on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June (or 31<sup>st</sup> May) at a suitable venue in the town, to which the MP, AM, Cabinet Member and Chief Planning Officer should be invited.**  
  
**Members were asked to contact the Clerk if they required a copy of the documents on CD-Rom (also available on-line), or to view a copy if they do not have access to a computer.**
- k) Forthcoming Meetings  
Details of meetings to be held during May were NOTED.
- l) Mayor’s Diary  
Details of the Mayor’s engagements during May were RECEIVED.
- m) Emrys ap Iwan  
A request for financial support for the Jazz Band, who have got through to the Urdd finals in Cardiff, was RECEIVED and considered.  
**It was RESOLVED, by a majority of 7 in favour to 6 against, to approve a donation of £500 towards the cost of travel and accommodation, using the powers given by S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972.**

n) Urgent items

The following urgent items of correspondence were RECEIVED:

- (i) Notice of the AGM of Abergele Youth Action / ITACA, to be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm.

673/08 **Update from County Councillors**

A recent article from the local press detailing Cllr. Holland's hopes to resurrect a regular market on land near Pensarn Promenade was considered. Members expressed deep concern about the resulting traffic, noise and disruption if the market was resurrected. Concern was also expressed regarding the possible impact this may have on existing businesses in the town, with no additional jobs being created.

**It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to object in principle to the return of a Sunday market.**

674/08 **Minutes**

The draft Minutes of the following Committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 16<sup>th</sup> April  
b) The Policy and Finance Committee, held on 16<sup>th</sup> April

675/08 **Nominations**

Members were requested to put forward nominations for the Office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2009/10, in preparation for the Annual Meeting, to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**It was PROPOSED by Cllr. G.P. Davies and SECONDED by Cllr. M. Bird that Cllr. Delyth A MacRae be nominated for the office of Town Mayor for 2009/10.**

**This was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**It was PROPOSED by Cllr. J.A. MacLennan and SECONDED by Cllr. R.G. Waters that Cllr. Malcolm Medicott be nominated for the office of Deputy Town Mayor for 2009/10.**

**This was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

676/08 **Planning / Licensing**

- a) The planning applications, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached, were considered and concluded as detailed on that schedule.
- b) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C., as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- c) Notice of the following licensing application, recently listed by C.C.B.C. was RECEIVED:  
- Application to amend the plans relating to the Premises Licence at the Castle Hotel, Abergele, to include the rear yard.  
**Members were asked to contact local residents to advise them of this application and give them opportunity to submit representations.**

677/08 **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.**

Members of the public and press retired from the Chamber.

a) Untidy Land

(i) Members received a brief update on the enforcement action being taken. It was noted that the occupier has until the end of May to remove the offending items from the land.

(ii) Further information regarding the possible ownership of the land was received and considered.

**It was RESOLVED to write to the agent acting for the Dundonald family to request further clarification.**

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

..... Chairman

## Abergele Town Council

### Schedule 'A' - Planning Applications

Date Considered	Planning Ref No	Description	Applicant(s)	Determination Level	Observations
7.5.09	0/35933	Demolition of existing outbuilding, 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 at Castle Hotel, Water Street, Abergele	J W Lees & Co (Brewers) Ltd		<p>The Council re-iterates the objections made when the original plans (0/35703 &amp; 0/35704) were submitted, as follows:</p> <p>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.</p>
7.5.09	0/35934	Demolition of existing outbuilding, 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 at Castle Hotel, Water Street, Abergele. (Listed Building Consent)	J W Lees & Co (Brewers) Ltd		<p>The Council re-iterates the objections made when the original plans (0/35703 &amp; 0/35704) were submitted, as follows:</p> <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>