

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 8th January 2009 at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

430/08 Announcement

The Mayor, Cllr. R.D. Peacock made a brief announcement about the sad news of the recent death of ex-Councillor and Past Mayor David Byrne. A minutes silence was held in memory of Mr. Byrne, who had served as a councillor for over 30 years. Members were invited to attend the funeral service, to be held on Tuesday 13th January.

431/08 Attendance Register

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

432/08 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs: J.E.H. Pitt; B.C. Roberts

433/08 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.

434/08 Minutes

It was RESOLVED to receive, approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting, held on 4th December 2008.

435/08 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

The following matters arising from previous minutes were considered:

- a) Future Burial Provision – Min. 375/08(a)
It was NOTED that no further update had been received on the purchase of land and that a chasing letter had been sent to the Chief Executive's Office.
- b) Pensarn Public Conveniences – Min. 375/08(b)
It was NOTED that no response had been received to the request that an Officer attends a future meeting to discuss concerns about the

refurbishment work and that a chasing letter had been sent to the C.E.O..

c) Litter on Rhuddlan Road – Min. 320/08(b)

(i) It was NOTED that no response had been received to the request for a further explanation re: frequency of cleansing operations and that a chasing letter had been sent to the C.E.O.

(ii) A brief acknowledgement and update was RECEIVED from Darren Millar, A.M. and a discussion took place regarding the need for more enforcement against offences such as litter, as a preventative measure.

It was RESOLVED to write to CCBC to query what enforcement powers they are now able to use, under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, and how many fixed penalty notices have been issued by CCBC officers in the Abergele area over the past 12 months, along with how many were issued County-wide.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to write to the local police to seek their support with enforcement of litter offences in this area.

d) Request for Visit by Acting Chief Executive – Min. 320/08(i)

It was NOTED that a phone call has been received from the Acting Chief Executive's P.A. to say that she is very busy covering two posts at the moment and that she has therefore sent a copy of the current structure and suggests that the Council should write regarding any specific service delivery concerns and ask the new Chief Executive to visit after February.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Cabinet of CCBC to state the concern of this Council regarding the lack of response to this Council's request for a visit by the Acting Chief Executive, originally made in September 2008.

e) Traffic Regulation Orders – Min. 320/08(d)

The revised drawings and schedule were RECEIVED and considered. It was NOTED that some minor amendments were required.

f) Request for Noise Monitoring Equipment – Min. 375/08(f)

It was NOTED that the resident had not received any call or letter from the Public Protection Department and that she has now contacted them to request the monitoring equipment.

g) Strategic Regeneration Area – Rhyl & Colwyn Bay – Min. 375/08(g)

An acknowledgement and further response from Darren Millar, A.M., enclosing a letter from Leighton Andrews AM, was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to write to ask for clarification on what the 'criteria of benefiting the wider agenda' means and how Abergele Town Council can become involved.

- h) Hedge at Bryn Awelon – Min. 375/08(i)

It was NOTED that the Clerk was invited to attend a site meeting with a representative from Clwyd Alun and Alan Thomas (Highways) and it has been agreed that the hedge be reduced in height to a maximum of 3 foot (in accordance with highways/planning guidance for open-plan frontages).

- i) Request for Raised Kerb at Tesco Bus Stop – Min. 375/08(e)

It was NOTED that a spokesperson for Tesco had agreed in principle to the request for a raised kerb at the Tesco bus stop and that an officer from CCBC had been asked to contact her to give further details about what is required.

436/08

Correspondence

- The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:

- a) One Wales: One Planet
-Welsh Assembly Government consultation on a new sustainable development scheme for Wales

It was RESOLVED to REFER this consultation document to the Local Government Sub-Committee to consider and respond.

- b) Delivering the new NHS for Wales
- W.A.G. consultation document

It was RESOLVED to REFER this consultation document to the Local Government Sub-Committee to consider and respond.

- c) Conwy Health, Social Care and Well-Being Partnership Update No.1
d) North Wales Police Authority
- An invitation to attend the Police Authority Community Forum for Conwy

- e) Rural Conwy Church Tourism Project
It was NOTED that the following documents are available on request from the Clerk:

- (i) Minutes of the open meeting held on 3rd December
(ii) Information on the Rural Conwy Church Tourism Project
(iii) Details of a similar project in Wrexham
(iv) Expression of interest form

It was RESOLVED to send a copy of the letter and any relevant documents to each Church/Chapel in the Abergele area.

- f) Benefits Advice Shop
- An invitation to become a member of the Board of trustees.

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that Cllr. J.A. MacLennan be considered for the position as a Member on the Board of Trustees.

- g) Forthcoming Meetings
(i) Notice of forthcoming meetings for January was RECEIVED.
It was NOTED that the Town Guide Sub-Committee, scheduled to take place during w/c 12th January had now been postponed to later in the month.

- h) Mayor's Diary
- A copy of the Mayor's Diary for January.

It was NOTED that an invitation had since been received for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk to attend a turf-cutting ceremony for the new Primary Health Care Centre at the Business Park on Thursday 15th January.

- i) Urgent Correspondence

- (i) A letter from the North Wales Veterans Association, advising of the recent death of its Chairman, Abergele resident Mr Ken Davies, was RECEIVED. Mr Davies would be sadly missed.

437/08 **Old People's Club Rooms**

It was RESOLVED to DEFER consideration of this matter until the end of the meeting, to allow the Council to exclude members of the public and press to consider a confidential legal opinion.

438/08 **Update from County Councillors**

The council received the following updates from County Councillors:

- a) It was NOTED that Cllr. Dave Holland would be filling the vacant seat on the board of governors for Ysgol St. Elfod.
- b) Cllr. Tim Rowlands reported receipt of a petition from residents of Maes y Dre requesting traffic calming measures, which he would be referring to Highways, for investigation.

It was RESOLVED to add this road to the list of other 'problem roads' already identified by this Council as requiring some form of traffic calming measures.

439/08 **Police Liaison**

- a) The Police Liaison Report from the recent meeting was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the action recommended in that report:

- (i) **To report the broken window at the Caste Hotel to the Conservation Officer, CCBC**
(ii) **To request a master lock and spare keys for the Secret Garden, Pentre Mawr Park**

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to write to PCSO Alex Jones to state that her request for a graffiti mural on the skate park equipment would need to be referred to CCBC, in the first instance.

- b) It was NOTED that Inspector Essi Ahari will be attending the Council meeting on 5th February 2008 to give a six-monthly policing report and he has requested that any questions be submitted in advance, if possible.

A number of questions were put forward by Members for submission to Inspector Ahari, as follows:

- (i) What was the programmed police presence on the streets of Abergele on Friday and Saturday evenings over the past six weeks?
- (ii) What are the proposals to increase this presence, to prevent serious incidents like those which have taken place in the past few weeks.
- (iii) According to press reports, the Chief Constable was the only shield-trained officer present in Wrexham on New Years Eve. Why?
- (iv) To request crime statistics for Abergele, Pensarn and Belgrano for 6 months from June to December 2008 and the same period for the previous year, plus details of how these are compiled.
- (v) According to a Home Office map, crime in North Wales has increased, but press releases from the Chief Constable's office say crime is down – who is right?

Members were asked to submit any further questions to the Clerk by Monday 19th January, at latest.

440/08 **Minutes**

The draft Minutes of the following Committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 18th December
- b) The Policy and Finance Committee, held on 18th December
- c) The Estimates Committee, held on 5th January 2008

441/08 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

a) Estimates Committee

- (i) Two requests for funding for 2009/10 were considered, prior to considering the draft Estimates for 2009/10:

1. Conwy District Citizen's Advice Bureau for funding towards the cost of an Outreach Worker in 2009/10 was considered,

It was NOTED that it would be helpful to have a regular forum to be able to discuss matters such as this with the other Town Councils along the coastal belt.

It was RESOLVED to ask the Clerk to contact the other six town councils along the coastal belt to ascertain the interest (if any) in establishing a regular forum to discuss joint issues of interest or concern.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to DEFER any decision on this request, pending receipt of information on the assistance given by and services provided to other local town councils.

2. 'The Resurgam Project'

A request from Towyn & Kinmel Bay Town Council to earmark funding in the budget for 2009/10 towards the cost of an initial study into a North Wales Pilot Offshore Tidal Impoundment Scheme, somewhere between Rhyl and Colwyn Bay.

It was RESOLVED to DEFER any decision until the County Council has received advice on whether it has a case for seeking a judicial review on the Gwynt y Mor offshore wind farm, as the Council considers that there could be a danger of overdevelopment of off-shore energy generation, if both schemes were to go ahead.

(ii) Min. 428/08(a) - Precept Request

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the decision to raise a precept of £180,000 for 2009/10 (equivalent to a 4.7% increase in income, but resulting in an increased cost of only 57 pence per annum (1.5%) for a typical Band 'D' property, due to an increase of over 3% in the council tax base).

(iii) Min. 428/08(b) – Staff Costs

It was NOTED that the Estimates Committee has requested that the Staffing Sub-Committee considers the need for additional hours for the Clerical Assistant to enable the office to be covered daily during the absence of the Clerk.

(iv) Min. 428/08(b)(ii) – Tourism Signage

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation to include a small budget towards improvements to tourism signage.

(v) Min. 428/08(b)(v) – Fees & Charges

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommended increase in fees and charges for 2009/10, as detailed in Schedule 'A' to the Minutes.

(vi) Min. 428/08(c) – Reserves

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation to use £20,000 from the general reserves to off-set expenditure for 2009/10, bringing the level of the reserve down to between 20-25% of the annual precept.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to request that the Executive Committee investigates the cause of the under-spend in 2007/08, which resulted in the general reserve brought forward to 2008/09

being higher than anticipated.

(vii) It was **RESOLVED** to **ENDORSE** the recommendation that the **Hall & Development Reserve** should grow by earned interest only for **2009/10**.

(viii) Min. 428/08(c)(iii) – Annual Investment Strategy

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the **Annual Investment Strategy** for **2009/10**, as detailed in **Schedule ‘B’** to those Minutes.

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** to make enquiries regarding the cost of **early-settling the Councils Public Works Loan Board loan**.

(ix) Min. 429/08 – Draft Estimates and Financial Plan

The Financial Plan for 2009/10, incorporating the draft Estimates, was **RECEIVED** and considered.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the **Financial Plan & Estimates**, as recommended by the **Estimates Committee**.

442/08 **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 recently 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. for the two weeks to 26th December 2008.

443/08 **Deferred Matter**

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 considered a confidential legal opinion received regarding the terms of the Will of Robert Roberts and the long term future of the Red Cross / Abergele Old People’s Club Rooms (see separate Confidential Minutes).

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

..... Chairman

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Schedule 'A' - Planning Applications

Date Considered	Planning Ref No	Description	Applicant(s)	Determination Level	Observations
8.1.09	0/35587	Extension to dwelling at 11 Lon Kinmel, Pensarn, Abergele	Mt T Parsons		The Council has concerns about the increased height of the proposed roof, which will be higher than the roofline of adjoining properties, and requests that the style of roof be reconsidered.
8.1.09	0/34446 (Amended Plans)	Part demolition of existing Care Home, extension and alterations to provide 43no. extra-care flats with associated ground works at Awel y Mor, Kinmel Avenue, Abergele	C Wells - North Wales Housing Association		No objections. The Council's Officers and Architects should be congratulated on taking on board the concerns of local residents and making amendments to the plans accordingly.

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SCHEDULE 'B'

Planning Decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council from 1.12.08 to 14.12.08

0/35410 Erection of fascia board at Commodore House, North Wales Business Park, Abergele

Decision: Approved with conditions

0/35423 Engineering operations to form short game practice area and erection of equipment shed at Abergele Golf Club, Tan y Gopa Road, Abergele

Decision: Approved with conditions

0/35434 Replacement parking hardstand and extension to the dropped kerb at 48 Towyn Road, Pensarn, Abergele

Decision: Approved with conditions

0/35442 Erection of conservatory to rear of dwelling (Retrospective Application) at 90 Lon Glanfor, Belgrano, Abergele.

Decision: Approved with conditions

0/35450 Change of use from shop/office to café and variation of Condition No 4 granted under planning Ref. 0/33095 to allow extension of opening hours at 9 & 9B Market Street, Abergele.

Decision: Approved with conditions
