

# Abergele Town Council

## DRAFT MINUTES

A meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee, held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

### 128/08 Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. R.D. Peacock  
Cllr. B.C. Roberts (Chairman)  
Cllrs: M. Bird (see Min. 135/08); M. Bond; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan;  
R.M. Medicott; D. Meredith; S. Rowlands  
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)  
Several members of the public

### 129/08 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs: D.A. MacRae; J.E.H. Pitt; T. Rowlands; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters

### 130/08 Disclosure of Interest

Members were reminded that they must declare the **existence** and **nature** of their declared interests (using the form provided for this purpose).

### 131/08 Minutes

**It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee, held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008.**

### 132/08 Matters Arising on Previous Minutes:

a) Annual Statement of Accounts and Annual Return – Min. 088/08

(i) A copy of the approved and signed Statement of Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 was RECEIVED.

(ii) It was NOTED that a request for additional information to be submitted with the Annual Return has been received from UHY Hacker Young and that the Clerk would compile and return the information requested.

b) Traffic Calming Measures – Pentre Mawr Park – Min. 089/08(a)

Members received and considered layout drawings and estimated costs for traffic calming measures and a height barrier for Pentre Mawr Park.

**It was RESOLVED to instruct CCBC to proceed with obtaining the required tenders for this work.**

c) New Model Code of Conduct – Min. 089/08(b)

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the training session given by CCBC on 16<sup>th</sup> July, which had been attended by The Mayor, Cllrs. M. Bond, G.P. Davies,

B.C. Roberts and the Clerk.

It was NOTED that the main difference to the old Code of Conduct was in the declaration of interests. There are now more instances when a declaration will need to be made, but less of these should result in the need for the member to leave the room.

It was FURTHER NOTED that a copy of the new Code of Conduct will be issued to all Members and will need to be formally adopted by the Council in September.

**It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would seek to get a copy of the presentation and associated notes and scenarios, to enable a similar session to be run in September for all Members.**

d) Proposals to Change NHS Structure – Min. 092/08(a)

It was NOTED that a copy of the consultation response by the Community Health Council Wales Board has been received from Cllr. J.A. MacLennan.

It was FURTHER NOTED that recent press reports have indicated that neurosurgery patients would not be expected to travel to South Wales and could continue to receive treatment at Walton until specialist facilities are developed in North Wales.

e) Construction of Raised Flower Bed at Town Hall – Min. 096/08(a)

It was NOTED that the Council's existing flower bed contractor has offered to construct and plant a raised bed on the grassed area at the front of the Town Hall, at no cost to the Council, providing a small sponsorship sign could be attached.

**It was RESOLVED to accept this offer, subject to approval of the design of the bed.**

f) One Voice Wales Conference and AGM

The appointment of an additional representative on the One Voice Wales area committee, who would be able to attend the quarterly meetings and the annual conference and AGM, was considered.

**It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr. J.A. MacLennan as the additional representative of this Council.**

133/08 **Correspondence:**

a) Summer Play Schemes 2008

Notice of the play scheme programme for summer 2008 was RECEIVED.

**It was RESOLVED to authorise payment of the invoice received from CCBC for £1,448.**

b) One Voice Wales – National Training Programme

- (i) Members received and considered details of the new National Training Programme for Community and Town Councils in Wales.

**It was RESOLVED to support any Councillor wishing to undertake training under this scheme and members were requested to submit details to the Clerk of any modules they may be interested in by 31<sup>st</sup> July.**

c) Society of Local Council Clerks – Regional Conference (Wales) 2008

**It was RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to attend the annual regional conference for Wales, at a cost of £45, plus travel to Llandrindod Wells.**

d) Request for Financial Assistance

- (i) A request from Abergele Carnival Association for 'substantial' financial assistance with this year's event was RECEIVED.

- (ii) Members received a copy of the notes written by Cllrs. G.R.K. Brown and J. Stubbs in July 2007, along with estimated income and expenditure details for the 2008 event.

- (iii) A copy of a letter sent by Sgt. Paul Foulkes to the organisers of this year's event was RECEIVED.

Concern was expressed by several members regarding shortcomings in the organisation of this year's carnival and it was proposed that the Council should not provide any financial assistance unless and until these shortcomings are addressed.

**It was RESOLVED to request the Clerk to meet with the organisers of the event to discuss a possible way forward, to include expanding the carnival committee to fully involve local councillor(s) and other representatives from the local community and to increase the expertise of the committee in areas such as finance and planning. The town council would then be in a position to reconsider the request for financial assistance.**

e) Abergele Golf Club

**It was RESOLVED to authorise payment of a donation of £100 to Abergele Golf Club, in sponsorship of the annual Junior 18 Hole Medal.**

**It was FURTHER RESOLVED to suggest that the Estimates Sub-Committee considers increasing this amount in 2009.**

134/08 **Additional Correspondence**

The following additional items of correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:

a) Building Maintenance

It was NOTED that the rain water gullies around the Town Hall and car park required clearing of debris and cleaning and that one quotation had been obtained by the Clerk from a local drainage contractor.

**It was RESOLVED to speak to the North Wales Police Estates officer to consider whether a joint arrangement should be made.**

b) Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report

A copy of the quarterly budget monitoring report produced by the Clerk for the three month period ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008 was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that there had been no significant variances during this first period in the financial year.

It was FURTHER NOTED that the balance held in the general reserve had been approximately £12,000 higher than that estimated when the Annual Estimates for 2008/09 were approved and Members were requested to consider this when looking at projects during the current year.

c) Gwynedd Pension Fund

Notice of the Annual Meeting between the Pensions Committee and representatives of Employers in the fund was RECEIVED.

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

135/08 **International Sheep Dog Trials**

It was NOTED that preparations were well underway and that there were only six weeks to go before the start of the Trials.

Cllr. Bird issued members with a leaflet detailing some of the attractions and he requested that Members support the event.

It was NOTED that the Committee had been successful in raising £39,000 to cover the costs.

- Cllr. M. Bird was thanked for his update and he retired from the meeting at this juncture.

136/08 **The Financial Situation, as at Today, was NOTED :-**

	£
Current Account	2,820.26
Monthly Interest Account	79,919.77
High Interest Bond	<u>30,000.00</u>
TOTAL:	112,740.03

Hall & Development Account	467.24
Hall & Development Reserve	<u>67,739.61</u>
TOTAL:	68,206.85

137/08 **Payment of Accounts**

**It was RESOLVED to authorise payment of the accounts, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached.**

The Meeting Closed at 8.55 p.m.

..... Chairman

## Abergele Town Council

### SCHEDULE 'A'

Payments to be authorised on Thursday 17th July 2008:

	<b>Chq No:</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Incl. VAT</b>	<b>Statutory Powers</b>
		£	£	(new or unusual payments)
a) Salary payments	BACS	2,658.91		
b) Inland Revenue (Salaries)	103172	884.03		
c) Gwynedd Pensions	103173	852.15		
d) Tiscali (Broadband)	DD	18.79	2.80	
e) University of Gloucestershire - Clerk's Training	DD	132.00		
f) CCBC - National Non-Domestic Rates	DD	571.00		
g) Petty Cash Imprest Account	103157	114.66		
h) Travel Claim: Mrs C Earley - travel to Connah's Quay 11.7.08	103171	31.80		
i) CCBC - wedding licence renewal	103156	655.00		
j) Clwyd Community Chest	103158	50.00		
k) NWATC - annual and quarterly meeting	103159	50.00		
l) CCBC - grass cutting at Faenol roundabout	103160	364.20		
m) CCBC - summer playschemes	103161	1,448.00		
n) D Shore - Internal Audit 2007/08	103162	300.00		
o) Canon - copier rental Q2	103163	168.85	25.15	
p) Garden Pride - grounds maintenance	103164	208.00		
q) Meirion Jones Landscapes	103165	339.58	50.58	
r) WNW - supplies	103166	73.01	10.87	
s) Fred Weston - attend re emergency lighting	103167	78.62	11.71	
t) Staples - new printer/copier, cartridges & toner	103168	243.54	36.27	
u) Canon UK - copier service charge Q1	103169	173.63	25.86	
v) J Ffrancon Griffiths - replacement cheque (lost )	103170	407.82		

\*\* Under the Local Government Act 1972, Sect. 137 & 139, the Council can incur expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interest of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.