

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee, held on Thursday 19th March, at 7.40 pm (immediately after the General Purposes & Planning Committee), in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

587/08 Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. R.D. Peacock
Cllr. K.J. Sudlow (Chairman)
Cllrs: M. Bird; M. Bond; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae; R.M. Medicott;
P.D. Meredith; J.D. Mortimer; B.C. Roberts; R.G. Waters; A. Wood

588/08 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs: G.P. Davies; S. Rowlands; T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs

589/08 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).

Cllr. R.M. Medicott declared a personal interest in agenda item 5(e)(ii), relating to a funding request from Abergele Rugby Club.

590/08 Minutes

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee, held on Thursday 19th February 2009.

591/08 Matters Arising on Previous Minutes:

a) Traffic Calming – Pentre Mawr Park – Min. 417/08(a)

(i) It was NOTED that the traffic calming works have now been completed and that CCBC will be paying the invoice from S.106 monies.

(ii) It was NOTED that this will result in an under-spend of £12,500 in the current financial year, which will increase the general reserve at the year-end, due to the delay in the first phase of protection measures for Pensarn Promenade.

(iii) **It was RESOLVED to authorise a new heading of ‘Pensarn Promenade’ to be created in the Community Schemes section of the budget for 2009/10, with £12,500 from the general reserve, in accordance with the commitment previously made by the Council to fund this work.**

b) Street Scene Sponsorship

A response to the request for three additional litter bins was RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to authorise payment of £1,730 to CCBC to pay for four new litter bins and one to be re-sited.

c) Banking – Min. 473/08(e)

(i) Notice of a further reduction in the rate payable on the Council's investments was RECEIVED.

(ii) It was NOTED that the current rate available on the community account with the Co-op Bank is up to 0.21%.

It was RESOLVED to seek advice from One Voice Wales regarding the advantages and disadvantages of investing funds in Government Gilts.

d) Curtains in Main Chamber – Min. 474/08(b)

It was NOTED that, due to other more urgent matters, no progress has been made as yet in obtaining quotations for new curtains for the main chamber.

e) Grant Applications – Min.530/08(e)

(i) It was NOTED that the Clerk is required to draft a grants policy for the Council, as part of a current module for the Certificate in Local Policy, and a number of policies of other councils will be studied as part of this exercise. It is considered best practice to adopt a written grants policy to make it clear to applicants what the criteria for grants are and when applications will be considered.

(ii) A letter from Abergele Rugby Club, requesting funding towards "immediate urgent repair and maintenance works" and a copy of the initial response sent by the Clerk, was RECEIVED and considered.

It was RESOLVED to REFER this matter to the Parks & Play Areas Sub-Committee, which is due to meet on Monday 23rd March, to ask if CCBC could contribute towards rectifying the damage caused by the un-lagged pipe.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to add this matter as an urgent item to the next Ordinary Meeting, to be held on 2nd April.

592/08

Correspondence:

a) Membership of One Voice Wales

It was RESOLVED, by a majority vote of 7 for to 1 against (with 4 abstentions), to renew membership of One Voice Wales for 2009/10, at a cost of £1,284

Members were issued with log-in details to access the members area of the One Voice Wales website.

- b) NJC Final Salary Award 2008/09

It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE and ENDORSE the final salary award agreed by the arbitration panel of 2.75% on April 2007 pay scales, resulting in an additional settlement of 0.03% being due to all staff, backdated to April 2008

593/08 **Financial Year-End**

It was NOTED that 31st March is the end of the Financial year and the Clerk gave a brief verbal report detailing outstanding items of expenditure.

It was RESOLVED to authorise payment of the following invoices falling due in 2008/09, when received:

- a) **Invoices of up to £31,000 in total from Centregreat Ltd, CCBC and Scottish Power in connection with the floodlights for Pentre Mawr Park.**
- b) **CCBC for Christmas Lighting Infrastructure Work of up to £1,300**
- c) **Plus Publishing – Town Guide 2009/10 – up to £3,600**

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to authorise that the following item, not now due to be completed in the current financial year, be added to the budget for 2009/10:

- **Information Board for The Mount (£1,750)**

594/08 **Minutes**

The draft Minutes of the following sub-committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The Town Guide Sub-Committee, held on 24th February 2009
- b) The Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee, held on 2nd March 2009
- c) The Newsletter Sub-Committee, held on 9th March 2009
- d) The Town Guide Sub-Committee, held on 17th March 2009

595/08 **Matters Arising from Those Minutes:**

(a) Town Guide Sub-Committee

- (i) It was NOTED that the Town Guide is about to go to print and should be delivered by the end of the month.
- (ii) The arrangements for distribution of the guide were NOTED and ENDORSED.

(b) Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee

- (i) The resolutions of the sub-committee, as detailed in the minutes, were NOTED and ENDORSED.
- (ii) A brief written response received from James Tyson, Merlin Lighting, to a number of points raised by the sub-committee was RECEIVED and NOTED.

(iii) It was NOTED that replacing the cross road festoon bulbs with LED would result in a significant reduction in the annual electricity usage.

It was therefore RESOLVED to authorise the purchase of 810 replacement LED bulbs for the cross-road festoon, at a cost of £3 each, due to an under-spends in other areas of the budget.

(iv) It was NOTED that the design chosen as the possible winner of the 2009 'Bright Ideas' competition has now been submitted to the manufacturer for a design proof and to note the comments from Merlin Lighting.

It was RESOLVED to authorise the framing of the overall winning design and for arrangements to be made for The Mayor and Deputy Mayor to visit the schools to present prizes and certificates to the winning and runner-up entries.

(c) Newsletter Sub-Committee

(i) It was NOTED that the Town Maps, complete with fixings and posts, have now been received.

It was RESOLVED to authorise an order for 2 additional fade-resistant encapsulated copies of the map, for display from May to September in the County Councils' notice boards on Pensarn Promenade, at a cost of £33, plus delivery.

(ii) It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendations of the sub-committee regarding additions to the content of the Council's website.

(iii) Members considered the recommendation that outside assistance be sought (from a local webmaster) for making the required amendments to the structure of the site, using the current content management system.

It was RESOLVED to send details of the amendments required and ask for a quotation for this work.

596/08 **The Financial Situation, as at today, was NOTED :-**

	£
Current Account	366.36
Monthly Interest Account	<u>127,454.55</u>
TOTAL:	127,820.91

Hall & Development Account	472.54
Hall & Development Reserve	<u>69,469.53</u>
TOTAL:	69,942.07

597/08 **Payment of Accounts**

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

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.

- a) A summary of the tenders received for the protection measures for Pentre Mawr Park was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that information was still awaited from Leisure Service, CCBC regarding how the work is to be funded.

It was RESOLVED to ask for support from the County Councillors in attending the meeting of the Parks and Play Areas Sub-Committee, to be held on 23rd March, to put pressure on CCBC officers to fund suitable protection measures.

- b) Members received and considered two quotations received for the outstanding landscaping work for the land adjacent to The Mount, to be paid for by Stepnell Ltd.

It was RESOLVED to forward the two quotations to Stepnell, along with photographs to show the current state of the land.

The Meeting Closed at 8.55 p.m.

..... Chairman

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Payments authorised on Thursday 19th March 2009:

	Chq No:	Total £	Incl. VAT £	Statutory Powers (new or unusual payments)
a) Salary payments	BACS	2,754.79		
b) Inland Revenue (Salaries)	103357	1,020.01		
c) Gwynedd Pensions	103358	903.83		
d) Tiscali (Broadband)	DD	15.99	2.00	
e) University of Gloucestershire - Clerk's Training	DD	131.00		
f) CCBC - National Non-Domestic Rates	DD	NIL		
g) Petty Cash Imprest Acc	103359	105.15		
h) WREN match funding element	103344	1,753.62		
i) John Ffrancon Griffiths - Town Guide	103345	108.99		**
- Newsletter	103346	197.06		**
j) Hywel Evans - newsletter printing	103347	600.00		**
k) Colwyn Link - newsletter tapes & CDs	103348	55.25		
l) Staples - ink, stationery	103349	81.87	10.68	
m) BT - combined bill	103350	295.30	38.51	
n) CCBC - Trade Waste	103351	98.67	12.87	
o) MSI Alarms - annual service contract & monitoring	103352	289.80	37.80	
p) Torgodo Media - e-mail domain renewal	103353	24.95		
q) Merlin Lighting (Installations) Ltd	103354	344.32	44.92	
r) Direct 2 Door - Newsletter delivery	103355	86.88	11.33	
	103356	96.60	12.60	
s) Micrographics - Town Maps	103360	934.95	121.95	**
t) S J Ward - annual PAT	103361	142.60	18.60	

** 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.