

# Abergele Town Council

## MINUTES

A meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee, held immediately after the General Purposes and Planning Committee on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

### 349/08 Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. R.D. Peacock  
Cllr. K.J. Sudlow (Chairman)  
Cllrs: M. Bond; G.P. Davies; D.A. MacRae; R.M. Medlicott; P.D. Meredith; J.D. Mortimer; B.C. Roberts; S. Rowlands (see Min.); T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; R.G. Waters; A. Wood  
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

### 350/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:  
Cllrs: M. Bird; J.A. MacLennan

### 351/08 Disclosure of Interest

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

The following members declared a personal interest in Agenda item 5(g) – Annual Grants (Min. 353/08(g)(ii):

Cllr. G.P. Davies (Secretary of Friends of Awel y Mor)  
Cllr. D.A. MacRae (Secretary of Elfod Heritage Group)  
Cllr. R.G. Waters (Treasurer of Elfod Heritage Group)

As the amount of the grant applications was £500 or less, these interests were not prejudicial (Code of Conduct para.12(2)(c)).

### 352/08 Minutes

**It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee, held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008.**

### 353/08 Matters Arising on Previous Minutes:

#### a) Repair/Renewal of Benches

An updated copy of the inventory of benches was RECEIVED and members were requested to check the benches in their ward and report any which needed attention to the Clerk.

#### b) Traffic Calming – Pentre Mawr Park – Min. 221/08(a)

It was NOTED that the tender documents for the traffic calming scheme have now been sent out and responses are expected shortly.

c) Railway Disaster Memorial – Min. 709/07

(i) **It was RESOLVED to authorise the framing of a picture and related text, to be displayed alongside the memorial.**

(ii) **It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Clerk to arrange for the memorial to then be fixed to the wall in Room 4, adjacent to the plaque for HMS Derg/Hollyhock.**

d) Street Lighting Replacement Programme – Min. 221/08(b)

(i) A report by the Clerk regarding the additional cost for a more decorative style of lamp column for the town centre conservation area, following a recent meeting with Peter Adderley, Street Lighting Engineer, was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that any additional cost, to be met by this Council, would be dependent on the style of column and lantern preferred and whether or not strengthened columns were required, for supporting festive lighting.

(ii) **It was RESOLVED to appoint a new Heritage Sub-Committee to review the information received and agree on the most suitable style of lantern/columns, to enable a more detailed quotation to be obtained and considered.**

**Cllrs: G.P. Davies; D.A. MacRae; J. Mortimer; B.C. Roberts; R.G. Waters; A. Wood were appointed as members of this sub-committee.**

e) Litter Bin Requests

**It was RESOLVED to DEFER consideration of the priority for litter bin requests, to give Members more time to look at locations within their wards.**

f) Land Adjacent to The Mount – Min. 226/08

It was NOTED that a site meeting is to be arranged with a representative from Stepnell Ltd to agree the outstanding landscaping works

g) Annual Grants – Min. 283/08

(i) It was NOTED that letters of thanks have been received from the following grant recipients:

Ysgol Glan Morfa

St George Controlled School

Coleg Llandrillo Cymru (re: European Youth Parliament UK final)

Abergele Harriers

Urdd Gobaith Cyrmu

Abergele Handicapped Club

2<sup>nd</sup> Llanddulas Rainbows

Music Department, Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan

Benefits Advice Shop, Rhyl

Abergele Round Table – fireworks display

Conwy Whales Swimming Club  
Abergele Theatre Group  
Royal British Legion Abergele – Poppy Appeal  
Gele Singers  
St. Michael's P.C.C. – Church clock maintenance  
National Eisteddfod

(ii) **Members considered the remaining annual grant applications for 2008/09 and it was RESOLVED to authorise payment of grants, as detailed in section F of Schedule 'B' attached.**

(iii) **It was RESOLVED that three late grant applications received would not be considered.**

(iv) **It was RESOLVED to hold a separate meeting of the Committee to consider annual grant applications in 2009/10.**

h) Reserves – Min. 287/08

Details of the rates of return currently being earned on the Council's investments were RECEIVED and considered.

**It was RESOLVED not to reinvest in the three month deposit bond, when it matures in December, and to ask the Clerk to make enquiries with the Yorkshire Building Society and the Principality to see what alternative accounts are available.**

It was NOTED that the Clerk had obtained some information on Government Gilts (gilt-edged stocks), but that this type of investment currently fell outside of the terms of the Annual Investment Strategy previously agreed by the Council for 2008/09. The Council was advised to seek professional advice before considering investment in bonds or Gilts.

354/08 **Correspondence:**

The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED:

a) NJC Interim Salary Award

Notice of the National agreement of the pay award, pending arbitration, backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008.

**It was RESOLVED to implement the new scales with immediate effect.**

b) Gwynedd Pension Fund

(i) A copy of the revised Governance Policy Statement

(ii) Proposals to hold separate informal employer meetings for each group of employers

c) Grounds Maintenance

- (i) Details of a contractor who may be interested in undertaking small jobs for the council.
- (ii) **It was RESOLVED to ask the Clerk to prepare a list of 'approved' contractors, who have been used before by the Council and can be called upon for quotations, as and when the need arises.**
- (iii) Members considered the need to employ a contractor to assist with the clearance of leaves from the Town Hall car park on an annual basis, from the end of September to November.

**It was RESOLVED to ask the current grass-cutting contractor if he would be prepared to take on this extra task each year.**

d) Abergele Traders Shop Front Christmas Trees

A request for £950.00 towards the cost of the small trees and lights for the shop fronts was considered. It was NOTED that approximately 50 small trees were to be provided and that the Traders had now managed to source trees at a lower cost than initially expected (£12 each). The total cost of the trees and lights was therefore now £930, with £5 to be contributed by the traders towards each tree.

It was NOTED that the Traders had, in the past, made a larger contribution towards the cost of the trees/lights.

**It was RESOLVED to provide a grant of £700 to cover the shortfall this year, but to advise the Association of Traders that a greater contribution towards the costs will be required from the individual traders next year.**

355/08 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the following sub-committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The Newsletter Sub-Committee, held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008
- b) The Town Guide Sub-Committee, held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008
- c) The Newsletter Sub-Committee, held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008
- d) The Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee, held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008

356/08 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

a) Resignation – Min. 289/08, 295/08 and 309/08

(i) The resignation of Mr Fowler from the Newsletter and Town Guide Sub-Committees was NOTED.

(ii) It was NOTED that the sub-committee(s) do not consider that it is necessary to fill this vacancy.

b) Old People's Club Rooms – Min. 292/08(a)

**It was RESOLVED to DEFER consideration of a recommendation by the Newsletter Sub-Committee that the Old People's Club be requested to consider an alternative name for its premises.**

- c) Town Council's Website – Min. 292/08(b)

It was NOTED that the Clerk has been requested to work on developing the website to include links to other relevant websites, information on local events and details of rooms available to hire.

- d) Funding for Town Guide – Min. 299/08(a)

**It was RESOLVED to approve an increase in the budget for the Town Guide from £3,000 to £4,300 to cover the possibility that advertising revenue will not meet the lower threshold.**

- e) December Newsletter – Min. 314/08(c)

It was NOTED that the newsletter will be delivered to households on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

- f) Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee

(i) It was NOTED that, due to his change in status, Cllr. Andrew Wood is now a Member of the sub-committee with full voting rights.

(ii) It was NOTED that the switch-on of the lights will take place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

357/08 **The Financial Situation, as at Today, was NOTED :-**

	£
Current Account	215.38
Monthly Interest Account	86,585.78
High Interest Bond	<u>30,000.00</u>
TOTAL:	116,801.16

Hall & Development Account	470.20
Hall & Development Reserve	<u>68,746.39</u>
TOTAL:	69,216.59

358/08 **Payment of Accounts**

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

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

..... Chairman

## Abergele Town Council

### SCHEDULE 'A'

Payments authorised on Thursday 20th November 2008:

	<b>Chq No:</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Incl. VAT</b>	<b>Statutory Powers</b>
		£	£	(new or unusual payments)
a) Salary payments	BACS	3,085.36		
b) Inland Revenue (Salaries)	103278	1,186.92		
c) Gwynedd Pensions	103279	1,019.14		
d) Tiscali (Broadband)	DD	18.79	2.80	
e) University of Gloucestershire - Clerk's Training	DD	131.00		
f) CCBC - National Non-Domestic Rates	DD	571.00		
g) Petty Cash Imprest Acc	103280	131.19		
h) The Fairways Bistro (re: Civic Service)	103265	586.50		
i) WNW - stationery	103266	4.22	0.63	
	103276	52.77	7.86	
j) Blachere Illumination - lamp column motif	103267	564.89	84.13	
k) Canon - copier service charge	103268	175.55	26.15	
l) Dylan Rhys Jones - legal advice	103269	323.13	48.13	
m) S J Ward - repairs to lamps	103270	103.40	15.40	
n) Brian Lawrence Signs - wreath inserts	103271	47.00	7.00	
o) Meirion Jones - maintenance of Sea Rd bed	103272	470.00	70.00	
p) J E Welding Ltd - bridge repair	103273	710.10	105.76	
q) Depositit - oneline storage renewal	BACS	175.08	26.08	
r) Garden Pride - grounds maintenance	103274	104.00		
s) Walls & fences - Christmas Trees	103275	1,744.87	259.87	
t) Banner Office Supplies	103277	72.75	10.84	

\*\* 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 it's inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.