

# Abergele Town Council

## MINUTES

A meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee, held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

### 042/08 Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman

The retiring Chairman, Cllr. J.D. Mortimer, opened the meeting and called for nominations for the Offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2008/09.

**It was unanimously RESOLVED to elect Cllr. K.J. Sudlow and Cllr. B.C. Roberts as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.**

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr. B.C. Roberts, took the Chair, in the absence of Cllr. Sudlow.

### 043/08 Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. R.D. Peacock  
Cllr. B.C. Roberts (Chairman)  
Cllrs: M. Bird; M. Bond; G.R.K. Brown; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan;  
D.A. MacRae; R.M. Medlicott; D. Meredith; J.D. Mortimer; S. Rowlands;  
T. Rowlands; R.G. Waters  
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)  
County Councillor and Members of the public

### 044/08 Apologies for Absence

Cllr. K.J. Sudlow

### 045/08 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. B.C. Roberts – see Min. 052/08 – payment of travel expenses

### 046/08 Minutes

**It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee, held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2008.**

### 047/08 Matters Arising on Previous Minutes:

- a) Cemetery Storeroom – Min.448/07

It was NOTED that a skip will be hired by the Clerk shortly to clear out the unwanted items from the cemetery store, as previously approved.

**It was RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to arrange for hired help to clear**

**out the store, under supervision.**

- b) Annual Grant Requests – Min. 803/07(d)

It was NOTED that a letter of thanks has been received from the following grant recipients:

- (i) Conwy District Scout Fellowship & Rowen Service Team (£500)
- (ii) Abergele Youth Action Ltd – Summer Activities Programme (£3,000)

- c) C.V.S.C. Training Course – Min. 803/07(e)

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the one day Planning course, attended on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May. A copy of some of the notes from the presentation detailing the need for, and benefits of planning were circulated, along with a copy of the Planning Cycle, encompassing six steps to successful planning.

It was NOTED that there is a distinct difference between a Strategy and a Business Plan and that the current business plan of this Council is in the form of the Annual Estimates, which are reviewed each year.

**It was RESOLVED to REFER this matter to the Executive Sub-Committee, to include Cllr. J.D. Mortimer, to more fully consider the need for a Strategy.**

- d) Conwy Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Min. 805/07(b)

- (i) The draft response of the Ramblers Association to the Draft RoWIP was considered.

**It was RESOLVED to write to CCBC to support the comments of the Ramblers and to include the request for a slight amendment to the wording on page 24 relating to signs to say that the footpath signs will (not may) all say where the path goes to, along with the distance and average walking time, wherever possible.**

- (ii) Reporting Rights of Way Problems

It was NOTED that a new form has been introduced by CCBC for the reporting of any problems with rights of way, such as obstructions, undergrowth, broken stiles, gates etc.

048/08 **Correspondence:**

- a) Play Wales

**It was RESOLVED to renew membership for 2008, at a cost of £25**

- b) Abergele Town Guide 2007-08

- (i) It was NOTED that Snowdonia Promotions have sent a copy of the distribution list for re-stocking of the Town Guide for 2008.

(ii) It was FURTHER NOTED that the Town Guide Sub-Committee will be reconvened in July to start looking at revisions to the Guide for 2009-10

c) Banking

(i) **It was RESOLVED to re-invest £30,000 from the General Reserve into a 3 month High Interest Deposit Bond at 4.15% (rate as at 6 May 2008)**

(ii) It was NOTED that the interest rate on the Hall & Development Reserve has reduce to 4.55%, following the Bank of England base rate decrease in April.

(iii) Members considered the need to update the signatories for the Council's bank accounts.

**It was RESOLVED to add Cllr. Ron Peacock to the list of authorised signatories for the bank accounts.**

d) Training Events

An invitation to send a representative of the Council to the following training events was RECEIVED and declined:

(i) S.L.C.C. Summer Seminar, to be preceded by an inaugural gathering of members of the Institute of Local Council Management

(ii) Zurich Municipal Annual Health & Safety Seminar

e) Grant Applications

The following application(s) for financial assistance were considered:

(i) North Wales International Music Festival (previously deferred)

A full discussion took place regarding balancing the need to support cultural events such as this with the requirement to obtain good value for taxpayers money.

**It was RESOLVED, by a majority of 11 in favour, to support the North Wales International Music Festival with sponsorship proposal 1, which includes a visit by the Festival's ensemble to a Care Home and School in Abergele.**

f) Abergele Association of Traders – Hanging Baskets

It was NOTED that the Clerk has received a message from the Association of Traders to inform the Council that they have decided not to proceed with hanging baskets this year for several reasons:-

(i) The lack of time to properly prepare for the scheme and order baskets, due to the sudden and unexpected departure of Beryl and Doreen from Nature's Way.

(ii) Frustration at the lack of support from some traders, whose neglected baskets then become an eyesore.

This will give the association more time to fully explore options for next year.

**It was RESOLVED to use the funds previously set aside for the hanging baskets to make more of an effort with flowers outside the Town Hall and to possibly provide flowers outside all the Churches and Chapels.**

**The Clerk, with assistance from Cllr. D.A. MacRae, was requested to contact all the Churches and Chapels to enquire whether they would be interested in displaying flowers, in an effort to make the town more attractive to visitors during the busier summer period.**

g) Design a Light Competition Winners

It was NOTED that details had now been received from the Blachere Design Team of the winners of the Christmas Design a Light Competition, run in three of the local schools.

It was NOTED that the Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor will be visiting the schools to present prizes and certificates to the winning entries.

It was FURTHER NOTED that two A3 size copies of the winning design had been received, one of which was to be presented to the winning pupil.

**It was RESOLVED to ask the Clerk to arrange for this to be framed prior to the presentation.**

049/08 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the following Sub-Committees were RECEIVED:-

- a) The Newsletter Sub-Committee, held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008

050/08 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

**It was RESOLVED to DEFER consideration of any matters arising on those Minutes until the next meeting of this Committee.**

051/08 **The Financial Situation, as at Today, was NOTED :-**

	£
Current Account	4,938.75
Monthly Interest Account	100,525.95
High Interest Bond	<u>30,000.00</u>
TOTAL:	135,464.70
Hall & Development Account	464.09
Hall & Development Reserve	<u>67,239.12</u>
TOTAL:	67,703.21

052/08 **Payment of Accounts**

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

The Meeting Closed at 9.05 p.m.

..... Chairman

## Abergele Town Council

### SCHEDULE 'A'

Payments authorised on Thursday 22nd May 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)	103126	884.03		
c) Gwynedd Pensions	103127	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	103128	76.34		
f) North Wales Police Utilities Recharge 2007/08	103129	7941.64	1,100.46	
g) Staples (ink cartridges)	103130	52.47	7.81	
h) Travel Expenses: B C Roberts (NWATC meeting)	103131	24.40		
i) Mayor's Allowance 2008'09	103132	2,250.00		
j) Marc MacCauley Catering (Annual Meeting)	103133	318.00		
k) Optigon Quality Glass (re: presentation)	103134	65.00		

\*\* 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.