

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 3rd December 2009 at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

345/09 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. D.A. MacRae

Cllrs: M. Bond; G.P. Davies; P.D. Meredith; R.D. Peacock; B.C. Roberts;
S. Rowlands; R.G. Waters

Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

Several members of the Press

346/09 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were RECEIVED from:

Cllrs: M. Bird; R.M. Medlicott; J.D. Mortimer; T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs;
K.J. Sudlow; A. Wood

It was NOTED that Cllrs. R. M. Medlicott and A. Wood were attending a One Voice Wales training event for Members, being held in Penmaenmawr.

It was RESOLVED to formally approve the absence of Cllr. J.D. Mortimer from any meetings of the Council and its Committee and Sub-Committees on health grounds until further notice, under the provisions of S.85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

347/09 **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).

348/09 **Visitor to the Council**

The Mayor, Cllr. D.A. MacRae, welcomed Jim Jones from CCBC to the meeting, to update the Council on progress with the SPACE project (Strategic Prosperity across Conwy East) and to advise how this Council can become involved.

Mr Jones thanked the Council for the invitation and gave a brief outline of the work which has taken place to date on phase one of what is a long-term (ten year) project. The Strategic Regeneration Area now covers the coastal belt from Colwyn Bay to Rhyl and the section from Llanddulas to Kinmel Bay is 'playing catch-up' with Colwyn Bay and Rhyl, where programmes are at an advanced stage. A handout was distributed to members outlining a 'seven year mission', identifying projects by area and within the six SRA priority themes of: transport & environment, education & skills, sustainable economy, health & well being, space for living (housing) and community cohesion.

Phase two of the SPACE project is now underway and includes consultation with Town and Community Councils to seek ideas and feedback on the work done to date, in order to shape a long term action plan. Although there are many opportunities, Mr Jones advised that we can't rely on the SRA funding alone – there is £8 million a year available over the ten year period - and other sources of funding will need to be secured.

Mr Jones finished his presentation by asking the Council to consider how it wishes to put forward its ideas and comments on the work done to date, suggesting that he would be happy to attend a meeting with a 'working group'.

Questions were then invited from Members and a number of issues were discussed, including the adequacy of flood defences and improvements to the pavilion in Pentre Mawr Park. Mr Jones confirmed that funding would be available for environmental improvements to the park, but that other sources of funding were currently being pursued for improvements to the sports pavilion.

It was RESOLVED to appoint a working group to meet early in the New Year to consider the current proposals and recommend any additional projects for inclusion.

The following Members were appointed to the working group:

Cllrs. D.A. MacRae; R.M. Medlicott; B.C. Roberts; R.G. Waters; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow; G.P. Davies (with Jim Jones invited along to assist).

It was NOTED that CCBC is keen to share 'ownership' of the plan with the Town and Community Councils and that feedback is required as soon as possible (by the end of January). Cllr. Sam Rowlands advised that he is meeting Bethan Jones on 4th December to seek to maximise opportunities for the local area.

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Minutes

It was RESOLVED to receive, approve and sign as a correct record the following Minutes:

- a) **The Ordinary Meeting, held on 5th November 2009**

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Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

- a) Future Burial Provision – Min. 173/09(a)
Members received and consider the notes from a recent meeting of the Future Burial Group. It was NOTED that the proposed site up St George Road cannot be pursued, due to the cost of amelioration work (drainage).
It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendations that:
 - (i) **The Council writes to support Lyn's request to Cabinet for funding for a hydrological survey of Abergele, looking at land as far south as the Penrefail crossroads.**
 - (ii) **Lyn is to liaise with Stan Yates, Local Development Plan Officer, to seek to clarify whether any of the plots of land identified in the LDP for housing may be suitable for burials.**
 - (iii) **A further meeting of the group is arranged once the details of the survey are known (approx. March/April 2010)**
 - (iv) **County Councillors for Abergele, Towyn & Kinmel Bay and LlanfairTH are invited to the next meeting.**
- b) Request for Raised Kerb at Tesco Bus Stop – Min. 288/09(c)
It was NOTED that a verbal response had been received, indicating that Tesco is planning a 're-fresh' of the store early next year and will look to include improvements to the bus stop to make it accessible for the disabled.
It was RESOLVED to welcome this work and request that the improvements planned comply with any DDA requirements / specifications.
- c) Water Street Pavement Improvements – Min. 229/09(c)
It was NOTED that the improvement works are now scheduled to commence at the end of January and will include removing all the dropped

kerbs from 7-25 Water Street to provide a more level footway for disabled users.

- d) Empty Property by the Castle Hotel – Min. 173/09(e)
It was NOTED that Cllrs. S. Rowlands and R.G. Waters had attended a site meeting with the Empty Homes Officer from CCBC on 13th November and that a letter has now been sent to the property owner to ask what he is planning to do to improve the building and bring it back into use. This is the first stage in the formal EDMO (Empty dwelling management order) process, which must be followed. Funding (from S.106 agreements) has been set aside for projects such as this, but none has been used by CCBC to date.
- e) Traffic Calming at Maes y Dre – Min. 615/08(b)
It was NOTED that no further update has been received from Paul Evans, Highways.
- f) Proposed 40mph Speed Limit A548 – Min. 288/09(f)
Cllr R.G. Waters gave a brief verbal report from the site meeting, held on 26th November, confirming that the proposed 40mph zone will commence, as requested, at the location of the warning sign for the bend and Twll-Llwynog junction.
A copy of the Notice in respect of the Order was RECEIVED from CCBC.
- g) Schools Modernisation Programme – Min. 288/09(g)
A brief verbal report was given by Members who attended recent meetings at Glan Gele, St. Elfod and St. George Schools.
It was NOTED that all meetings had been constructive and that the Director of Education and his Deputy had listened carefully to the feedback given by those present, who were resisting a merger of Glan Gele and St Elfod and changes to the catchment area for St. George.
- h) Financial Regulations – Min. 294/09(c)
A copy of the recently updated Financial Regulations was issued to all Members, to go in their Members' files.
- i) Highways Matters raised with Tim Barnes – Min. 288/09(m)
The responses received to date were NOTED.
- j) Traffic Data for Town Centre – Min. 289/09(d)
A copy of the full set of data was RECEIVED from traffic surveys undertaken since 2005 in:
 - (i) Bridge Street
 - (ii) Market Street
 - (iii) Chapel Street
 - (iv) Water Street
- k) Royal Alexandra Hospital – Min. 289/09(e)
It was NOTED that the meeting scheduled for 6th November was postponed and should be re-arranged shortly, possibly to also include Darren Millar, AM.
- l) Pensarn Public Conveniences – Min. 292/09(d)
A copy of the response received by Cllr.D. Holland to the query about the

ongoing problem of the smell in the gents' toilets was RECEIVED. It was NOTED that Cllr. Holland has now requested a copy of any drainage report, which had been requested to be undertaken as part of the refurbishment works.

- m) Fingerposts at Pensarn Promenade – Min. 288/09(j)
An update from Lyn Davies, confirming that the lettering will now have been re-painted, was RECEIVED.

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Correspondence

- The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:

- a) One Voice Wales
- Results from the national High Street Index – October
- b) Play Wales
- Copy of annual report for 2008/09 and Play for Wales news, Autumn 2009, available on request from the Clerk.
- c) Conwy Rural Development Strategy 2007-2013 (revised October 2009)
- d) Mayor's Diary
- Details of the Mayor's forthcoming engagements.
Members were asked to support the Council's Christmas Concert, to be held on Friday 11th December at 7pm at St. Paul's Chapel.
- e) Future Meetings
- Details of forthcoming meetings of the Council and its committees / sub-committees.
Arrangements for a visit to Llys y Coed in Llanfairfechan at 2.30pm on Tuesday 15th December, followed by a meeting of the Community Care Sub-Committee, were NOTED.
- f) North Wales Police – Operation Focus
A letter requesting views of Members and the community on 'Operation Focus', together with a personal response submitted by Cllr. A. Wood was considered.
It was proposed that the Council did not have the necessary information or knowledge to enable it to respond to the three points in the letter. This proposal was carried by the casting vote of the Chairman, following a tied vote of 4 in favour to 4 against.
- g) Urgent Correspondence
- The following items of urgent correspondence were RECEIVED:
 - (i) AA Drivotech – Room Hire Enquiry
- details of an enquiry about possible bookings for the main chamber for holding driver speed awareness courses, to be delivered by AA Drivotech from January 2010.
 - (ii) Environment Agency – Tidal Flooding in North Wales
- Information on local consultation events, a central display at Rhyl library and a public meeting, to be held on 7th December.
Cllr. Richard Waters agreed to attend the meeting and report back.

(iii) CCBC Planning Site Visits

- Notice of a site visit re: application 0/35933 and 0/35934 at the Castle Hotel, Water Street, to be held on Tuesday 8th December.

It was RESOLVED to ask if any of the Pentre Mawr Ward Members can attend, as the representative of this Council.

352/09 **Police Liaison**

Members received and considered the report and recommendations from the meeting held on Monday 30th November.

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendations made.

353/09 **Update from County Councillors**

- The following updates were RECEIVED from County Councillors on matters relating to their Wards:

a) Cllr. D. Holland – Pensarn

It was NOTED that Cllr. Holland is making progress in identifying sources of funding for the protection measures for the Promenade.

b) Cllr. S. Rowlands – Pentre Mawr

It was NOTED that the Inclusion Unit at Emrys ap Iwan School is to be used as an example of best practice for rolling out to other High Schools in Conwy.

An update was given on the process of budget setting by CCBC for 2010/11, where Departments have been asked to make across the board savings of 2¹/₂% (totalling £1.7 million), as a result of the poor settlement received from the Welsh Assembly.

354/09 **Minutes**

- The draft Minutes of the following Meetings / Committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 15th October
- b) The Policy and Finance Committee, held on 15th October
- c) The Estimates Sub-Committee, held on 26th November 2009

355/09 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes**

a) **Estimates Sub-Committee**

(i) **It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation made by the Estimates Sub-Committee that the Council continues to aim to keep a General Reserve of approximately 25% of the annual precept, to assist with cash flow requirements until receipt of the first precept instalment and to cover any unexpected items of expenditure.**

(ii) The Council was asked to consider the preferred level of any increase in the precept, to guide the Estimates Sub-Committee in preparing its Draft Estimates, for approval at the January Ordinary meeting.

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Council aims to have no increase in the typical Band 'D' precept, having regard to the level of precept requested by other town and community councils across the County.

356/09 **Planning / Licensing**

DRAFT – TO BE CONFIRMED

- a) Members considered and agreed observations on the planning applications received, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached.
- b) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C., as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- c) It was NOTED that there were no licensing applications listed by C.C.B.C. for the Abergele area for the period 9/11 to 27/11.

The Meeting Closed at 9.00pm

..... Chairman

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Schedule 'A' - Planning Applications

Date Considered	Planning Ref No	Description	Applicant(s)	Determination Level	Observations
03.12.09	0/36464	Certificate of lawfulness for an existing use of land to form extension to curtilage of dwelling at land to rear of 49 Bryn Castell, Abergele	Mr Andrew Spillane		The Council is unable to confirm the previous use of land and is happy to leave this decision to CCBC
03.12.09	0/36466	Change of use from garden to form extended seating area in conjunction with existing coffee lounge and wine bar (Retrospective Application) at land to rear of 9B Market Street, Abergele	Mrs Lynne Pritchard		No objections
03.12.09	0/36471	Change of use of existing doctor's surgery to learning disability centre at The Surgery, Kinmel Avenue, Abergele	Mr J Bowles Perpetual Legacy Ltd		The Council has no objections in principle to this site being used for residential purposes. However, it feels that the existing surgery building is unsuitable for this purpose and it should be redeveloped to provide a new two storey dwelling, in keeping with neighbouring properties, together with additional parking provision.

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SCHEDULE 'B'

Planning Decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council from 02.11.09 to 15.11.09

0/36316 Variation of condition No.1 of planning permission No. 5/3179 dated 17.4.67 to allow for the use of a hot food takeaway at The Jolly Fryer, 47 Water Street, Abergele

Decision: Approved with conditions

0/36330 Extension to dwelling and erection of garage at 111 Lon y Cyll, Pensarn, Abergele

Decision: Approved with conditions

0/36390 Change of use from butchers shop to estate agents, and removal of projecting canopy at 23A Market Street, Abergele

Decision: Withdrawn
