

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 4th February 2010 at 6.45p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

450/09 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. D.A. MacRae (Chairman)
Cllrs: J.M.D. Bird; M. Bond; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; R.M. Medlicott;
P.D. Meredith; J.E.H. Pitt (see Min. 460/09(a); B.C. Roberts; T. Rowlands;
J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)
Member of the Press

451/09 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were RECEIVED from:
Cllrs: J.D. Mortimer; R.D. Peacock; S. Rowlands; A. Wood

452/09 **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).
None were declared.

453/09 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to receive, approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting, held on 7th January 2010

454/09 **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

- a) Groes Lwyd Alleyway – Min. 289/09(I)
Members received and considered the schedule for the proposed gating order for the alleyway. It was NOTED that similar alley gates in Rhyl are open during daylight hours and closed at nightfall.
It was RESOLVED to write to support the proposals in principle and to query whether the gates can be left open during daylight hours.

- b) North Wales Coast Strategic Regeneration Area – Min. 348/09
 - (i) A letter of introduction from Paul Smith was RECEIVED.
 - (ii) A written report from the Working Group meetings held on 13th and 26th January was RECEIVED and considered.
It was RESOLVED to write to invite Peter James, the NW Coast SRA Space for Living (Housing) Officer, to address the Council regarding the proposals to redevelop HMOs in the SRA and particularly in Pensarn.
It was FURTHER RESOLVED to request a summary of the projects funded during 2009/10.
 - (iii) An invitation to attend a presentation and workshop, to be held on 3rd March, regarding the recommendations of The Tourism Company for a Tourism Action Plan for the SRA was RECEIVED.
It was NOTED that Cllr. J. Stubbs and the Clerk had attended the initial workshop and was RESOLVED that they would attend again.

- c) Water Street Pavement Improvements – Min. 229/09(c)
It was NOTED that the start date for the works had now been delayed until March, due to the damage caused to roads and footways from the recent severe weather. Concern was expressed that the works may cause disruption in the town centre over the busy Easter period.
It was RESOLVED to request that the work be completed before the Easter break, if at all possible.
- d) Traffic Calming, Maes y Dre – Min. 401/09(b)
It was NOTED that the works are due to commence on 9th February and will take approximately two days. The total cost, to be funded by this Council, is £4,200.
- e) Community Skips – Min. 229/09(f)
It was NOTED the recent skip in Pensarn had been very poorly attended, possible due to the icy conditions, and that the final community skip for 2009/10 would be placed in Maes Canol on Saturday 20th March.
- f) Pensarn Public Conveniences – Min. 292/09(d)
A further response from Peter Harris, CCBC, confirming that the cleansing regime has been altered, a u-bend has been fitted and quotes are awaited for louvre windows, was RECEIVED. It was also NOTED that a drainage survey had been carried out, to check for blockages, and that the drains are said to tap into the mains sewer close to the building.
Members stated concern that the mains sewer along the promenade had been changed to a high pressure rising main some years ago and queried how the sewer could cross the railway to Somerfield and onto the pumping station.
It was RESOLVED to ask the Clerk to seek further clarification about the location and path that the sewer follows.
- g) Tidal Flooding in North Wales – Min. 401/09(h)
(i) Details of a Clwyd Community Stakeholder Workshop, to be held on Saturday 13th February in Kinmel Bay was RECEIVED.
It was NOTED that Cllr. R.G. Waters would try to attend during the morning.
(ii) An invitation to attend a 'Towyn +20' learning and networking event on Friday 26th February was RECEIVED.
It was NOTED that booking is essential and Members were requested to contact the Clerk if they were willing/able to attend.
- h) WAG Letter re: S.137 Expenditure Limit – Min. 406/09(b)
An apology for any confusion caused by the letter, which referred to Parish and Town Councils in England, was RECEIVED and NOTED.
- i) Room Hire – Min. 406/09(b)(ii)
It was NOTED that firm bookings have now been received for 15 dates in February/March/April for AA Drivotech Speed Awareness courses.
- j) Annual Estimates 2010/11
A copy of the Approved Financial Plan and Annual Estimates for 2010/11 was RECEIVED.

455/09

Correspondence

-The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:

- a) Play Wales
Notice of written evidence submitted by Play Wales to the National Assembly (copy of 47 page submission available on request from the Clerk).
- b) CVSC Regional Training Framework
- Course details
- c) Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
- Introduction of new Complaints Advice Team and redesigned information booklet.
- d) Tidy Towns Year 3
- Request for projects for year 3 of the scheme.
It was RESOLVED to write to Lyn Davies to ask if several projects could be considered in the Abergele area, including: Improvements to footpaths (Pentre Mawr Park and paths to Tower Hill); tree planting in the park; planting and litter picking along the River Gele.
- e) Trees by Tannery Court
- Concerns about 'dead' trees located between the boundary of Tannery Court and the River Gele, on land owned by this Council.
It was NOTED that the Tree Warden had been asked to give his recommendations and that quotations would then be sought for any work required to make the trees safe.
- f) Friends of Abergele Parklands
- A request for release of remaining grant funds, provisionally approved at the annual grants meeting held in October 2009.
It was RESOLVED to pay the outstanding £400, to help towards insurance costs and improvements to the Secret Garden.
- g) North Wales Police Uniform Survey
- to be completed individually by Members.
- h) Darren Millar, AM - Abergele Health Update
 - (i) A copy of a letter circulated to residents regarding public transport and pedestrian access to the new surgery.
 - (ii) A copy of a response from a resident, detailing his concerns about pedestrian access from Eldon Drive, and the reply from Darren Millar.
 - (iii) A further concern from a resident about pedestrian access, particularly for mobility scooters.

Members discussed the concerns about pedestrian access to the new surgery, particularly for the disabled and pushchair users. Concern was expressed that a new pedestrian entrance to the Business Park may be created from Heol Awel or Eldon Drive.

It was RESOLVED to write to Planning to state the concerns of residents and to seek confirmation that planning permission would be necessary to create a new pedestrian access.

(iv) Cllr. J.A. MacLennan gave a brief verbal update on the future of Abergele Hospital, outlined in an e-mail he had received from the Chair of the new Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Trust. It was NOTED that there is a slight modernisation to service provision at Abergele Hospital, with some day surgery and elective surgery being carried out and two wards remaining open. Some staff will be moved to Glan Clwyd Hospital and administrative functions will move in.

i) One Voice Wales

(i) An Invitation to apply for Local Environment Quality Improvement Project Funding.

It was RESOLVED to copy this to PeBel and the Friends of Abergele Parklands.

(ii) Countryside Council for Wales - Funding Newsletter Jan/Feb 2010 (copy available from the Clerk – 16 pages, and copy already forwarded to the Friends of Abergele Parklands)

(iii) Cymru Yfory – Tomorrow's Wales

- details of meetings to establish supporter groups were NOTED.

(iv) Public Appointments

- details of vacancies on the Regulatory Board for Wales and the new Community Health Councils.

j) Mayor's Diary

- It was NOTED that there are no engagements in February, as yet.

k) Future Meetings

- Details of forthcoming meetings of the Council and its committees / sub-committees were NOTED.

l) Urgent Correspondence

- It was NOTED that there were no items of urgent correspondence.

456/09

Abergele Carnival

It was NOTED that the Council's representatives on the Carnival Committee, Cllrs. R. Peacock and S. Rowlands were unfortunately not present to give any report, following the recent press announcement that a meeting has been held and the Carnival will be going ahead on 3rd July. However, Cllr. Rowlands had informed the Clerk that there had been no recent meetings of the Committee and that a date for the AGM had not yet been set.

Members were referred to the Police Liaison notes from 2nd February, where Sgt. Helen Madeley had reported on a meeting which had taken place between Darren Millar, AM, several Committee members and representatives from North Wales Police and CCBC Highways. As a result of this meeting, Cllr A. Wood had been asked to assist the Committee in submitting an application for a rolling road closure, finding marshals for along the route and arranging for signage, due to his experience in arranging the road closure for the Round Table's annual fireworks display. Inspector Ahari had agreed to get back to Sgt. Madeley to confirm what assistance the local police team would be able to offer.

It was RESOLVED to DEFER consideration of the request for funding towards the signs (£120) until after the AGM has been held, financial information has been produced and the outcome of the road closure application is known.

457/09

Police Liaison

Members received and considered the report and recommendations from the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd February.

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that a follow-up visit to the CCTV Control Room is arranged, to view the improvements made.

A discussion then took place regarding the concerns about traffic problems outside the schools. Members stated disappointment that the police were unable or unwilling to take enforcement action against vehicles which were causing an obstruction to other road users.

It was RESOLVED to send a copy of the meeting notes to the Director of Education and request that a meeting be arranged at one of the schools, to include representatives from all three schools, the LEA, Highways and the local police.

458/09

Update from County Councillors

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

- a) Cllr. Tim Rowlands reported on the recent LDP workshop, which had been mainly about Housing Allocations and the agenda for driving the LDP. He reported that the consensus of Members had been the need to conserve the environment and safeguard the culture of the area and the Consultants are now going to look at this and come back with plans which better suit this agenda. The Consultants have also been asked to look at the WAG population projections and how the plan can be made more flexible, to adapt to changing circumstances.
- b) Cllr. John Pitt reported on a presentation given to County Councillors by a Police Anti-Terrorism Officer, which included a DVD and information pack.
- c) Cllr. Ron Hastings sent his apologies for not being present and asked the Clerk to report as follows:
 - (i) He was pleased to note that the alley gating order for Groes Llwyd is now progressing.
 - (ii) He also reported on the recent LDP workshop, making particular reference to the number of new houses which the Consultants felt were necessary just for a standstill position.

459/09

Minutes

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

- a) The General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 21st January
- b) The Policy and Finance Committee, held on 21st January 2010

460/09

Planning / Licensing

- a) The planning applications, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached, were considered and concluded as recorded on that schedule.
- b) A further letter, giving additional information regarding application 0/36471 – Change of use of existing doctors surgery to learning disability centre, was considered.

It was RESOLVED to respond as follows:

The Council objects to the proposed change of use for the following reasons:

- (i) **Serious concerns about the suitability of the current building for residential use, as it was not considered fit for purpose as a surgery.**
- (ii) **A lack of floor space for the proposed number of residents – very limited personal space, no communal dining space, no garden and only high windows in some rooms.**
The Council requests that, should the Planning Committee be minded to grant permission for a Change of Use, they first consult with the Social Services Inspectorate for Wales regarding the size and layout of the proposed accommodation for the number of service users proposed.

- Cllr. J.E.H. Pitt retired from the meeting at this juncture.

- c) The planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C., as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached, were NOTED.
- d) Notice of the following licensing applications listed by C.C.B.C. for the Abergele area was RECEIVED:
 - (i) Review of Premises Licence at The Bull Hotel, Chapel Street
 - (ii) Application for a Premises Licence at Castle Cove Caravan Park

461/09

Confidential Business

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 and with Standing Order no.68, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was considered advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:

- a) A copy of a letter sent to Darren Millar, AM, setting out the position of the British Red Cross in relation to the proposed sale of 1,2 and 3 Church Street, Abergele.
- b) An update on the legal advice requested in connection with the proposed sale of properties 1-3 Church Street, Abergele
- c) A letter from the British Red Cross in response to the objections and proposal submitted by Abergele Town Council.

Cllr. Delyth MacRae gave a brief verbal update on discussions which had taken place to seek to establish new Trustees.

It was RESOLVED to respond to the British Red Cross with a list of five local persons who had confirmed that they would be willing to take on the role as Trustees to the Charity of Robert Roberts for Old Age Pensioners.

The Meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

..... Chairman

Abergele Town Council

Schedule 'A' - Planning Applications

Date Considered	Planning Ref No	Description	Applicant(s)	Determination Level	Observations
04.02.10	0/36625	Erection of B1, B2 and B8 industrial units (outline application) on land adjacent to Tradeteam Ltd, Abergele Depot, Terfyn, Abergele	The Kinmel Estate		<p><u>OBJECTIONS:</u> Abergele Town Council objects to this application on the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This land is designated Grade 1 agricultural land and the proposed development would not be in accordance with the current Development Plan.2. The proposed development would increase ribbon development along the A55 corridor.3. There is already more than adequate land designated for these use classes at nearby sites, in Mochdre, Kinmel Bay and St Asaph, where there are lots of vacant units. There is, therefore, no evidence of need.

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'B'

Planning Decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council from 11.01.2010 to 24.01.2010

0/36486 Installation of 84cm painted grey satellite dish on galvanized steel brackets at 46 Marine Road, Pensarn, Abergele.

Decision: Approved with conditions
