

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 4th June 2009 at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

046/09 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. D.A. MacRae – Chairman

Cllrs: M. Bond; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; R.M. Medicott; J.D. Mortimer;
R.D. Peacock; B.C. Roberts; T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters
County Councillor, R. Hastings

Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

Several members of the public

047/09 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllrs: J.M.D. Bird; P.D. Meredith; S. Rowlands

048/09 **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.

049/09 **Minutes**

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

- a) **The Ordinary Meeting, held on 7th May 2009**
- b) **The Annual Meeting, held on 14th May 2009**
- c) **The Special Meeting, held on 1st June 2009**

050/09 **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

- a) Future Burial Provision – Min. 617/08(a)
It was NOTED that no further update had been received following the ground investigations at the proposed site, but that a further 18 plots had now been identified in the existing public cemetery.
- b) Pensarn Public Conveniences – Min. 671/08(a)
 - (i) A brief verbal report was given by the Pensarn Ward Members following a recent site meeting. It was NOTED that the County Council Officers are to arrange for the disabled toilet to be checked by a wheelchair user and that the odour in the main toilets is still as bad as ever.
It was RESOLVED to request that Conwy Access Group is asked to look at the disabled facility.
 - (ii) A copy of a reply sent to a letter of complaint about the early-closure of the toilets was NOTED.
- c) Request for Raised Kerb – Min. 671/08(f)
 - (i) It was NOTED that Highways have agreed to carry out a survey at the bus stop to establish the type and size of raised access pad required, to enable accurate costs to be established. This information is to be forwarded to Tesco when received.

(ii) It was NOTED that other raised bus stops on strategic routes in the County were financed by way of a grant from Taith, but this is not available due to this stop being owned/maintained by Tesco.
It was RESOLVED to query whether the bus stop forms part of the public Highway, now adopted by CCBC, with Tesco having responsibility only for the shelter/seating.

- d) Dilapidated Building adjacent to Castle Hotel – Min. 671/08(g)
- (i) It was NOTED that Cllr. S. Rowlands had now received a response from CCBC confirming that a notice has been served on the owner to sort out the pigeon problem.
- (ii) A suggestion by Cllr. R.G. Waters that the County Council be requested to consider seeking an Empty Dwelling Management Order (EDMO) to bring empty properties such as this back into use was considered.
It was RESOLVED to write to Peter James, CCBC, to suggest that CCBC considers using the powers it has been given for properties such as this one.
- e) Community Skips – Min. 503/08
Members received and considered information regarding the current cost of providing community skips. A proposal was made that the Council should reintroduce community skips four times a year.
It was RESOLVED to DEFER this matter until the size of the skips has been confirmed and Members have had chance to consider the locations which have the greatest need.
- f) Protection Measures for Pentre Mawr Park – Min. 671/08
- (i) It was NOTED that the contractor has been instructed to proceed with the installation of the barrier and bollards to protect the Dundonald Avenue entrances to the Park, at an additional cost of just over £200 (£6,250.98 instead of £6,050.12) and that work is due to commence on Monday 15th June.
- (ii) Members considered the revised quotation, which includes £1,495 for the replacement of both the Sea Road gates.
It was NOTED that Mark Earp from the Parks Department has suggested that only one gate needs to be replaced, with the other sealed up as it is no longer used for access by CCBC maintenance vehicles.
It was RESOLVED to proceed with authorising the installation of one new gate, at a maximum cost of £768.20 and requesting that arrangements are made for the other to be permanently sealed (either be welding or removing and replacing with fencing, as appropriate).
- g) Conwy Community Strategy
It was NOTED that no response has been received to the request for an update on the production of the revised Conwy Community Strategy.
It was RESOLVED to write to the Chief Executive to state concern about the lack of acknowledgement or response and to request a reply.
- h) War Memorials – Min. 671/08(k)
A response from CCBC to the enquiry about ownership/ maintenance of the war memorials in the Abergele area was RECEIVED and NOTED.

The Clerk advised members that, under the War Memorials Act 1923, the Council has the power (but not a duty) to maintain, repair and protect any war memorial, whether vested in it or not.

It was RESOLVED to query who is responsible for the memorial in the Youth and Community Centre, as this had been omitted from the list provided by CCBC.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to request the assistance of Members in seeking to obtain photographs of the memorial and pews inside Salem Chapel, in case the building is eventually sold.

- i) Draft Welsh Language Schemes – Min. 671/08(a)
Members received and considered the three Model Welsh Language Schemes, designed specifically for use by Town and Community Councils and distributed by One Voice Wales, on behalf of the Welsh Language Board.
It was NOTED that Town & Community Councils are required to adopt a scheme, which must be approved by the Welsh Language Board, when requested to do so by the Board, but that some have already done so on a voluntary basis. The yellow scheme has been designed for communities with a high proportion of Welsh speakers (over 50%), the green scheme for those with a lower proportion (30-50%) and the blue scheme for councils with less than 30% of Welsh speakers in their communities.
It was RESOLVED to refer the blue and green schemes to the Heritage Sub-Committee to look at in more detail and make recommendations to the Council.
- j) Conwy Local Development Plan – Min. 671/08(j)
Members considered and agreed any final arrangements for the LDP Public Meeting, due to be held tomorrow evening at 6.30pm.
It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the provision of a public address system for the meeting, at a cost of £200.
It was NOTED that Stan Yates had agreed to give a short presentation at the start of the meeting and that he would be accompanied by Cllr. B. Cossey, CCBC.
The Mayor encouraged Members to get there early to help out.
- k) Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies – Min. 010/09
The representatives of the Council on outside bodies for 2009/10 were reviewed.
It was RESOLVED to re-appoint all representatives for a further year, as detailed on Schedule ‘C’ attached.
It was FURTHER RESOLVED to request that a meeting be arranged by Cllr. J.A. MacLennan between the Abergele Regeneration Team and Members of the Council.

051/09

Correspondence

- a) One Voice Wales
(i) Notice of the 2009 Conference and AGM was RECEIVED.
(ii) Members were asked to consider any possible motions for proposal for debate at the AGM.
It was NOTED that Cllrs. J.A. MacLennan and R.G. Waters would consider possible motions regarding either the LDP process or larger

councils having only one vote.

- b) CCBC – Working in Partnership with Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan
A report on current initiatives, particularly in relation to the PACE programme, was RECEIVED.
- c) CVSC – Vetting and Barring Scheme Information Roadshow
Details about delivery of the new scheme, as laid down by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, was RECEIVED.
- d) CCBC – Conwy in Figures
A copy of Conwy in Figures 2009 was RECEIVED.
It was RESOLVED to write to CCBC to request that distances are now published in miles, since the EU has dropped its insistence on using kilometres.
- e) The Scene Magazine
Members received and considered a request for editorial and photographs for publishing in the Aug-Oct edition of The Scene magazine.
It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Clerk (with input from The Mayor, Cllr. D.A. MacRae) to submit a 450 word article and relevant photographs to the editor.
- f) W.A.G. Consultation – Proposed Changes to the Account & Audit (Wales) Regulations 2005
It was NOTED that the proposals include the earlier approval and publishing of the Statement of Accounts, which may have implications for the Clerk, Council and Auditors.
It was RESOLVED to REFER the consultation document to the Executive Committee to consider and draft a response.
- g) Forthcoming Meetings
Details of meetings to be held during June were RECEIVED. It was NOTED that several amendments may be necessary to the schedule of meetings, due to the additional LDP meeting(s).
- h) Mayor's Diary
Setails of the Mayor's engagements during June were RECEIVED.
- i) Urgent items
 - The following urgent items of correspondence were RECEIVED and NOTED:
 - (i) Police Liaison
 - A copy of the notes from the recent meeting.
It was RESOLVED to write to the Chief Constable to enquire why the local police are no longer prepared to assist with road closures for parades, if these are authorised by the Highways Department.
 - (ii) Abergele Football Club
 - A request to meet with the Town Council to put forward their case.
It was RESOLVED to invite representative(s) of the Club to attend the next meeting of the Parks & Play Areas Sub-Committee.

(iii) One Voice Wales

- An invitation to attend a workshop on the Draft Flood and Water Management Bill on 1st July in Llandudno.

Members were asked to contact the Clerk if they were able to attend.

(iv) A Request for Work Experience.

- **It was RESOLVED to agree to this request, providing appropriate insurance cover is in place.**

052/09 **Year of Elford**

Cllr. R.M. Medicott gave a brief update on forthcoming events planned to celebrate the Year of Elford:

- Visit by the Archbishop of Wales for a Service of Celebration
 - Sunday 7th June at 11am
- Garden Party in Gwrych Castle Grounds
 - Saturday 13th June

053/09 **Update from County Councillors**

County Councillors were invited to give any update on matters relating to their Wards:

- Cllr. T. Rowlands mentioned concerns about the lack of management of the 'biodiversity areas' on Lon Dirion. It was NOTED that a management plan had been agreed but was not being followed and he asked if the Town Council could assist by putting pressure on CCBC.
- Cllr. R. Hastings advised that, following ongoing efforts, Environmental Services have now confirmed proposals to remove part of the wall by the first entrance to Tannery Court to allow safe access for pedestrians. Cllr. Hastings acknowledged the view of the Council regarding the request made by Abergele Football Club and enquired whether any alternative land may be available for development by the Club. The Council was also informed that Crown Estates are now looking into the feasibility of a tidal impoundment scheme.

054/09 **Minutes**

- The draft Minutes of the following Meetings were RECEIVED:

- The General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 21st May
- The Policy and Finance Committee, held on 21st May

055/09 **Meeting Dates**

It was RESOLVED to approve the proposed meeting dates for 2009/10

056/09 **Planning / Licensing**

- The planning applications, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached, were considered and concluded as recorded on that schedule.

057/09 **Confidential Business**

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 and they were instructed to withdraw.

a) Untidy Land Adjacent to the Promenade

(i) It was NOTED that ‘substantial progress’ had been made in tidying the land, but that the Order has not been fully complied with. The owner has been given a further 7 days to act before prosecution proceedings are initiated.

(ii) It was NOTED that a letter found on file from a Planning Officer dated 4th November 1998 confirms that a Mr J.A. Bull certified that he owned the land in question as far back as June 1976 and that Mr Rowson had subsequently certified ownership in 1995 (ref: 1/16677).

As enquiries made with Jones Peckover had failed to provide any evidence to the contrary, it was NOTED that no further progress could be made in seeking to confirm ownership.

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
4.6.09	0/35992	Extension to dwelling at 12 Mor Awel, Abergele	Mr WestGreen		No objections
4.6.09	0/35995	Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of land as extension to curtilage of dwelling at 53 Bryn Castell, Abergele	Mr G Sewell		OBJECT- Concerns about loss of privacy to neighbouring properties. Request this remains as woodland, as was formerly the case
4.6.09	0/35997	Erection of garage to rear of 21 Maes Canol Abergele	Mr D R Fletcher		No objections
4.6.09	0/35998	Display of 1no. internally illuminated sign and 1no. internally illuminated hanging sign at Pensarn Post Office, 62-64 Marine Road, Pensarn, Abergele	Mr Shahzad Rashid		No objections
4.6.09	0/36010	Construction of new access ramps and installation of new shop front with integral security shutters at Pensarn Post Office, 62-64 Marine Road, Pensarn, Abergele	Mr Shahzad Rashid		Request that shutters be <u>internal</u> in line with Council policy
4.6.09	0/36019	Erection of dwelling and means of access at Heulfryn, St George Road, Abergele	Mr & Mrs Romachney		Concerns about suitability of access, on bend, request observations from Highways.
4.6.09	0/36025	Single storey pitched roof extension to rear of dwelling and alterations to fenestration at 17 Heol Awel, Abergele	Mr Anthony Steel		No objections, provided that there is no adverse impact on 37 Sunningdale