

# **Abergele Town Council**

## **MINUTES**

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

397/09 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. D.A. MacRae

Cllrs: J.M.D. Bird; M. Bond; G.P. Davies; R.M. Medlicott; P.D. Meredith;

B.C. Roberts; S. Rowlands; T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters;  
A. Wood

Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

Member of the Press

398/09 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were RECEIVED from:

Cllrs: J.D. Mortimer; R.D. Peacock

399/09 **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).

400/09 **Minutes**

**It was RESOLVED to receive, approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009**

401/09 **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

a) Future Burial Provision – Min. 350/09(a)

It was NOTED that a report to Cabinet was not necessary and that Lyn Davies has therefore begun writing the brief for the Geotechnical Consultant who will hopefully be engaged by mid-January to help identify potential land for a cemetery.

**It was RESOLVED to request contact details for the Consultant, to enable Members to contact him if they have any suggestions for potential land.**

b) Traffic Calming for Maes y Dre – Min. 615/08(b)

It was NOTED that a brief update had been received from Paul Evans, CCBC, confirming that work is due to commence in February. Details of costs will be confirmed shortly.

c) SPACE Projects – Min. 348/09

It was NOTED that the provisional date for the meeting of the Working Group set up to review the SPACE programme projects is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 4pm.

d) Request for Raised Kerb at Tesco bus stop – Min. 350/09(b)

It was NOTED that a further update is still awaited regarding the commencement date for the store 're-fresh' works, however, Kelly Jay has indicated that improvements to the bus stop would be included.

- e) One Voice Wales – Member Training – Min. 107/09(i)  
Cllrs M. Medlicott and A. Wood gave a brief report on the recent Module One training event held in Penmaenmawr. It was NOTED that both had found the training to be worthwhile and would be attending further sessions in January/March.  
The Clerk reported that she had been approached by the National Training Manager from One Voice Wales to see if she would be willing to help deliver training modules to members in North East Wales. The commitment was expected to be for an average of one evening a month, in her own time, and fees and travel expenses would be paid by One Voice Wales. It was NOTED that the Clerk would first need to attend a two day training course at the end of March, for which she would be prepared to take annual leave.  
**It was RESOLVED to support the Clerk if she wishes to take on this additional role, but to REFER this matter to the Staffing Sub-Committee if the commitment becomes more than an average of one session per month.**
- f) Pensarn Beach Dog Prohibition Areas – Min. 231/09(d)  
A copy of a written explanation sent to the Harbour Master regarding the proposed changes to the dog prohibition area was NOTED.
- g) Future of Abergele Hospital – Min. 288/09(n)  
A response from the Health Minister, Edwina Hart, indicating that the Betsi Cadwaladr University LHB is committed to the development of the Abergele Hospital site to support the development of both clinical and corporate services was RECEIVED.
- h) Tidal Flooding in North Wales – Min. 351/09(g)  
(i) Cllr. R.G. Waters gave a brief verbal report, following the public meeting held in Abergele on 7<sup>th</sup> December. It was NOTED that the responsibility for sea defences lies with the County Councils and that the North West England and North Wales Coastal Group is co-ordinated by Blackpool Council and includes coastal Local Authorities, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales, Cadw, English Heritage, the North West Coastal Forum and the Regional Flood Defence Committee. A draft Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) has been drawn up by Consultants (Halcrow) for the whole coastline, to ensure that any action taken by individual authorities does not have negative effects on neighbouring areas.  
(ii) Members considered the draft recommendations for the revised Shoreline Management Plan.  
**It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Clerk, with assistance from Cllr. R.G. Waters, to submit a response to the SMP2 mentioning the following areas of concern:**  
**1. The need for urgent action to halt the rate of beach erosion at Ty Crwn and protect the SSSI.**  
**2. The need to strengthen sea defences at Begrano (by North Wales Holiday Camp)**  
**3. How a second set-back line of defences can be constructed in Pensarn/Belgrano when the railway is so close to the existing sea wall.**

4. **That the strategy must take into consideration the possible flood risk to coastal towns from the Rivers Gele and Dulas, which have been diverted in the past and have sections which are banked up on both sides, giving no room to spread when levels are high.**
5. **That a study is required to investigate any impact the current and proposed wind farms will have on the tidal currents.**
6. **That the removal of sand dunes from Towyn to Llanddulas has caused the loss a natural flood defence**
7. **That a thorough study is required into the impact that any work along the coastline, such as the work done in the past at the Rhos-on-Sea revetment, may have on tidal flows and neighbouring coastlines.**

402/09

**Correspondence**

- The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:

- a) Code Of Conduct – Draft Guidance from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales  
**It was RESOLVED to REFER this document to the Local Government Sub-Committee, to consider in detail and draft a response.**
- b) Conwy Standards Committee Newsletter November 2009  
It was NOTED that CCBC has requested feedback on the Code of Conduct training materials provided recently for Clerks to deliver to members of their Councils and that the Local Government Ombudsman expects Members to take advantage of training sessions such as these.  
**It was RESOLVED that the Clerk schedules a date for delivering the training session to Members.**
- c) Play Wales
  - (i) Playday 2010
  - (ii) Renewal of Membership for 2010  
It was PROPOSED that the Council does not renew membership for 2010, as some Members were unsure as to what benefit the Council gets from it. This was defeated by a vote of 2 in favour to 8 against.  
**It was therefore RESOLVED to renew membership for 2010, at a cost of £25.**
- d) A Dignified Revolution Newsletter: December 2009  
- Copy available from the Clerk
- e) WAG Appointments  
- Appointment of two lay members on the Special Educational Needs Tribunal for Wales
- f) SLCC 2010 Practitioners' Conference - Details of the 2010 training event for Clerks  
It was NOTED that this forms one of three major training events for Clerks delivered annually by the SLCC (with the other two being the Wales Regional one day conference and the National Conference in October).  
**It was RESOLVED to support the Clerk in attending the training conference, at a cost of £195 plus travel expenses.**

- g) Fields in Trust – War Memorial Playing Fields  
It was NOTED that there are no War Memorial Playing Fields in this area.
- h) Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board  
- Details of two public consultations:
  - (i) Draft Single Equality and Human Rights Scheme
  - (ii) Draft Welsh Language SchemeIt was NOTED that the Community Health Council has been consulted on these documents.
- i) One Voice Wales
  - (i) WAG Capital Finance Framework Consultation  
**It was RESOLVED to REFER this document to the Local Government Sub-Committee to consider and draft any response.**
  - (ii) A letter including a recent statement by the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government was NOTED.
  - (iii) The Voice Issue 12 (November 2009)
- j) Mayor's Diary  
Details of the Mayor's forthcoming engagements were NOTED.
- k) Future Meetings  
Details of forthcoming meetings of the Council and its committees / sub-committees were NOTED.  
It was also NOTED that there would be a meeting of the Abergele Joint Burial Committee on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010.
- l) Urgent Correspondence  
- It was NOTED that there were no items of urgent correspondence

403/09

**Police Liaison**

It was NOTED that the meeting due to be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January had been cancelled, due to the bad weather, and that Members were asked to contact the CBM, Sharon Thorogood, directly if they had any issues/concerns. P.C. Thorogood had given a brief verbal update to the Clerk indicating that the festive period had been relatively quiet, with mainly domestic related incidents. It was NOTED that a Phoenix Course would be running at Abergele Fire Station from 18-22 January and that the police had nominated five local youths to attend to take part in drills, use equipment and hopefully gain self-confidence, discipline and team-building skills.

PCSO Mulvaney had received reports of concerns about the new wooden bench at Tennis Court Road becoming a meeting place for underage drinkers and "undesirables". This has been added to the 'hot spot file' and regular patrols will be carried out, especially at night.

**It was RESOLVED to discuss this matter again at the next Police Liaison meeting and to seek feedback on whether the regular patrols have had the desired effect.**

404/09

**Update from County Councillors**

County Councillors were invited to give a brief update on matters relating to their Wards.

- a) A newsletter was received from Cllr. Dave Holland (Pensarn)  
It was NOTED that the Clerk had been asked to attend a meeting with Cllr. Holland and Shane Wetton on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January in Colwyn Bay to

complete and submit the application(s) for £20,000 and £8,000 funding towards the car park improvements at Pensarn Promenade.

**It was RESOLVED to ask Cllr. B.C. Roberts, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee, to attend this meeting with the Clerk and to delegate authority to the Clerk to submit the necessary grant applications on behalf of the Council.**

405/09 **Minutes**

- The draft Minutes of the following Meetings / Committees were RECEIVED:
- a) The General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 17<sup>th</sup> December
  - b) The Policy and Finance Committee, held on 17<sup>th</sup> December
  - c) The Staffing Sub-Committee, held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009
  - d) The Estimates Sub-Committee, held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2009

406/09 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

- a) Staffing Sub-Committee
  - (i) **It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the proposed change to the Terms of Reference for the Staffing Sub-Committee (as detailed in Schedule 'A' to the Minutes)**
  - (ii) It was NOTED that the annual salary review had been conducted, for incorporation into the Annual Estimates for 2010/11, and it was **RESOLVED to ENDORSE the incremental salary increases approved in accordance with Staff employment contracts.**
  - (iii) **It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation to give authority for up to 60 additional hours per annum for the Administrative Officer to cover during the absence of the Clerk and carry out annual filing/archiving duties.**
  
- b) Estimates Sub-Committee
  - (i) **It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation of the Estimates Sub-Committee to write to the Welsh Assembly Government to request that correspondence regarding the appropriate sum for S.137 expenditure should relate specifically to Town and Community Councils in Wales and not to Parish and Town Councils in England.**
  - (ii) **It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation to increase room hire fees by 25%, as detailed in Schedule 'A' to those Minutes, and that a £25 cancellation fee should be introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> April for any ETS bookings which are cancelled with less than 7 days notice (a £10 fee currently applies to all single room bookings).**
  - (iii) The Council considered in detail the Draft Annual Estimates for 2010/11, as prepared by the Estimates Sub-Committee.  
A full discussion took place regarding the proposed cut in grant funding to schools and other local and national bodies.  
**It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that a precept of £183,700 be requested for 2010/11.**  
**It was then RESOLVED, by a majority of 7 votes in favour to 6 against, to approve the Draft Estimates in their entirety, subject to an amendment to sections 15 and 16 of the detailed estimated expenditure as follows:**

**S.15 – grants to local schools = £11,000 (increased from £7,500)**

**S.16 – other grants = £11,000 total (decreased from £14,500)**

- (iv) **It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that the Annual Investment Strategy for 2010/11 is approved without any alterations, as detailed in Schedule ‘B’ to those Minutes.**

407/09 **Planning / Licensing**

- a) Members considered and concluded the planning applications for the Abergele area, 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 no licensing applications had been listed by C.C.B.C. for the three week period to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

408/09 **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 is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.**

- a) Members received a detailed report from the Clerk, to include the preliminary legal advice received in connection with the proposed sale of properties 1-3 Church Street, Abergele by the British Red Cross.  
**It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the actions proposed in paragraphs 3.1.1 to 3.1.4 of that report.**
- b) A letter received from Gamlins Solicitors regarding a piece of land thought to be owned/maintained by Abergele Town Council was RECEIVED. It was NOTED that Cllr. J.D. Mortimer had contacted the Clerk regarding this matter and had provided some information regarding the history of the land concerned.  
**It was RESOLVED to reply that the land is not under the ownership/management of this Council and to suggest that Conwy CBC, as successor to Denbighshire County Council, is the owner.**
- c) **It was RESOLVED to appoint Howell Jones & Co Solicitors as the official solicitors to the Council, following the closure of Dylan Rhys Jones’ office.**

The Meeting Closed at 9.05 p.m.

..... Chairman

# Abergele Town Council

## Schedule 'A' - Planning Applications

Date Considered	Planning Ref No	Description	Applicant(s)	Determination Level	Observations
07.01.10	0/36579	Listed Building Consent for extension to dwelling (amended scheme to that approved under Code Ref:0/24920) at Bryngwenallt Hall, Llanfair Road, Abergele	Mr Jed deGregory		No objections

# Abergele Town Council

## SCHEDULE 'B'

### Planning Decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council from 14.12.09 to 27.12.09

0/36421                      Retention of prefabricated concrete garage building and blockwork storage building to year yard (retrospective application) at Orchard House, 22 Market Street, Abergele

Decision:                      Refused

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0/36505                      Erection of agricultural building (agricultural prior approval) at Kinmel Home Farm, St. George, Abergele

Decision:                      Prior Approval Required and Given

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