

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee, held on Thursday 21st May 2009, at 9.00pm (immediately after the General Purposes & Planning Committee), in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

028/09 **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

The Retiring Chairman, Cllr. K.J. Sudlow opened the meeting and thanked his fellow members for the opportunity of being Chair of the Committee for 2008/09. He then called for nominations for the Office of Chairman for 2009/10.

- a) **It was unanimously RESOLVED to appoint the current Vice-Chairman, Cllr. B.C. Roberts, as Chairman for 2009/10**

Cllr. Roberts accepted the Office, thanked his fellow Members for the confidence placed in him and took the Chair. He thanked Cllr. Sudlow for his good Chairmanship of the Committee over the past year.

- b) Cllr. Roberts called for nominations for the post of Vice-Chairman for 2009/10
It was unanimously RESOLVED to appoint Cllr. K.J. Sudlow as Vice-Chairman for 2009/10

029/09 **Attendance Register:**

Cllr. B.C. Roberts (Chairman)

Cllrs: M. Bird; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; R.M. Medicott; P.D. Meredith; J.D. Mortimer; R.D. Peacock; S. Rowlands; T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters; A. Wood
Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

030/09 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor, Cllr. D.A. MacRae and from Cllr. M. Bond

031/09 **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). The following interests were declared:

Cllr. B.C. Roberts – Agenda item 12(l) – payment of travel expenses

Cllr. T. Rowlands – see Min. 034/09(d)

Cllr. J. Stubbs – see Min. 034/09(d)

032/09 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee, held on Thursday 16th April, 2009.

033/09 **Matters Arising on Previous Minutes:**

- a) Town Maps – Min. 472/08(b)

(i) It was NOTED that the proposed locations for the two remaining maps, after the recent site meeting with the local Highways Inspector, are as follows:

1. On Water Street corner, below the Optician's side window
2. By the bus stop and bench, near Pensarn roundabout

- (ii) It was NOTED that quotations will now be sought for the installation of the maps at these locations.
- b) Premises Maintenance – Min. 474/08
It was NOTED that the annual premises check has now been undertaken and that the report will be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration.
- c) The Mount – Min. 637/08(b)
It was NOTED that a site meeting has now been arranged for Wednesday 10th June at 2pm.
It was RESOLVED that the previous Mount Task & Finish Group members be asked to attend, i.e. The Mayor, Cllr. D.A. MacRae, and Cllrs. S. Rowlands and R.G. Waters, along with a landscape contractor, if available.
- d) Pensarn Promenade Barriers – Min. 591/08(a)
It was NOTED that Cllr. D. Holland is still awaiting a further response from Paul Evans, CCBC.
- e) Gilts – Min. 591/08(c)
Advice from One Voice Wales was RECEIVED and considered.
It was NOTED that the Council would need to amend its Annual Investment Strategy, decide on the amount and term required and seek specialist advice from a Financial Consultant before considering investing in Gilts.
It was RESOLVED to delegate this matter to the Executive Committee for further consideration and to make recommendations.
- f) Bright Ideas Competition – Min. 595/08(b)(iv)
(i) A revised design for the proposed winning motif was RECEIVED and considered.
It was RESOLVED to accept the revised design and proceed with an order for a filament rope light motif, at a cost of £380.
(ii) **It was RESOLVED to authorise the presentation of the certificates and prizes for the winning entries from each school.**
- g) Website – Min. 637/08(f)
It was NOTED that work has now been completed on the initial improvements to the Council's website.
It was RESOLVED to authorise payment of the invoice received for £157.50.
- h) CCBC Youth Service – Min. 638/08(f)
A further update on the activities of the Youth Service was RECEIVED and it was NOTED that the annual grant of £1,000 has now been paid.

034/09

Correspondence:

- a) Clerks & Councils Direct
Members considered the renewal of subscriptions for 2009/10, at a cost of £10 per subscriber.
It was RESOLVED to subscribe to one copy only, to be kept at the Town Hall for members to view.
- b) SLCC / University of Gloucestershire
Details of the Institute of Local Council Management Annual Meeting and Open

Forum and the Summer Seminar, to be held on 14th – 16th July 2009 were RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED not to support the Clerk to attend, on this occasion.

- c) Local Council Administration, Eighth Edition
It was RESOLVED to authorise the purchase of the updated reference book, at a cost of £67.
- d) Abergele Youth Action
An update on the summer programme of activities was RECEIVED and Members considered a request for funding towards these.
- Cllrs. T. Rowlands and J. Stubbs declared a personal interest, as Members of the Board of Trustees.
It was RESOLVED to authorise payment of a grant of £2,209 to fund the summer programme of activities.
- e) North Wales Heroes' Memorial Arch
A letter of thanks and update on the restoration work was RECEIVED.
- f) Community Schemes and Rolling Capital Programme 2008-2012
A summary of the current community schemes and the additional priorities (financial and non-financial) identified by members for the current term of office was distributed to all Members, for information.
- g) A letter of thanks was RECEIVED from Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan for the contribution made by the Council towards the travel costs of the Jazz band.

035/09

Re-Appointment of Sub-Committees

It was RESOLVED to re-appoint the following sub-committees for 2009/10, confirm continued delegation of powers (as detailed in the approved Terms of Reference) and to approve amendments to membership:

- a) **Christmas Decorations**
- b) **Local Government**
- c) **Newsletter**
- d) **Town Guide**

036/09

Minutes

The draft Minutes of the following sub-committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The Newsletter Sub-Committee, held on 28th April 2009
- b) The Local Government Sub-Committee, held on 5th May 2009

037/09

The following Matters Arising from Those Minutes were considered:

- (a) Newsletter Sub-Committee

It was NOTED that the June newsletter, which is 16 pages, has now gone to print and is due to be delivered to households during w/c Monday 1st June.

- (b) Local Government Sub-Committee

Members considered the recommendation of the Sub-Committee not to support the Community Toilet Scheme, due to the reasons stated in the Minutes, and to write to the Assembly Members and to CCBC.

After some discussion, it was RESOLVED to amend the wording of the response from this Council, as follows:

"The Council welcomes this scheme in principle, but it is unhappy with

several details in the present proposal and therefore cannot support it as it stands. It is the view of this Council that any additional funding available should be spent on bringing the existing public conveniences up to the standards required, therefore rendering the W.A.G. scheme unnecessary.”

038/09 **The Financial Situation, as at today, was NOTED :-**

	£
Current Account	4,689.71
Monthly Interest Account	<u>140,754.55</u>
TOTAL:	145,444.26

Hall & Development Account	472.54
Hall & Development Reserve	<u>69,689.07</u>
TOTAL:	70,161.61

039/09 **Payment of Accounts**

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

040/09 **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 advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded.

- a) A quotation for the watering of hanging baskets was **RECEIVED** and considered. It was **NOTED** that the Council did not have a budget available to cover the purchase of hanging baskets and the cost of watering, which was higher than had been anticipated. The Clerk reminded members that, following the decision by the Abergele Association of Traders not to proceed with hanging baskets this year, the Council had decided to reallocate the budget of £750 towards bulb planting in some of the grass borders in the town. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that Cllr. A Wood believed that, despite the decision made by the Abergele Association of Traders, many traders would be keen to display a hanging basket again this year.

It was **RESOLVED** to make a budget virement of £750 from the unspent part of the youth grant budget for A.Y.A. to reinstate the budget of £750 towards the purchase costs of hanging baskets and that Cllr. A. Wood would speak to the traders to encourage them to have baskets again.

- b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the amendments/updates required to the signatories for the Council’s bank accounts.

The Meeting Closed at 9.55 p.m.

..... Chairman

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Payments authorised on Thursday 21st May 2009:

	Chq No:	Total £	Incl. VAT £	Notes / Statutory Powers (new or unusual payments)
a) Salary payments	BACS	2,809.44		
b) Inland Revenue (Salaries)	103406	955.10		
c) Gwynedd Pensions	103407	935.89		
d) Tiscali (Broadband)	DD	18.79	2.80	
e) University of Gloucestershire - Clerk's Training	DD	131.00		
f) CCBC - National Non-Domestic Rates	DD	599.25		
g) Petty Cash Imprest Acc (April)	103391	73.08		
(May)	103408	126.63		
h) Garden Pride - grass cutting at The Mount	103409	358.00		
i) Pennine Tea & Coffee - supplies	103393	31.71	1.05	
j) NWN Media - Direct 2 Door delivery Town Guide	103394	116.14	15.15 **	
	103395	301.31	39.30 **	
k) North Wales Police - Utilities Recharge 2008/09	103396	6,376.75	736.27	
l) Travel Claims:				
R G Waters - OVW meeting in Builth Wells 29/4	103397	104.40		
R D Peacock - Mayoral Engagements 2008/09	103398	101.60		
D A MacRae - Deputy Mayor's Engagements 08/09	103399	DEFERRED)		
B C Roberts - NWATC meeting 17/4	103400	9.60		
m) D.A. MacRae - Mayor's Allowance 2009/10	103401	2,250.00		
n) CCBC - Supply of columns and Floodlights	103402	9,329.47	1,216.89	
o) Canon - copier rental	103403	165.26	21.56	
	103404	108.10	14.10	
p) Woods Motorcycles re: website	103405	181.12	23.62 **	

** 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 it's inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.