

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE, held at approximately 8.00 p.m. on Thursday 18th March 2010, immediately after the General Purposes and Planning Committee, in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

529/09 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. D. A. MacRae

Cllr. B.C. Roberts (Chairman)

Cllrs: G.P. Davies; R.M. Medlicott; P.D. Meredith (see Min. 534/09b);

R.D. Peacock (see Min. 534/09a); J.E.H. Pitt (see Min. 534/09a); S. Rowlands;

T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; R.G. Waters; A. Wood

Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

530/09 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were RECEIVED from:

Cllrs: J.M.D. Bird; M. Bond; J.D. Mortimer; K.J. Sudlow

531/09 **Disclosure of Interest**

- Members are reminded that they must declare the **existence** and **nature** of any personal interests (using the form provided for this purpose).

None were declared.

532/09 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the last meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee, held on 18th February 2010

533/09 **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

a) Land at The Mount – Min. 258/09(b)

Members received a brief written update on the outstanding transfer of title and registration of the land adjacent to Tannery Court. It was NOTED that the transfer has still not been registered yet, due to discrepancies in the plans and the OS data, and that the Clerk will be meeting with the solicitor on Monday 22nd March to try to progress this matter.

b) Photocopier – Min. 442/09(a)

It was NOTED that the new Canon colour printer/copier/scanner/fax machine is due to be delivered on Tuesday 23rd March.

c) Pensarn Promenade Protection Measures – Min. 479/09(c)

It was NOTED that no response has been received as yet to the letter sent to CCBC requesting details of the lead officer for the design of a wider scheme of improvements for Pensarn Promenade.

d) Annual Grants

A brief update was received on the following grant applications, which had been approved in principle in October 2009, subject to the provision of further information:

(i) Canolfan Dewi Sant Centre

A letter detailing four possible items required for the construction/fitting out of the building was RECEIVED and considered.

Members stated their preference that the donation be used for a long-lasting and easily identifiable item for the building, such as an item of furniture or a cross for the outside.

It was RESOLVED to carry the earmarked amount forward in the budget to 2010/11 and to DEFER payment pending a request for additional items which could be considered.

(ii) Abergele Rugby Club

Members received and considered a copy of the accounts for the Club for the year ended 30 April 2009.

It was RESOLVED to carry forward the £500 set aside in the budget to 2010/11 and to defer payment of the grant until the next meeting, to allow members additional time to consider the set of accounts received.

(iii) Medieval Street Fayre

It was NOTED that no reply had been received to the request for information about the setting up of a committee to organise the event, a copy of the accounts for the 2009 event and confirmation that a separate bank account had been opened.

It was therefore RESOLVED to DEFER payment and to carry forward the £500 grant proceeds, previously approved in principle by the Council, to 2010/11.

534/09

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:

a) One Voice Wales – Membership Renewal 2010/11

Members considered renewal of membership at a cost of £1,314, which was an increase of £30 over the 2009/10 fees.

It was RESOLVED to renew membership for a further year.

- Cllrs. R. Peacock and J.E.H. Pitt retired from the meeting at this juncture.

b) Gwynedd Pensions

(i) Notice of the next meeting for smaller employers, to be held in Caernarfon on 15th April 2010, was RECEIVED.
It was NOTED that the Clerk hoped to attend.

(ii) Details of draft technical amendments to the Local Government Pension Scheme were RECEIVED.

- Cllr. P.D. Meredith retired from the meeting at this juncture.

c) The following additional items of URGENT correspondence were RECEIVED:

(i) ITACA – request for a letter of support for a grant application.

It was RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to submit a suitably worded letter of support, on behalf of the Council.

535/09 **Staff Training and Development**

- a) The Clerk thanked the Council for supporting her to attend the recent SLCC Practitioner's Conference and she gave a brief verbal report on the valuable training event, attended on 26th-27th February 2010, outlining the workshops she had attended and some of the information she had learnt. **It was RESOLVED to refer the training materials on Business Plans, when received, to the Executive Committee for further consideration.** The Clerk was thanked for attending and giving feedback on the conference.
- b) It was NOTED that staff personal development reviews will be taking place during the next month.

536/09 **Sub-Committee Minutes**

The Minutes of the following sub-committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The Local Government Sub-Committee, held on 11th March 2010

537/09 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

- a) Min. 506/09 – WAG Review of Councillors' Allowances Regulations
It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the proposed response to the consultation document, as detailed in Schedule 'A' to the Minutes.
- b) Min. 507/09 – Welsh Assembly Government Review of Planning Application System in Wales
It was NOTED that Cllr. R.G. Waters had attended a dissemination event of the review on 12th March and had drafted a response for consideration by this Committee.
It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE submission of the response to the consultation report, as detailed in Schedule 'B' to the Minutes.
- Cllr. Waters was thanked for attending the event and preparing his written report.

538/09 **The Financial Situation, as at today, was NOTED:-**

	£
Current Account	1,776.93
Monthly Interest Account	<u>108,104.60</u>
TOTAL:	109,881.53
Hall & Development Account	472.86
Hall & Development Reserve	<u>70,797.47</u>
TOTAL:	71,270.33

539/09 **Interest Rate Review**

Members received and considered details of the current interest rates payable on the Council's balances and several competitor products currently available.

After careful consideration, it was RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to set up a new account in the name of the Council with the Swansea Building Society and to transfer an appropriate sum from the HSBC monthly interest account, which is currently paying only 0.06% AER on balances of over £100,000, compared to 2.00% with the Swansea BS (or 1.75% on balances of £50-£100k).

It was NOTED that the Clerk would contact HSBC first, to check that there were no alternative accounts available with them paying a similar rate of interest and with suitable access.

540/09

Payment of Accounts

It was RESOLVED to authorise the payment of accounts falling due, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Clerk to arrange for the prompt payment (prior to the next meeting) of any further invoices received for the current financial year.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

..... Chairman

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Payments authorised on Thursday 18th March 2010:

	Chq No:	Total £	Incl. VAT £	Notes / Statutory Powers (new or unusual payments)
a) Salary payments	BACS	2,823.00		
b) Inland Revenue (Salaries)	103748	1,036.14		
c) Gwynedd Pensions	103749	939.17		
d) Tiscali (Broadband)	DD	18.79	2.80	
e) CCBC - National Non Domestic Rates		NIL		
f) Geoff Dorgan - premises maintenance	103731	890.00		
g) S J Ward Electrical - new lighting	103732	1,919.95	285.95	
h) Mrs C J Earley - reimbursement for Bright Ideas prizes	103733	30.00		
i) CCBC Community Skips - Sept-Mar	103734	282.00		
j) BT combined quarterly bill to 25/2	103735	263.03	38.97	
k) Livetech - minisite hosting and domain renewal	103736	223.25	33.25	
l) MSI Alarms - service contract	103737	298.45	44.45	
m) Hywel Evans - Dec/Mar newsletter printing	103738	1,200.00		
n) NWN Media Ltd - Direct to Door newsletter delivery	103739	99.77 88.77	14.86 13.22	
o) Staples - stationery & ink	103740 103746	12.27 134.40	1.83 20.02	
p) P G Lloyd - Planning Consultant	103741	130.20		
q) Travel Claims: Cllr. B.C. Roberts - meetings in C/Bay & St Asaph Mrs K Owen - shared travel costs to SLCC training	103742 103743	11.60 36.00		
r) Pennine Tea & Coffee - supplies	103744	67.13		
s) The Computer Shop - new power adaptor	103745	58.76	8.76	
t) Alpha Business Supplies - filing cabinet	103747	128.08	19.08	
u) Petty Cash Imprest Acc - March claim	103750	116.00		

** 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.