

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, was held on Wednesday 2nd March 2011 at 6.45 p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

512/10 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, R.M. Medicott;

Cllrs: M. Bond; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae; B.C. Roberts; S. Rowlands (arrived at 7.50pm); T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters; A. Wood

Mrs M. J. Evans (Clerk)

513/10 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs: M.D. Bird; G.P. Davies; D. Meredith; J.D. Mortimer;

514/10 **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

515/10 **Visitor to the Council**

- The Mayor welcome Mrs. Linda Tavernor, Mr Steven Lundon, and Mr. James Baker from Itaca to the Meeting. Mrs Tavernor provided an overview of Abergele Youth Action which is a registered charity and is celebrating 10years in operation of which Itaca is an arm of the organisation. An overview of what young people are able to take part in at Abergele Youth Action was outlined through a slide show and involved with PCSO, Parks and the Internet Café (Itaca) and is open to all ages. The aim is to improve employment opportunities and are involved with PACE and Conwy Secondary Schools i.e. Bryn Elian, Eirias, and Emrys ap Iwan year 10 and 11 students who are disengaged with school life. PACE approached Itaca to deliver IT on a 1:2 ratio and students attend for a lesson, there is no funding available but Itaca have agreed to continue the service. Mrs Tavernor provided an overview of the building including the Bistro, staffing and training that the people were obtaining. They also run evening activities such as games, chill out and guest speakers, and trips for disengaged young people. The organisation have taken on nine members in the last six months with the aim of encouraging the work ethic and new skills. They employ a full time teacher and have managed to be part of the Government approved supplier list. The organisation is currently applying for ILM funding to assist ten people to be taken on in employment with training i.e. work in a charity shop for three days and training for one. They have also been successful with a joint bid with Abergele strategy in Canolfan Dewi Sant and have 20 people on a course of employer skills for six months. Their target area is the long term unemployed young people to gain a nationally recognised qualification. A scheme called Breaking Barriers has also taken place which is designed to break down barriers between age groups and have been working on a film. The group are happy to create a DVD for the Town Council on any topic i.e. the history of Abergele for the Town Council to link on to their website. The team consists of three full time employees 2.5 are funded by the Big Lottery but also have many different funding providers.

Mrs Tavernor stated that Itaca have the best toilets in Abergele and was asked how accessible are they to the general public and was informed that there is a toilet scheme available from WAG which provides funding to organisations who provide access to the general public for use of their facilities.

The future is to remain sustainable through government projects, the big lottery funding ends in 2012; they may have a shortfall in staff salaries in the future and would hope to rely on volunteers if this is the case. They are looking for new ideas in order to gain future funding as a community resource and are hoping to work more in the Pensarn area in the new centre, reaching people who the college would not facilitate as this stage with the aim of moving them on to college afterwards, in partnership with the college but a more flexible environment than school/college.

516/10

Mayors message

The Mayor informed members that Cllr. G.P. Davies had not been too well this week and it was RESOLVED that the Council send Cllr. Davies a letter of support and hoped that she would be back soon.

517/10

Minutes

It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN as a correct record the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 3rd February 2011

518/10

Matters Arising on those Minutes:

(a) Estimates Sub-Committee

- i. It was RESOLVED to amend the Other Capital Projects heading from £7000 down to £4000 and to create a new heading for Bus Shelters for £3000 in anticipation of any costs that may be required if the Town Council become responsible for the provision of Bus Shelters was NOTED.
- ii. It was proposed and Seconded to RESOLVE to APPROVE the Annual Estimates for 2011/12 and the level of precept was as agreed by the Estimates Committee, for submission to CCBC, and for the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Financial Plan & Annual Estimates was NOTED.

(b) Denbighshire Draft Consultation Plans

- i. To receive and consider a letter from Denbighshire County Council regarding the Denbighshire Consultation Draft Residential Space Standards Supplementary Planning Guidance deferred from the Policy & Finance meeting 17th February to be able to carry out a debate with Full Council before responding.
- ii. An e-mail and attachments from Bodelwydden Development Action group was DEFERRED to the Local Government Sub-Committee, to be progressed as soon as possible.
- iii. To receive and consider a letter from Denbighshire County Council regarding Consultation: Draft Community Linguistic Impact Assessment of the LDP proposed Key Strategic Site at Bodelwydden deferred from the Policy & Finance meeting 17th February to be able to carry out a debate with Full Council before responding.
- iv. Denbighshire Local Development Plan – Observations on the Consultation plan by Cllr. Richard Waters

- v. A letter from Cllr. Bird with observation regarding the Draft Consultation Document

An overview was provided discussing the amount of housing proposed and the current demographics. The Council wished to support Bodelwydden Action Group but considered it prudent to seek professional advice prior to moving forward as the interests of the Town of Abergele had to be paramount.

Following a lengthy discussion it was RESOLVED that a meeting should be held in the Town Council Offices on Monday 7th March with Darren Miller, AM, and Peter Lloyd, Planning Consultant with a view of drafting a letter of response with professional advise.

- (c) Town & Community Councils Forum
 - i. To receive informal notes and attachments from the Clerk regarding the Conwy CBC meeting of the Town and Community Council Liaison Meeting on the 16th February was NOTED
 - ii. An e-mail and Registration form from Conwy CBC regarding expressing an interest in joining working groups was NOTED
 - iii. Shared Community Document was NOTED
- (d) It was RESOLVED to send a letter to the Rhyl Journal dated 12th January 2011 regarding Abergele Town Council Grants was NOTED
- (e) It was RESOLVED to send a letter to WAG regarding the plans for a new express rail link between North and South Wales was NOTED
- (f) It was RESOLVED to send a letter to Ysgol Sant Elfod pupils regarding muddy paths outside the school was NOTED and Cllr. Medicott stated that he had been in touch with Paul Evans from Highways who was to investigate the matter.
- (g) It was RESOLVED to invite Mrs Bowley of the Perfect K9 Owners Club to a meeting regarding options to make Pentre Mawr Park a safer place for all users. Mrs Bowley attended the Policy & Finance sub-committee Meeting on the 17th February 2011. A County Councillor informed that the matter was to be called in by Scrutinee. **The Council RESOLVED to agree in principal, subject to consultation with the various user groups.**
- (h) An e-mail from Conwy CBC regarding the path at Tower Hill was RECEIVED and it was RESOLVED that due to the correspondence being lost and forms having to be re-submitted, that maladministration against Conwy CBC should be filled with the Ombudsman and that the Clerk should write to the Ombudsmen to make enquiries regarding the formal procedure.
 - (i) A meeting with Caroline Turner to discuss the issue has been arranged for Wednesday 9th March
 - (ii) A verbal update from the Clerk regarding the formal procedure with the Ombudsman stating that an organisation can not make a complaint against another it must be an individual. **It was RESOLVED that the forms for completion by people who have used the paths and are available from the Council Office and a message will be included in the Newsletter.**
- (i) An e-mail from Conwy CBC Highways Department regarding the number of bus shelters in the Abergele area for confirmation of accuracy was RECEIVED and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk requests a more accurate list from Conwy CBC.

- (i) A copy of an e-mail from Michael Spotswood regarding the accuracy of the list
- (ii) To receive and consider a letter from Bob Saxby regarding the shelters
It was RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Highways Department stating that they are not willing to cover the costs of the bus shelters and CCBC should continue to maintain.
- (j) APPROVAL for an invoice from Conwy CBC to for the cost for the carving of the Otter in Pentre Mawr Park was DECLINED. An update was provided and the Friends of the Parklands have agreed to pay the invoice.
- (k) An update was provided from the Clerk regarding the location map of designated areas and it RESOLVED that the whole area of Abergele was considered to be the designated area was NOTED.
- (l) At the request of Cllr. MacLennan an additional urgent item was discussed regarding the NWATCC and the adoption of Policies for the organisation. The request was made for a mandate for Cllr. MacLennan to be able to act on behalf of Abergele Town Council. It was RESOLVED to approve the polices in principal and was FURTHER RESOLVED to APPROVE Cllr. MacLennan to act on behalf of Abergele Town Council. An update was provided by Councillor MacLennan that the Policies were approved including the Partnership Policy, but that there is currently a problem between the NWALCC Clerk and One Voice Wales. NWALCC have written to OVW and requested a response within 3 weeks and if no response is received then the partnership is dissolved.
- (m) An update was provided by the Clerk regarding the Pubic Conveniences on Water Street following the Local Government Sub-Committee. Where it was RESOLVED that the cost of running and maintenance costs the toilets including Insurance would be too costly for the Town Council to administer and it was FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to CCBC stating this and requests further information to promote the WAG toilets scheme. **Following a brief discussion it was RESOLVED that Cllr Wood and the Clerk pull together a rough Business plan to take on the Water Street toilets, to make a loss is inevitable and submit to the Committee and that the possibilities of a Trust is set up to run and fund the toilets.**
- (n) To receive a letter from Howell Jones & Co. regarding registration with the Land Registry for the two sections of land at the Mount was NOTED and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Howell Jones & Co to request a site meeting as the plan does not appear to be correct. It was FURTHER RESOLVED that the matter is DEFERRED to the Local Government sub-committee. A site Meeting with David Hughes has been arranged for Thursday 10th March, 2011 was NOTED.

518/10 **Correspondence**

- The following correspondence was RECEIVED and CONSIDERED:

- (a) Mayor's Diary - Details of the Mayor's engagements for March 2011 was NOTED
- (b) To receive a letter from St. James' Palace was NOTED
- (c) Informal Notes from the Police Liaison Meeting held 22nd February, 2011 was NOTED

- (d) **An e-mail from a local resident regarding the River Gele. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Environment Agency on behalf of the resident.**
- (e) An e-mail from Alison Pring regarding dog fouling in Pentre Mawr Park was NOTED
- (f) **(i) E-mail update from Gareth Daniels CCBC regarding the layout of the hoop barriers and it was RESOLVED that the Manchester Bollard was the preferred choice in blue and that as many as possible should be fixed bollards.**
 - (ii) The Clerk provided an update regarding the progress of the work to date stating that the Contractors were on site and that the work should still be completed within the time scale was NOTED
- (g) **A letter and attachment from One Voice Wales - Policy Consultation – Volunteer Responders. It was RESOLVED to accept Cllr. MacLennan as the volunteer and Cllr. MacLennan agreed to contact One Voice Wales to inform them.**
- (h) Notice of temporary Road closures:
 - i. Junction Foxhole Road to Golf Club was NOTED
 - ii. Park Bungalow to West of Pendragon Lodge, St George was NOTED
- (i) A letter from Welsh Assembly Government regarding the application by David Stearne Pharmacies for inclusion in the Pharmaceutical list at the new medical centre was NOTED
- (j) A letter from J & T Gizzi Builders regarding the use of out of the area Companies. **It was RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to J & T Gizzi to inform them that the company was chosen as they are the only one that provide the service and that there is no charge to the Town Council as the adverts cover the cost. If a local company was to provide the service then the Town Council would be more than happy to consider them. It was FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of Mr. Gizzi's letter to Cartrefi Conwy for their consideration with regard to the housing issue.**
- (k) A letter from Janet Ryder AM regarding file disposal was NOTED and it was RESOLVED to include in the Newsletter.
- (l) CVSC Introduction to Volunteering Course 17th March, 2011 was NOTED

519/10 **To receive any items of Urgent Correspondence**
None were received

520/10 **Update from County Councillors**
- A verbal report from County Councillors stated that CCBC are to finalise their Budget next week. The Council tax was set at 5% and due to extra funding being found has been reduced down to 3.7%. A further decrease is requested or a freeze on current rates.
A robbery and beating had taken place in Maes Canol local shop, an arrest has been made.

Cllr. MacRae retired at this juncture

521/10 **Minutes**
- **It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE the Minutes of the following Meetings/Committees:**

- (a) Executive Sub-Committee Meeting held, 4th August 2010
- (b) General Purpose & Planning Meeting held 20th January 2011
- (c) Policy & Finance Meeting held 20th January 2011
- (d) Policy & Finance Meeting held 16th December 2010

522/10 **Draft Minutes**
It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE the Draft Minutes from the Executive Committee held on Thursday 10th February, 2011

523/10 **Matters arising on those Minutes**
It was RESOLVED to ACCEPT the RECOMMEDATIONS forwarded to the Full Council for consideration and observations prior to any further action the proposed new structure for Meetings as outlined in Minute number 470/10 points (a) to (c) for a trail period of six months.

524/10 **Forthcoming Meetings**
 - To receive a schedule of the forthcoming Meetings for March 2011 was NOTED

525/10 **Planning / Licensing**

- (a) Planning Applications, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached were considered and concluded as recorded on that schedule.
- (b) Planning decisions issued by C.C.B.C., as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached were NOTED.

526/10 **Documents for Information**
 SLCC Branch Newsletter was NOTED
 Queen Elisabeth II fields challenge was NOTED
 Conwy CBC - Proposed changes to the bus timetable from 23rd May 2011 was NOTED
 Carers Wales – Making your voice heard 15th April, 2011 was NOTED
 Tidy Towns Community Led Funded Projects 2011-2012 was NOTED
 Dignified Revolution Newsletter February 2011 was NOTED
 Wicksteed Flexi-Swing advertisement was NOTED
 CVSC Fit4funding Newsletter March 2011 was NOTED

Meeting Closed at 9pm

Signed
 (Chairman)