

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on Thursday 3rd June 2010 at 6.45p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

045/10 **Condolences**

The Mayor called on all present to stand for a Minute's silence as a mark of respect to the victims of the shooting incident in Cumbria on 2nd June.

It was RESOLVED to send a letter of condolence to the Leader of Cumbria Council.

046/10 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. R.M. Medicott (Chairman)

Cllrs: J.M.D. Bird; M. Bond; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae; R.D. Peacock; J.E.H. Pitt (see Min. 051/10(d)); S. Rowlands; T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters; A. Wood

Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

County Cllr. R. Hastings

Chief Constable Mark Polin, East Conwy District Inspector Paul McEwan, Sgt. Helen Madeley and P.C Sharon Thorogood (North Wales Police)

047/10 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were RECEIVED from:

Cllrs: P.D. Meredith; J.D Mortimer; B.C. Roberts

048/10 **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.

049/10 **Visitor to the Council**

The Mayor welcomed Chief Constable Mark Polin and members of his team from North Wales Police to the meeting, to give a brief presentation on his priorities for North Wales Police.

The Chief Constable introduced himself and informed members that he had now been in post for over 6 months, having returned to Wales from Gloucestershire. Following extensive research, five clear priorities have been identified for the Force: improving trust and confidence; reducing and resolving crime and anti-social behaviour; protecting people and reducing harm; delivering a quality service that meets the needs of communities; providing a well led, organised and skilled workforce.

To achieve these, a number of changes have and will be made, including: extending value-based decision making to give Officers on the streets greater discretion; abolishing the points system for enforcement; using Officers where they are most needed; improving the effectiveness of the relationship with Local Authorities, AMs and MPs to identify areas of concern and working together to address these; reviewing the uniform; looking, feeling and behaving as one organisation; stopping the Chief Officer blog; changing the emphasis from enforcement.

The biggest challenge facing the Force will be financial. Although it is not yet known exactly what the impact of public sector finance cuts will be, it is

expected that a budget cut of between 10% and 25% will be made and it cannot be guaranteed that there will be no cuts to frontline services, although this will be a last resort. A project is currently underway to look systematically at how each part of the organisation is run and it is believed that there is scope to reduce duplicity and save money.

A question and answer session followed the presentation, with the Chief Constable being asked questions about: how he intends to reduce the fear of crime; his thoughts on the Firearms Act following the incident in Cumbria; his views on the police uniforms; the numbers and ratio of civilian staff / officers and males/females employed by the Force; the impact of ACPO Ltd on the Force; what is being done to target new drug problems; whether more resources can be directed at anti-social behaviour and under-age drinking; planned police station closures; performance monitoring; the future of the mounted unit; whether there is/will be a freeze on recruitment.

The Chief Constable was thanked for his informative presentation and he and members of his team then retired from the meeting.

050/10

Minutes

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

- a) **Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on 10th May 2010**
- b) **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council, held on 13th May 2010**

051/10

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

- a) **Raised Access Pad at Tesco Bus Stop – Min. 597/09(a)**
It was NOTED that Cllrs. M. Bond, B.C. Roberts and the Clerk had attended a site meeting with Mike Spotswood, CCBC, on Thursday 27th May to consider the position of the raised access pad and whether it could be moved to a more suitable location. The site visit had identified a design problem with the bus stop area as a whole, with the vast majority of buses stopping where the kerb protrudes out beyond the bus shelter and not within the marked bay. It was FURTHER NOTED at the site meeting that not all Arriva bus drivers were lowering the floor level to assist those with mobility problems.
A follow-up meeting was held with a representative from Tesco on Friday 28th May, where the Clerk was informed that Tesco could not move the raised pad to the preferred location, as this would be encouraging buses to stop outside of the marked bay and could cause an obstruction to other vehicles exiting the site.
It was NOTED that CCBC had not yet adopted the highways from Tesco.
It was RESOLVED to:
 - (i) **Write to Arriva to request that all drivers lower their floor levels, whenever required.**
 - (ii) **Seek clarification from Planning that the bus bay has been built in accordance with the planning consent.**
 - (iii) **Request a site meeting with a senior Officer from CCBC Highways Department to seek a solution.**
- b) **Pensarn Public Conveniences – Min. 597/09(d)**
A response from Lyn Davies to the query regarding ownership and

maintenance of the private foul sewer on the promenade was RECEIVED and NOTED.

It was FURTHER NOTED that there had been problems in the past with the sewer at properties near Somerfield.

It was RESOLVED to write back to CCBC to seek confirmation that the whole length of the private sewer has been inspected/cleaned, not just the section close to the public conveniences.

- c) Community Skips – Min. 229/09(f)

Feedback on the usage of the community skip in Maes Canol in March 2010 was RECEIVED and NOTED.

It was RESOLVED to DEFER provision of any further skips in 2010/11, pending information from CCBC regarding any Environmental Action Days planned in this area.

- d) Tŷ Crwn / Middle Gate Sewers – Min. 597/09(j)(iv)

A response from Simon Cottrill, CCBC, advising that Dŵr Cymru / Welsh Water had turned down an application for first time sewerage, due to estimated costs of £848,000, and that a review of options is underway, was RECEIVED and NOTED.

A copy of a letter sent to CCBC by Cllr. J.A. MacLennan in April 2006, along with extracts of the Minutes of Colwyn Borough Council from 1994-96 was also RECEIVED.

It was RESOLVED to forward a copy of these Minutes to CCBC with a covering letter to query why no action has been taken earlier and to copy this to the Harbour Master, Environment Agency and Dŵr Cymru.

- Cllr. J.E.H. Pitt retired from the meeting at this juncture.

- e) Beach Erosion – Min. 597/09(j)(i)

It was NOTED that a response to the request for a copy of the feasibility study undertaken last year has finally been received, following numerous chasing letters/e-mails, but that the document will not be released until further dialogue with the Countryside Council for Wales has taken place.

It was RESOLVED to write to request that the Town Council be consulted on the options being considered.

- f) Empty Shop Windows – Min. 547/09(c)

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report, following enquiries into the impact an art project may have on the business rates for empty shops.

It was NOTED that CCBC has to charge business rates for shops if anything is displayed in the windows, but that the officer is aware of similar projects taking place elsewhere and may be prepared to turn a blind eye, unless complaints are made.

It was FURTHER NOTED that Sian Hughes, Arts Development Officer, CCBC, is currently discussing a similar project for Colwyn Bay and will let us know the outcome of these discussions in due course.

It was NOTED that members had a number of concerns about this project, including the need for a County-wide project/policy; whether a local art group could be involved; how the art would be vetted, access to vacant premises.

It was RESOLVED to await further information from Sian Hughes and to make preliminary enquiries with the agents for Ethel Austin, to

identify any possible problems.

- g) Change of Use of Doctors Surgery to Learning Disability Centre – Min. 597/09
A response from the CSIW, confirming that an application had not yet been made for the premises and outlining the relevant legislation which determined the criteria to be met, was RECEIVED and NOTED.
- h) North Wales Coast SRA – Min. 454/09(b)
A summary of the expenditure for 2009/10 and a copy of the 2016 Action Plan was RECEIVED.

052/10

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED:

- a) Conwy Youth Service
- A copy of the timetable for Area 1 for June was NOTED.
- b) Denbighshire Local Development Plan
- Notice that the Deposit LDP representations and the register of alternative sites have now been published.
- c) One Voice Wales
(i) An invitation to attend and submit any motions for debate at the 2010 Conference and AGM, to be held on 9th October 2010.
It was NOTED that Cllrs. J.A. MacLennan and R.G. Waters hoped to attend.
(ii) A covering letter and copy of 'The Voice' Issue 13 –April 2010
(iii) A response from Simon White, Chief Executive, to a query/concern about Charters.
It was NOTED that The Mayor and Clerk had been invited to attend a meeting with the Acting Chief Executive of CCBC on Monday 7th June to discuss better working relationships.
- d) Clwyd Community Chest
(i) Notice of the AGM, to be held on 1st July 2010 (Cllr. G.P. Davies to attend).
(ii) **It was RESOLVED to renew membership for 2010/11, at a cost of £50**
(iii) **It was RESOLVED to nominate Cllr. G.P. Davies to serve on the Management Committee for the next three years**
- e) Coastal Access Project
A request for information on points of interest for inclusion on a community board for Abergele/Pensarn was considered.
It was RESOLVED to refer this request to the Town Guide Sub-Committee, with delegated authority to respond on behalf of the Council.
- f) Mayor's Diary
Details of the Mayor's engagements for June were NOTED.

- g) Future Meetings
 - (i) Details of forthcoming meetings of the Council and its committees / sub-committees were NOTED.
 - (ii) **It was RESOLVED to approve the proposed meeting dates for 2010/11, as detailed on Schedule 'C' attached.**
- h) Urgent Correspondence

The following additional items of urgent correspondence were RECEIVED:

 - (i) CCBC

Notice of an invitation to the Clerk to attend the Conservation Area Advisory Panel meeting on Wednesday 2nd June, which had been forwarded to Cllr. M. Bird, as the member for St. George ward.
 - (ii) PeBel Community Garden

Notice of the grand opening of the community garden at Tennis Court Road, to take place on Saturday 5th June.
 - (iii) CVSC / WCVA

Details of a briefing session on the Vetting and Barring Scheme implemented by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).

053/10

Police Liaison

A report from the meeting held on Thursday 27th May was RECEIVED and NOTED.
A brief discussion took place regarding the CCTV cameras in Abergele and it was noted that a date was still awaited for a visit to the refitted CCTV control room.

054/10

Update from County Councillors

The following brief updates were RECEIVED from County Councillors on matters relating to their Wards:

- a) Cllr. R. Hastings
 - (i) Cllr. Hastings reported concerns at ongoing delays to the pavement improvements at Water Street, which included improvements to the pedestrian access to Tannery Court. He has requested that these works be carried out immediately.
 - (ii) It was NOTED that the Glyn Avenue Gating Order and works had been delayed due to being combined with two others at Llandudno Junction, but that this was now being attended to.
- b) Cllr. D. Holland

The Clerk reported that an update had been received from Cllr. Holland regarding the protection measures for Pensarn Promenade, stating that Highways had obtained revised designs and costings for the height barriers. He has requested that both himself and the Town Council are consulted on the revised designs.
- c) Cllr. S. Rowlands

It was NOTED that Cllr. Rowlands has been pressing for urgent action to address the poor condition of the road at Maes Canol and that this is to be resurfaced over the summer, when the schools are closed.

d) Cllr. T. Rowlands

It was NOTED that new housing projections (lower) had been prepared for the Local Development Plan and that the Consultants were expected to report back to the County Council on 1st July.

055/10 **Representation on Outside Bodies**

It was RESOLVED to approve amendments to the Council's representatives on Outside Bodies for 2010/11, as detailed on Schedule 'D' attached.

056/10 **Minutes**

The draft Minutes of the following Meetings / Committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The General Purposes and Planning Committee, held on 20th May 2010
- b) The Policy and Finance Committee, held on 20th May 2010

057/10 **Planning / Licensing**

- a) **It was RESOLVED to submit observations on the planning applications received, 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) An update regarding the following Planning Enforcement matter was RECEIVED and NOTED:
 - (i) ENF/2009/0486 – grilles on shop front and change of use to storage and distribution at 20 Chapel Street, Abergele.
It was NOTED that a full planning application should be received for comment in due course.
- d) It was NOTED that one licensing applications has been listed by C.C.B.C. during the period 17th to 28th May:
Temporary Event Notice for the provision of Entertainment in the grounds of Gwrych Castle on Saturday 12th June 2010 from 14:00 to 17:00.

058/10 **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 considered advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw.

The following confidential matters were considered:

- a) The Charity of Robert Roberts for Old Age Pensioners
The Clerk gave a brief verbal update following two recent meetings of the prospective trustees and a copy of correspondence from Janet Evans (acting on behalf of Howell Jones & Co) and the Charity Commission was RECEIVED and considered.
It was RESOLVED to accept the request made by the prospective Trustees that Abergele Town Council acts as Custodian Trustee for the properties 1-3 Church Street, Abergele.
- b) Three quotations for the cleaning of the seats in the main chamber were RECEIVED and considered.
It was RESOLVED to accept quotation three, from Classy Cleaning Ltd, at a cost of £150.

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 |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|--------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 03.06.10 | 0/36932 | Use of existing caravan units as camp administration office, bar, lounge and café (Retrospective Application) at Castle Cove Caravan Park, The Promenade, Pensarn, Abergele | Mr T Rowley | | No objections |

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'B'

Planning Decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council from 03.05.10 to 16.05.10

0/36506 Erection of detached bungalow and construction of means of access
(Outline Application) at Land adjacent to 43 Coed Bedw, Abergele

Decision: Approved with conditions

0/36715 Reduce and re-shape 2no. Lime trees and 1no. Oak at 2 Lon Dirion,
Abergele

Decision: Split decision

0/36752 Extension to dwelling at Ynys y Mor, Towyn Road, Belgrano, Abergele

Decision: Approved with conditions

0/36770 Erection of pitched roof extension to side of dwelling and in-fill extension
to front of dwelling at 25 Kinmel Avenue, Abergele

Decision: Approved with conditions

0/36772 Erection of conservatory to rear of dwelling at 15 Clwyd Avenue,
Abergele

Decision: Approved with conditions
