

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE, held at approximately 8.25 p.m. on Thursday 15th July 2010, immediately after the General Purposes and Planning Committee, in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

144/10 **Attendance**

The Mayor, Cllr. R.M. Medicott

Cllr. K.J. Sudlow (Chairman)

Cllrs: J.M.D. Bird (see Min.); M. Bond; G.P. Davies; D.A. MacRae (see Min.);

P.D. Meredith (see Min.); J.D. Mortimer; B.C. Roberts; S. Rowlands; T.

Rowlands; J. Stubbs; A. Wood

Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

145/10 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were RECEIVED from:

Cllrs: J.A. MacLennan; R.D. Peacock; J.E.H. Pitt

146/10 **Disclosure of Interest**

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

The following personal interests were declared:

- a) Cllr. G.P. Davies – agenda item 6 – Grants to Schools (non-prejudicial)
- b) Cllr. R.M. Medicott – agenda item 5(a) – Grant to rugby club
- c) Cllr. J. Stubbs – agenda item 5(e) – grant to Abergele Youth Action
- d) Cllr. T. Rowlands – agenda item 5(e) – grant to Abergele Youth Action

147/10 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the last meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee, held on 17th June 2010

148/10 **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

- a) Annual Grants 2009/10 – Min. 533/09(d)

Members considered further information received in support of the following 2009/10 grant applications, which had been carried forward to 2010/11:

- (i) Abergele Rugby Club

- Cllr. R. M. Medicott retired from the meeting during consideration of this application.

The bank statement and accounts were received and considered.

It was RESOLVED to authorise payment of the £500 grant previously deferred.

- (ii) Canolfan Dewi Sant Centre

Members received and considered details of a slate sculpture of Saint David for the front of the building.

It was RESOLVED to authorise payment of the £1,000 grant, which had previously been deferred.

(iii) Mediaeval Fayre

It was NOTED that the financial records from last year's event and confirmation that a separate account had been opened by the committee were still awaited.

It was RESOLVED to DEFER further consideration of this application until this information has been received.

b) CCBC Bus Shelters – Min. 579/09(c)

A reply received by Darren Millar, AM, clarifying the reason for the request for funding for future maintenance of shelters was RECEIVED.

It was NOTED that the Council has not yet officially responded to the request, as information is awaited on the number of shelters in the Abergele area and which financial year it will commence in.

c) Abergele Regeneration Team – Min. 580/09

It was NOTED that no reply had been received as yet to the letter sent on 5th May 2010 regarding any balance remaining in the account.

It was RESOLVED to request assistance from Cllr. J.A. MacLennan, as the representative of this Council and a signatory on the bank account, in seeking a response.

d) Clerk's Training – Min. 031/10

The Clerk gave a verbal report on the following presentations delivered at the SLCC Welsh Regional Conference, held in Cwmbran on 14th July:

(i) Nick Randle OBE (Chief Executive of SLCC) – The Status of the Clerk Profession and Local Council Sector in 2010 and beyond

(ii) Brian Moon, WAG – Public Sector Broadband

(iii) Ian Arundale – Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys Police

(iv) Simon White – Chief Exec of One Voice Wales – Legislative update and changes ahead

(v) John Davies – Director of the Food Centre Wales – Food Centre Wales projects

(vi) Lewis Hughes – HR Consultant – Employment law and HR health check

e) Abergele Youth Action Funding Request – Min. 082/10(a)

- Cllrs. T. Rowlands and J. Stubbs retired from the meeting throughout consideration of this matter.

Members received and considered a reply to the request for Linda Tavernor to attend this evening's meeting to answer the questions put forward by members at the last meeting. This gave apologies for Mrs Tavernor being unable to attend and referred to information included in the documentation previously provided in support of the application and invited members to meet the Trustees at Hesketh House.

A discussion took place on whether the information requested at the last meeting was really necessary to enable a decision to be made on the request for funding, given that a similar grant had been approved by the Council for at least the last five years and that the summer programme of activities will be due to commence next week.

It was NOTED that the total budget available for 'youth' grants for 2010/11

had reduced from £4,159 to £3,000, but that, due to other under-spends in 2009/10, the general reserve was over £5,000 higher than anticipated when the Estimates were approved.

- Cllrs. J.M.D. Bird, D.A. MacRae and P.D. Meredith retired from the meeting prior to any decision being taken.

It was RESOLVED to approve a grant of £1,960 to cover the total cost of the summer activities proposed (which will require an increase in the total budget for Youth grants to ensure that sufficient funding will still be available for other applicants later in the year).

149/10 **Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:

- a) Colwyn Bay Abergele and District Twinning Association
It was RESOLVED to authorise renewal of membership for 2010/11, at a cost of £12.
- b) The following additional items of URGENT correspondence were RECEIVED:
 - (i) Gwynedd Pensions – Notice of the Annual Meeting for Employers to present the annual report for 2009/10.

150/10 **Annual Grants to Schools**

Members considered the formula to be used for the calculation of the annual grants to primary schools for 2010/11.

(Several members declared a personal interest, as members of Governing Bodies of schools, but this was not considered to be a prejudicial interest as the formula would apply equally to all schools, based on pupil numbers).

It was RESOLVED to approve payment of grants using the same formula as used in previous years, i.e. a lump sum of £50 per school per £1,000 of total grant available (£550 per school, based on the total amount of £11,000 approved in the Annual Estimates for 2010/11), with the remaining £8,800 allocated according to the total pupil numbers from January 2010, giving a total amount payable as follows:

**Glan Gele – 232 pupils = £3,250
Glan Morfa – 169 pupils = £2,500
St Elfod – 286 pupils = £3,900
St George – 69 pupils = £1,350**

151/10 **Annual Statement of Accounts and Budget Monitoring**

- a) **It was RESOLVED to approve the Draft Statement of Accounts for 2009/10, circulated to all Members at the last Ordinary meeting of the Council, held on 1st July.**
- b) The quarterly budget monitoring report as at 30th June 2010 was RECEIVED and considered.

Cllr. J.D. Mortimer raised concerns about the amount of expenditure currently spent on 'the town' in relation to the total expenditure of the

Council.

It was RESOLVED to add this as a separate agenda item for consideration at the next meeting of this Committee.

Cllr. S. Rowlands expressed concern about the amount of paper used by the Council.

It was RESOLVED to also add this as a separate agenda item for consideration at the next meeting of this Committee.

152/10 **Sub-Committee Minutes**

The Minutes of the following sub-committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The Local Government Sub-Committee, held on 28th June 2010
- b) The Town Guide Sub-Committee, held on 12th July 2010

153/10 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes**

- a) Local Government Sub-Committee:
 - (i) WAG Consultation on Micro-generation and Low Carbon Technologies – Min. 99/10
The response of the Sub-Committee, as detailed in the Minutes, was NOTED.
 - (ii) Public Services Ombudsman for Wales: Complaints Wales consultation - Min. 100/10
It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the response of the Sub-Committee, as detailed in the Minutes.
- b) Town Guide Sub-Committee
 - (i) Min. 128/10 – Town Guide
It was NOTED that work has now commenced on reviewing the editorial in preparation for the next edition.
 - (ii) Min. 129/10(b) – Tourism Signs
It was NOTED that the sub-committee is looking at the feasibility of a project to install three fingerpost type signs in the town to help pedestrian visitors.
 - (iii) Min. 130/10 – Interpretation Panels
It was NOTED that information on places of interest will be forwarded to CCBC for inclusion on the interpretation panels.
 - (iv) Min. 131/10 – Fairtrade Town Signs
It was NOTED that a letter will be sent to Highways to request that an approach is made to the Welsh Assembly for authorisation for 'Fairtrade Town' signs to be used in Abergele.

154/10 **The Financial Situation, as at today, was NOTED :-**

	£
Current Account	4,676.37
Monthly Interest Account	59,770.85
General Reserve	<u>70,000.00</u>
TOTAL:	134,447.22

DRAFT – TO BE CONFIRMED

Hall & Development Account	472.94
Hall & Development Reserve	<u>71,236.94</u>
TOTAL:	71,709.88

155/10 **Payment of Accounts**
It was RESOLVED to authorise the payment of accounts falling due, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached.

The Meeting Closed at 9.20 p.m.

..... Chairman

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Payments to be authorised on Thursday 15th July 2010:

	Chq No:	Total £	Incl. VAT £	Notes / Statutory Powers (new or unusual payments)
a) Salary payments	BACS	2,905.38		
b) Inland Revenue (Salaries)	103825	1,089.78		
c) Gwynedd Pensions	103826	976.81		
d) Tiscali (Broadband)	DD	18.79	2.80	
e) CCBC - National Non-Domestic Rates	DD	614.00		
f) Petty Cash Imprest Acc - July	103827	123.29		
g) NWAT&LCC - July meeting	103806	25.00		
h) Torino Italian Design - picture framing	103807	75.00		
i) CCBC - Traffic Calming (Maes y Dre)	103808	4,935.00	735.00	Highways Act 1980 s.274A
j) Classy Cleaning Ltd - chairs	103809	125.00		
k) Hywel Evans - newsletter printing	103810	740.00		
l) SLCC Enterprises Ltd - Wales Regional Conference	103811	64.62	9.62	
m) Pennine Tea & Coffee Ltd	103812	41.63	1.23	
n) Travel & Subsistence Claims: Mrs C J Earley - June/July 2010	103813	30.40		
- accommodation 13/7/10	103828	52.50		
Mrs K Owen (re: Clerks' Conference 14/7)	103814	52.80		
o) EDF Energy (floodlights)	103815	148.55	7.07	
p) CCBC - Summer Playschemes	103816	1,465.00		
q) D Shore - Internal audit	103817	400.00		
r) Canon UK Ltd - photocopier service chg Q1	103818	32.96	4.91	
s) Staples UK Ltd - toner	103819	107.82	16.06	
t) One Voice Wales - annual conference	103820	130.00		
u) NWN Media - newsletter delivery	103821	188.54	28.08	**
v) Colwyn Link - newsletter CDs	103822	100.00		**
w) Abergele Joint Burial Committee	103823	4,063.00		
x) The Computer Shop - laptop repairs	103824	58.76		

** 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 its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.