

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE, held at 6.45 p.m. on Thursday 16th September 2010, in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

218/10 **Attendance Register:**

The Mayor, Cllr. R.M. Medicott

Cllr. P.D. Meredith (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs: J.M.D. Bird; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae; J.D. Mortimer;
R.D. Peacock; S. Rowlands; T. Rowlands (see Min. 222/10(b)); R.G. Waters

Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

219/10 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were RECEIVED from:

Cllrs: M. Bond; J.E.H. Pitt; B.C. Roberts; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow (Chairman);
A. Wood

220/10 **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).

None were declared.

221/10 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the last meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee, held on 15th July 2010.

222/10 **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

a) Additional Land at The Mount – Min. 258/09(b)(ii)

It was NOTED that the revised transfer form has now been submitted to the Land Registry in draft form and approved. A signed version will now be obtained from Stepnell's solicitors and forwarded to this Council for execution.

Cllrs. D.A. MacRae and R.G. Waters offered to liaise with representatives from Cadw to enquire whether there would be any benefit in registering this land as part of the existing site at The Mount.

b) Pensarn Promenade Protection Measures – Min. 081/10(b)

(i) It was NOTED that the SRA application has been submitted by Shane Wetton, on behalf of this Council and that a decision is expected shortly.

(ii) Correspondence from Gareth Daniels, CCBC Highways, confirming the contract value remains at £48,000 and includes the original hooped design barriers, was RECEIVED.

- Cllr. T. Rowlands arrived at this juncture.

c) Bus Shelters – Min. 148/10(b)

(i) It was NOTED that CCBC is in the process of completing an audit of all bus shelters and will then be able to provide more information regarding those for which maintenance funding is being sought.

(ii) Members considered a request from Bob Saxby for financial assistance towards the purchase and ongoing maintenance of a new shelter for the business park (medical centre) bus stop. It was NOTED that CCBC now had sufficient grant funding to cover the purchase and installation costs, but that a commitment was required from the Town Council to provide £250 p.a. for the future maintenance of the shelter.

It was RESOLVED to agree to provide maintenance funding of £250 p.a. for this shelter only and to look for other funding sources to help with this, to include the Surgery Action Group and local bus company.

d) Energy Transfer for Floodlights

It was NOTED that the transfer of energy supplier for the floodlights in Pentre Mawr Park, as approved by the Executive Committee on 5th August, is in progress and should be completed shortly.

223/10

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:

a) Annual Grants

(i) Letters of thanks from the Canolfan Dewi Sant Centre Committee and St George VC School.

(ii) A copy of the programme from the recent mediaeval fayre.

b) TalkTalk

A letter regarding changes to the broadband service received, applicable from 1st October 2010 was considered.

It was RESOLVED to switch the service to the Opal Business broadband package, as suggested, at a future cost of £15pm (currently £15.99pm)

c) Standard Life

Notification of reduction in the interest rate applicable to the Hall & Development Reserve was NOTED.

d) Swansea Building Society

Notification of changes to interest rate structure for commercial deposits, resulting in a reduction in the rate applicable to the general reserve, was NOTED.

e) National Employers for Local Government Services

A letter clarifying the Government's policy on public sector pay was NOTED.

f) The following additional item of URGENT correspondence was RECEIVED:

(i) An invitation to send a representative to attend the Standards Conference Wales 2010 at Cardiff City Hall, at a cost of £60, plus travel and accommodation.

It was RESOLVED to support Cllr. J.A. MacLennan to attend this event.

(ii) Reference was made to an article in a recent issue of the N.W. Police Authority's newsletter regarding proposals to remove the dragon insignia from the sleeve of police uniforms.

It was RESOLVED to write to the Chief Constable, with a copy to the Chairman of the NW Police Authority and the press, to state the objections of this Council to the proposal.

224/10 **Expenditure Review**

At the request of Cllr. J.D. Mortimer, members considered the need to undertake a 'value audit' to examine the Council's expenditure and ensure it is operating as efficiently as it can be.

A full discussion took place, including the difficulty of comparisons with other local councils, which may not provide the same levels of service.

It was PROPOSED that a separate working group be set up to look at whether the Council is providing value for money. This was defeated by a majority of 3 in favour to 5 against.

It was instead RESOLVED to request that the Estimates Sub-Committee undertakes a 'Value Audit' prior to commencing work on the annual estimates for 2011/12.

225/10 **Paperwork**

At the request of Cllr. S. Rowlands, members were asked to consider ways in which the volume of paper used by the Council could be reduced.

It was NOTED that not all members had access to e-mail or the resources required to print out any copies of correspondence required for meetings, thereby making it difficult to move away from providing hard copies of correspondence files.

It was RESOLVED that any member wishing to receive e-mail attachments of correspondence files should contact the Clerk.

226/10 **Flagpole**

Members were asked to consider a request for a flagpole at the Town Hall, to enhance the status of the town.

It was NOTED that the cost of purchasing and installing a flagpole and flag(s) was not high, but concern was expressed that the height and spread of trees at the frontage of the Town Hall may make finding a suitable location for a flagpole difficult.

It was RESOLVED to refer this matter to the Heritage Sub-Committee and request that it investigates the feasibility of installing a flagpole at the Town Hall.

227/10 **Pack Deliveries**

It was NOTED that arrangements had now been made to continue the hand-delivery of summons/agenda packs for full Council/Committee meetings, at a fixed cost of £15pm.

It was FURTHER NOTED that the cost to send franked mail for all other items of post is currently much less than the equivalent stamp costs.

It was RESOLVED to seek further information on the cost of a small franking machine for the office, to see if this would be more cost effective.

228/10 **Sub-Committee Minutes**

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

- a) The Local Government Sub-Committee, held on 6th September 2010

b) The Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee, held on 19th July 2010

229/10 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes**

The resolutions of those sub-committees were NOTED.

230/10 **The Financial Situation, as at today, was NOTED :-**

	£
Current Account	4,011.10
Monthly Interest Account	100,262.98
General Reserve	<u>70,000.00</u>
TOTAL:	174,274.08
Hall & Development Account	473.02
Hall & Development Reserve	<u>71,461.38</u>
TOTAL:	71,934.40

231/10 **Payment of Accounts**

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

The Meeting Closed at 8.10 p.m.

..... Chairman

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Payments authorised on Thursday 16th September 2010:

	Chq No:	Total £	Incl. VAT £	Notes / Statutory Powers (new or unusual payments)
a) Salary payments	BACS	3,164.85		
b) Inland Revenue (Salaries)	103864	1,238.13		
c) Gwynedd Pensions	103865	1,086.43		
d) Tiscali (Broadband)	DD	18.79	2.80	
e) CCBC - National Non-Domestic Rates	DD	614.00		
f) WPS Insurance - renewal	103852	3,361.66		
g) The Elfod Fayre - donation	103853	500.00		
h) John Ffrancon Griffiths - translation	103854	40.78		
i) Pennine Tea & Coffee Ltd - supplies	103855	51.15	1.23	
j) Garden Pride - grounds maintenance	103856	328.00		
k) B.T. Combined quarterly bill	103857	198.34	29.54	
l) Petty Cash Imprest Acc	103858	230.98		
m) NWAT&LCC	103859	25.00		
n) Canon UK Ltd	103860	211.41	31.49	
o) Nick MacRae - repairs	103861	65.00		
p) NWN Media - job advertisement	103862	458.26	68.26	
q) Trinity Mirror - job advertisements	103863	1,991.86	296.66	

** 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.