

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE, held at 8.20 p.m. on Thursday 20th May 2010, immediately after the General Purposes and Planning Committee, in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

023/10 **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

The retiring Chairman, Cllr. B.C. Roberts, opened the meeting and called for nominations for the Office of Chairman of the Committee for 2010/11.

It was proposed, seconded and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the current Vice-Chairman, Cllr. K.J. Sudlow, be elected as Chairman for 2010/11.

Cllr. K.J. Sudlow took the Chair and called for nominations for the Office of Vice-Chairman for 2010/11.

It was RESOLVED to DEFER the election of a Vice-Chairman to the next meeting, to enable the newer members of the Council not present this evening to be considered for nomination.

024/10 **Attendance Register**

Cllr. K.J. Sudlow (Chairman)

Cllrs: M. Bond; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae; R.D. Peacock; B.C. Roberts; R.G. Waters; A. Wood

Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

025/10 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were RECEIVED from:

The Mayor, Cllr. R.M. Medicott

Cllrs: J.M.D. Bird; G.P. Davies; P.D. Meredith; J.D. Mortimer; S. Rowlands; T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs

026/10 **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.

027/10 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the last meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee, held on 22nd April 2010

028/10 **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

a) Gwynedd Pensions Meeting – Min. 534/09(b)

The Clerk gave a verbal report following the recent informal meeting for smaller employers, held in Caernarfon on 5th May:

- (i) It was NOTED that a presentation had been given on the 2010 valuation exercise, which will involve a review of the fund's assets and liabilities with a view to determining the amount of any deficit and any changes to the level of contributions that may be required to rectify this. The final outcome of the valuation exercise is not anticipated to be available until October/November.

- (ii) It was NOTED that Abergele Town Council is currently part of a Town Council 'pool' of employers and that it will need to inform Gwynedd Council by August if it wishes to withdraw from the pool, as this will have an effect on the valuation exercise and future contribution rate. The advantage of being part of a 'pool' is that this averages out the possibly severe effects on employer contribution rates caused by the cost of unexpected events such as early retirements due to ill health or pensioners living longer than the average life expectancy estimates. Employers wishing to withdraw from their current pool would have to satisfy Gwynedd Council that they have appropriate insurance against such events, which may be difficult, as not all risks are insurable.
- (iii) Notes had been issued on 'Flexible Retirements' and the possible impact these could have on the future costs of the scheme, where employees are still protected by the '85 year rule'.
- (iv) It was NOTED that the Annual Meeting between the Pension Committee and representatives of the employers and unions will take place at 2.30pm on Tuesday 20th July.

- b) Membership of One Voice Wales – Min. 534/09(a)
An acknowledgement of renewal of membership for 2010/11 was RECEIVED.
It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllrs. J.A. MacLennan and R.G. Waters as the two representatives to attend the quarterly Area Committee meetings on behalf of the Council.
- c) CCBC Owned Bus Shelters – Min. 579/09(c)
A copy of a letter sent by Darren Millar, AM, to CCBC regarding the request made for funding by Town & Community Councils towards maintenance of bus shelters was RECEIVED and NOTED.

029/10

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:

- a) Welsh Assembly Government:
Changes to Account and Audit Regulations and Capital Finance and Accounting Regulations in Wales
It was NOTED that the dates for the external audit and completion and approval of accounts had now been brought forward, with effect from 2011-12 and that from 2009-10 onwards, the approval of accounts by the council will take place at the end of the external audit process. Guidance is awaited from the Wales Audit Office as to how this is to be implemented.
- b) Clerks & Councils Direct
It was RESOLVED to renew the subscription for 2010/11, at a cost of £11 for six issues.
- c) It was NOTED that there were no additional items of URGENT correspondence.

030/10

Annual Grants

- a) It was NOTED that a letter of thanks has been received from the following grant recipients:
 - (i) Abergele Camera Club

(ii) Abergele Carnival Association

- b) A request for a grant from the Tramway and Light Railway Society towards the August 2010 event was RECEIVED and considered.
It was NOTED that the 2009 event had made a profit of £443.51 and it was therefore RESOLVED not to make a grant towards the August 2010 event, but to suggest that the Society instead submits an application for the 2011 event in September 2010, for consideration alongside all other applications for financial assistance.

031/10

Staff Training and Development

- a) It was NOTED that the Clerk's annual development review has recently been completed and it has been recommended that the Clerk attends the following SLCC training events during 2010/11, to assist the Clerk to update her knowledge and skills and to provide the continuing professional development (CPD) points required for continued Membership of the Institute of Local Council Management (the professional arm of the Society of Local Council Clerks):
- (i) SLCC Regional One Day Conference for Wales
 - to be held in Cwmbran on Wednesday 14th July 2010
 - (cost = £55, plus overnight hotel and shared travel expenses)
 - (ii) SLCC National Conference
 - to be held in Durham on Friday 15th – Sunday 17th October 2010
 - (cost = £320, if booked by 1st June, plus shared travel expenses)
 - (iii) SLCC Practitioners' Conference
 - Two day event, usually held in Feb/March (details not yet available)
- It was RESOLVED to authorise the Clerk to attend events (i) and (ii) above and to DEFER consideration of event (iii) until further details are available.**

032/10

Member Training

- a) A copy of guidance on the Code of Conduct from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales was RECEIVED and a copy distributed to all members.
- b) It was NOTED that replies were awaited from (12) Members regarding attendance at a training session for members on the Code of Conduct, to be delivered by the Clerk using materials supplied by CCBC.
It was RESOLVED to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer, CCBC, as to whether this training is still required, following distribution of the new guidance for members, and whether CCBC will be delivering a training session again later this year.

033/10

Sub-Committee Minutes

- a) The Minutes of the following sub-committees were RECEIVED:
The Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee, held on 26th April 2010
- b) **It was RESOLVED to approve continued membership of sub-committees for 2010/11 without amendment.**
- c) **It was RESOLVED to continue delegation of powers to all sub-committees, as detailed in the existing Terms of Reference.**

034/10 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the following recommendation made by the Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee, as detailed in the Minutes:

- a) **Lamp Column Motif in Pensarn – Min. 589/09(c)**
- That new infrastructure (timer and socket etc) is fitted to LC4 in Pensarn, to fill the current gap in the scheme.

- b) Replacement Lamp Column Programme – Min. 590/09
It was NOTED that the replacement of columns in different positions will have a major impact on the current scheme and that enquiries are being made about the cost of hiring new motifs, to enable a project action plan to be drawn up and appropriate budget agreed for 2011/12.

- c) It was NOTED that information has recently been received indicating that the Council will not in future be permitted by Highways to use any concrete columns for supporting cross-road festive lighting and that a meeting had been arranged for the Chairman of the sub-committee and the Clerk to walk through the town with a project Manager from Blachere to look at designs for alternative scheme(s) for 2010 onwards.

035/10 **The Financial Situation, as at today, was NOTED :-**

	£
Current Account	6,344.10
Monthly Interest Account	<u>144,354.60</u>
TOTAL:	150,698.70
Hall & Development Account	472.86
Hall & Development Reserve	<u>71,013.20</u>
TOTAL:	71,486.06

It was NOTED that one signature and several pieces of identification are still needed by the Clerk before the new investment account can be opened for part of the general reserves.

036/10 **Payment of Accounts**

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

037/10 **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.

- a) Additional Land at The Mount
The Clerk gave a brief verbal update following receipt of correspondence from Howell Jones & Co regarding the reason for ongoing delays with the registration of the additional land at The Mount with HM Land Registry.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

..... Chairman

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Payments authorised on Thursday 20th May 2010:

	Chq No:	Total £	Incl. VAT £	Notes / Statutory Powers (new or unusual payments)
a) Salary payments	BACS	2,924.37		
b) Inland Revenue (Salaries)	103787	1,094.58		
c) Gwynedd Pensions	103788	976.80		
d) Tiscali (Broadband)	DD	18.79	2.80	
e) CCBC - National Non-Domestic Rates	DD	614.00		
f) Petty Cash Imprest Acc - April - May	103774 103789	86.85 84.74		
g) N.W. Police Utilities Recharge	103775 103776	6,788.72 1052.23	1,052.23	
h) R M Medicott - Mayor's Allowance	103777	2,500.00		
i) Pennine Tea & Coffee Ltd - supplies	103778	100.27	1.23	
j) Merion Jones Landscapes	103779	705.00	105.00	
k) WNW - supplies	103780	92.04	13.71	
l) CCBC - Faenol roundabout grass cutting 2009/10	103781	453.61	67.56	
m) Garden Pride - grass cutting	103782	75.00		
n) Bangor University - Welsh Course	103783	66.00		
o) Canon UK Ltd - copier rental	103784	232.54		
p) CVSC - renewal of membership	103785	15.00		
q) Abergele Youth Action Café - catering	103786	360.00		

** 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.