

# Abergele Town Council

## MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council was held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 at 6.45p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

### 351/11 Attendance Register

Cllrs: M.Bond (Chairman); G.P. Davies; D.A. MacRae; R.M. Medicott; D. Meredith; J.E.H. Pitt; B.C. Roberts; J. Stubbs; R.G. Waters; A. Wood  
Mrs M. J. Evans (Clerk)  
Member of the press (NWWN)

### 352/11 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs: J.A. MacLennan; M.D. Bird; J.D. Mortimer; T. Rowlands; K.J. Sudlow;

### 353/11 Chairman

**In the absence of the Chairman it was PROPOSED, SECONDED, and RESOLVED that Cllr. M Bond preside as Chairman for this meeting.**

### 354/11 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

### 355/11 Visitors to the Council

The Chairman welcomed Mr Gareth Jones, Pension Manager from Gwynedd Pension Fund, who provided an overview of the Consultation on changing the Local Government Pension document together with the Report from the Pensions Committee dated 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011. Mr Jones explained that Lord Hutton's Report [http://cdn.hmtreasury.gov.uk/hutton\\_final\\_100311.pdf](http://cdn.hmtreasury.gov.uk/hutton_final_100311.pdf) had made recommendations to move away from the final salary payment to average salary payment and to link with the Benefit Pension age from 2020. It is proposed that from 2026 the pension age will raise to 67 and from 2038 to 68.

The Local Government scheme has two different schemes within it and the projections that were set by the Valuer were based on longevity and stock/bond value, which has not provided the dividend expected. The longevity of the population is now said to increase by two years for every ten that passes. Therefore, there is a shortfall in the projected back service of employees by 3-4%. Lord Hutton has proposed to change the scheme in two areas:

1. Increase the schemes retirement age in line with Benefit Pension age
2. To increase the % paid by employees on £21k or over

Mr Jones explained that the problem with point two above that is highlighted in the Gwynedd Pension report is that members who earn between £21k-£39k may drop out of the fund if the percentage increase is not affordable putting even greater pressure on those employers and employees still in the scheme.

Mr Jones wished to emphasize that the scheme would remain to be one of the best available even following the changes. Town & Community Councils are grouped together to reduce risk and Mr Jones stated that if the Town Council wished to stand alone it would be more costly directly to the Council. There is







