

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council was held on Thursday 1st March 2012 at 6.45p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

497/11 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, J.A. MacLennan;

Cllrs: M. Bond; G.P. Davies; D.A. MacRae; R.M. Medicott; D. Meredith; B.C. Roberts; S. Rowlands; T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters; A. Wood

Mrs M. J. Evans (Clerk)

Member of the Press

498/11 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs: M.D. Bird; J.E.H. Pitt;

499/11 **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

500/11 **Visitors to the Council**

As Mr Darren Miller AM was running late, it was RESOLVED to continue with Council business until Mr Miller arrives.

501/11 **Resolutions**

The Resolutions from previous Meetings as at 22nd February 2012 were RECEIVED

502/11 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN as a correct record the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on 2nd February 2012

503/11 **Matters Arising from those Minutes:**

- a) The first meeting of the Olympic Working group has been arranged for Monday 5th March at 6:30, was NOTED
- b) An email from Inspector Devonport regarding the request a greater Police presence on a Friday and Saturday nights in the Town. **It was RESOLVED to accept Inspector Davenport's offer to attend a meeting, as there had been a few incidents in the Abergele area.**
- c) A letter of response from the HSE regarding land at the rear of Cariad Bride, Market Street Abergele was RECEIVED. **The Clerk informed members that she has written to Regulatory Services as suggested in the HSE letter and it was RESOLVED to wait for the response.**

Correspondence

- The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED, CONSIDERED and NOTED:

- (a) Mayor's Diary - details of the Mayor's engagements for March 2012
- (b) Details of forthcoming meetings of the Council and its committees / sub-committees
- (c) A copy of letter from David Jones AM regarding the entrance and exit from the Business Park on to the A55 was NOTED. The Clerk provided an update stating that a letter had been received the Minister Kyle Sargent via Darren Miller AM office stating that there is no plan to have an entrance/exit from the A55. **It was RESOLVED to monitor the situation.**
- (d) A letter from East Promenade Consultative Group regarding their next meeting
- (e) A letter from a local resident regard a request for work experience was APPROVED
- (f) A letter from Friends of the Parklands with regard to the proposed fishing in local ponds was NOTED

Standing orders were suspended

The Mayor welcomed to Mr Miller to the Meeting of the Council and Mr Miller provided an overview to date stating that this was his 5th year to attend a meeting of the Town Council as part of his pledge to attend at least one meeting per year. Mr Miller stated that he knows how frustrating it can be dealing with different authorities.

Mr Miller was re-elected last year and will continue to meet with members at least once a year. Mr Miller welcomed the new Town Clerk and will be happy to support when required.

LDP – Agreed in principal to sign off but will not proceed with any disputed sites and will be going back for consultation, this will provide pressure for Abergele to take more than its share of the housing and this coupled with Bodelwyddan will have a major impact on the Health service, schools etc. We must all work together.

Housing projections from WG, three authorities who have not used the figures and have been requested to relook and to return with a higher figure. A new Planning Bill will have a fundamental change to housing. Conwy will have a tough time with the figures and not sure if the planning bill will address the problem. Housing is looking at the figures. The Minister will not give the directive to reduce the figures - must have growth.

Patients' voices not heard in Wales and North Wales has only one member on the Board of the Community Health Council for Wales. The Watchdog has been reduced from 22 down to eight and there has been a protest this week against the situation as the NHS is not fit for purpose. The Community Health Board is under review and Mr Miller is more than happy to post concerns on behalf of the Town Council.

NHS – the Betsi Cadwaladr Health Trust is carrying out a review of its services including A&E and Paediatrics. The minor incidents unit in Colwyn Bay and Ruthin closed with no notice before Christmas. This is a cause for concern and envisages that this is the thin end of the wedge of closures. The Chief Executive of the Trust has ensured Mr Miller that the service will be reinstated. The review

is still on-going and there should be a report issued in the summer. Mr Miller is calling for all to defend these services.

There is major funding into Ysbyty Glan Clwyd and temporary theatres will be set up. Mr Miller expressed concern how they will manage without Abergele Theatre for less complicated matters.

A55 Slip Road – the matter is not closed and if extra housing are built in the area, the matter will have to be reconsidered.

Charters – The Localism Bill will not be adopted in Wales. Karl Sargent is the Minister who is responsible for the Local Government Measure, which is the Wales version of the Bill. The Plan is for County Councils and Town and Community Councils to engage more through Charters, currently a Senior and Junior partner role. The Town and Community Councils must lobby to ensure that they are seen as equal partners.

Employment – there has been a shift in habits over the last few years and the role of a Town Centre has changed. Abergele has an elderly population that require local amenities. Traffic management and employment for the residents is a problem. Mr Miller is calling for Business Rates to be reduced, as Conwy is the least competitive in the UK. 300 posts in Health Care, Public Sector Bodies will be joining the Business Park and will assist the shops to be sustainable. There is no policy regarding Apprenticeships and the guidance does not appear to be clear. The Government are to reintroduce a YTS type scheme and Mr Miller will make a representation to the Minister for Business regarding this matter. The schemes that will be applicable are not clear.

Sea Road lights – Mr Miller will chase up this matter and provide an update.

Mr Miller offered an invitation to all to visit the Senedd.

The Mayor thanked Mr Miller for attending and the information provided.

Darren Miller retired at this juncture

Standing Orders were reinstated

- (g) A letter from YDCW/CPRW regarding free community tree planting packs. Trees come in 105 and 420 packs and some are Royal Oak. **It was RESOLVED to defer the matter to the Olympic Meeting for consideration and to forward the information to the Friends of the Parklands.**
- (h) A letter from the Countryside Council for Wales regarding their timetable for the open access in Wales
- (i) A letter from Walk for Life regarding a forthcoming event
- (j) A letter from Welsh Government confirming receipt of the Town Councils response to the Fire & Rescue National Framework
- (k) An email from CCBC Jenny Towill regarding a meeting on 7th March 2012
- (l) Revised costs for the Play in the Park provision for 2012. **It was RESOLVED that the Gele Members meet and discuss the venue situation. It was FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk double checks the CRB request.**
- (m) Notes and a copy of slides from the recent CCBC Charters Meeting held on January 24th
- (n) An email and attachment from CCBC to adopt the Charter. **It was RESOLVED to review the situation once the six-month rule has passed.**
- (o) An email regarding a petition for Wind Turbines
- (p) An email from CVSC regarding National Survey for Wales

- (q) An email from CVSC regarding a Microsoft 2010 course
- (r) An email and copy letter from Cllr Wood regarding the proposed viewing platform project
- (s) An email from a local resident regarding replacement of signage in the Town Centre
- (t) An email from CVSC regarding NHS food contacts
- (u) An email from OVW and Welsh Government regarding Call for Honours nominations (New year 2013)
- (v) An email and flyer from CVSC regarding International Women's day on 5th March
- (w) An email from Cllr MacLennan regarding 'Rule out abuse campaign' deferred from previous General Purpose and Planning Meeting was NOTED
- (x) An email from CVSC regarding a Consultation by Welsh Government on the Strategic Framework for Welsh Language Services in Health, Social Services and Social Care. **It was RESOLVED to defer the item to the Local Government Sub Committee**
- (y) An email from OVW regarding the recent ruling on prayers at a Council Meeting. **It was RESOLVED that the Clerk forwards a request to the Minister Karl Sargent to ask how this can be addressed.**
- (z) An email from CCBC regarding assistance for a local guided walk. Cllr Medlicott has agreed to assist.
- (aa) An email from OVW regarding an IT questionnaire. The Clerk informed members that due to the deadline for submission the questionnaire had been completed.
- (bb) An email from CCBC regarding Community Voice
- (cc) An email and Consultation Document from Burbo Bank Extension Offshore Wind Farm. **It was RESOLVED to defer the matter to the Local Government Sub Committee.**
- (dd) An email from PeBel with litter picking dates
- (ee) An email from OVW regarding the forthcoming elections
- (ff) A letter and minutes from the Friends of the Parklands recent meeting
- (gg) To note that Nomination Packs for the Election of Community Council are with the documents for information. The Clerk informed members that if they return their application to the Town Council before the 2nd April that she is happy to submit on their behalf. **It was RESOLVED that a date be set to assist new Councillors to fill in the Nomination forms is arranged.**

505/11 **Urgent Correspondence**

- The following additional items of urgent correspondence was RECEIVED.
 - a) Members APPROVED the Clerk's request to hold the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council on the Wednesday instead of the Thursday evening due to the Easter break.

506/11 **Update from County Councillors**

- An update from County Councillors was provided as follows:

- a) The Clerk informed members on behalf of County Councillor Hastings that he was wished to raise a matter regarding the Toilets at Pentre Mawr Park and Cllr Wood's involvement. Cllr Hastings stated that he (Cllr Hastings) had been involved in the negotiations from the beginning and was happy to amend the plans from a Bandstand to the Toilets as suggested by Cllr Wood but expressed concern about the option to have shop in one half of the Building. The Clerk explained that the proposal for a Shop had been raised by CCBC. The Clerk explained further to Cllr

Hastings that at this time the Town Council have not made any decision as to whether the Town Council will to adopt the toilets and would forward his comments for their consideration. The matter was NOTED.

- b) CCBC are to carry out a review of the LDP sites and the plan will be going back out to consultation.
- c) Council Tax has been set by Conwy CBC at 4%
- d) The Corporate Plan is to be approved

507/11 **Minutes**

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

- (a) General Purpose & Planning Committee held 19th January 2012.
- (b) Policy & Finance Committee held 19th January 2012

508/11 **Documents for Information**

The following Documents for information were NOTED

- (a) Woodberry of Leamington Spa
- (b) Colwyn Bay, Abergele & District Twinning Assoc
- (c) Kidney Wales – Walk for Life
- (d) Sustainable Gov
- (e) Soundscene Enterprise Skills Training
- (f) CVSC Mail
- (g) Welsh Gov Newsletter
- (h) Election of a Community Councillor – Nomination Paper Pack
- (i) CVSC Circulation 89 Feb 2012

Meeting Closed at 8:05pm

Signed

(Chairman)