

# Abergele Town Council

## MINUTES

A meeting of the POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE was held at 7.40pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011, in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

0024/11 **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

The Clerk opened the meeting and called for nominations for the Office of Chairman of the Committee for 2011/12.

**It was proposed, seconded and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Cllr. T. Rowlands, be elected as Chairman for 2011/12.**

Cllr. T. Rowlands took the Chair and called for nominations for the Office of Vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2011/12.

**It was proposed, seconded and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Cllr. R. Waters be elected as Vice-Chairman for 2011/12.**

0025/11 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, J.A. MacLennan;

Cllrs: M.D. Bird; M. Bond; G.P. Davies; D.A. MacRae; R.M. Medlicott; J.D. Mortimer; B.C. Roberts; T. Rowlands (Chairman); J. Stubbs; R.G. Waters; A. Wood

Mrs M. J. Evans (Clerk)

0026/11 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs: R.D. Peacock; J.E.H. Pitt; S. Rowlands; K.J. Sudlow

0027/11 **Disclosure of Interest**

Cllr. J. A. MacLennan Minute no: 0034/11

Cllr. T. Rowlands Minute no: 0029/11

0028/11 **Minutes**

**- It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee, held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011.**

0029/11

a) **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

**Purchase of the Town Hall**

(i) The Clerk has chased for a reply to the Clerk's letter to CCBC dated 23 March 2011 enquiring about any restrictions on the use of the Police Station should it be sold.

(ii) A meeting of the small working group will take place on Monday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm to discuss the matter was NOTED

b) **Gwynedd Pension Fund**

(i) Reference was made to the Valuation Report (Actuarial Valuation 2010) received from Gwynedd Pension Fund. The matter was considered far too complicated and it was suggested that two expert opinions should be sought – one from a Gwynedd Pensions representative and another from an independent actuary.

It was RESOLVED that the Council approach One Voice Wales for advice. One Voice Wales are looking into the matter and the Clerk is awaiting feedback from them was NOTED.

- (ii) A letter from Gwynedd Council – Annual Meeting of the Pensions Committee on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2011. **It was RESOLVED that the Clerk investigates as to who can attend the meeting.**
- (iii) A response to a letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> April and previous letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010 was NOTED

c) Perfect K9 4U

Arrangements had been made for Cllr S Rowlands and a CCBC Officer to meet with Mrs Bowley again. Cllr A Wood requested to be present at the meeting. The Meeting took place and the Councillors felt that it was a very informative meeting.

d) Footpath Links Abergele Lighting

An e-mail enquiry had been sent to Peter Adderley enquiring if CCBC would be willing to cover the cost of the running and maintenance of the electricity supply of the scheme.

It was RESOLVED that due to Peter Adderley's indisposition, that the e-mail be redirected to Val Adderley, PA to Stuart Davies, Highways CCBC. **It was RESOLVED that the Clerk makes CCBC aware that ATC plan to precept the project for the next financial year.**

e) A request from Cllr Brian Roberts to consider refurbishment of Gwrych Castle Tablets through Grant funding (for consideration by the Heritage Committee).

A reply was still awaited from Llanddulas & Rhyd y Foel Community Council to an e-mail sent by the Clerk requesting their support for the project to source grant funding for the refurbishment.

It was RESOLVED that, when a reply is received from Llanddulas & Rhyd-y-Foel CC, the matter to be further discussed at the May meeting. Llanddulas and Rhyd y Foel CC will discuss the issue at their Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> May and the Clerk will provide feedback to ATC Clerk following the meeting. The Clerk informed members that a provisional date for the meeting had been set for 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2011 was NOTED.

f) An e-mail from Cllr. Mortimer regarding the A55 Roadworks and a request for the Council to write to the North Wales Trunk Road Agency to ensure that the traffic management problems experienced do not happen again.

It was RESOLVED to write to NWTRA highlighting the problems experienced in the town during the A55 road works and requesting that better traffic management measures be put in place in the event of any future road works was NOTED.

g) Local Government - New mileage rates from January 2011 was NOTED.

- (i) It was RESOLVED to write to the Inland Revenue to clarify if the ceiling of 40p/mile remained or if it had been raised.
- (ii) Copy of the new rates for 2011/12 from the Inland Revenue website showing that the amount permitted has increased to 45p per mile. **Members considered the adoption of the new rate and it was RESOLVED to introduce the new rate of 0.45p with immediate effect.**

h) A letter from WREN regarding the Grant Application for Pentre Mawr Floodlighting.

It was RESOLVED that the declaration be signed and returned was NOTED.

i) E-mail with information regarding The Prince's Countryside Fund – 2011 Round Open.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr M Medicott follows up this line of enquiry in connection with local footpaths. On further investigation it transpired that this was parks not footpaths and therefore no further action is required.

j) Letter from Mr Crispin Jones, Labour AM candidate in the Welsh Assembly Election, regarding the inclusion of the advert concerning Darren Millar in the latest Town Council Newsletter.

- (i) The advert had been inadvertently included in the March 2011 Newsletter publication which had been delayed until April 2011. The Town Council recognized that the inclusion of the advert was inappropriate in view of the proximity of the Welsh Assembly Election but wished to stress that they have no bias to any particular party. It was RESOLVED to write a letter of explanation and apology to the four nominated AM candidates for Clwyd West constituency in the Welsh Assembly Government election, namely Mr Brian Cossey, Mr Crispin Jones, Mr Eifion Jones and Mr Darren Millar. In addition, a press release to be issued and publication of the apology to be displayed on the Town Council website.
- (ii) Following the Meeting it transpired that the matter may have been referred to the Electoral Commissioner. CCBC Chief Legal Officer advised that it would be prudent to take no action at present until confirmation/clarification of any such referral has been confirmed.  
**It was RESOLVED to take the advice of the Chief Legal Officer.**

0030/11

**Correspondence**

- To receive and consider the following items of correspondence:
- CVSC Training – can social media help your organization? 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011 was NOTED
  - CVSC - BBC Children in Need small grants workshop 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011 was NOTED
  - CVSC – Grants for Youth-led projects up to £1000 was NOTED
  - SLCC – Regional Conference 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011 request by the Clerk to attend was APPROVED with costs.
  - Annual Subscription Renewal for the Clerks & Councils Direct was approved and RESOLVED that a copy for all members of the Council should be ordered.

0031/11

**To consider any urgent Items of Correspondence**

- Standard Life Cash Savings changes to their savings accounts. The Clerk informed members that the changes regarding points 1 & 2 did not affect the Savings Plan that the Town Council hold was NOTED.

0032/11

**Documents for Information**

The documents below were NOTED

- Play for Wales issue 34
- Clerks & Councils Direct for May
- Proludic News
- Aon Hewitt – Local Government Pension Scheme Briefing

0033/11

**The Financial Situation, as at today was NOTED**

Current Account	£ 19178.26
Monthly Interest Account	£ 54102.99
General Reserve	£ 70400.35
<b><u>TOTAL:</u></b>	<b><u>£143681.60</u></b>

Hall & Development Account	£ 473.18
Hall & Development Reserve	£ 72138.57
<b><u>TOTAL:</u></b>	<b><u>£ 72611.75</u></b>

0034/11

**Payment of Accounts**

- The payment of accounts falling due, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached was AUTHORISED.

Meeting Closed at 8:15pm

Signed .....