

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council was held on Thursday 6th September 2012 at 6.45p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

198/12 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, T. Rowlands;
Cllrs: M.D. Bird; M. Bond; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae; R.M. Medlicott; B.C. Roberts; S. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; R.G. Waters; A. Wood
Mrs M. J. Evans (Clerk)
Two members of the public

199/12 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from:
Cllrs: M Roberts, K J Sudlow; J Pitt

200/12 **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

201/12 **Note of Congratulations**

Members congratulated Cllr S. Rowlands on the birth of his daughter and wished for a letter to be sent to Mr David Jones MP to congratulate him on his recent appointment as Secretary of State of Wales.

202/12 **Visitors to the Council**

The matter was deferred until Mr Isherwood arrived.

203/12 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN as a correct record the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on 5th July 2012

204/12 **Matters Arising from those Minutes:**

- (a) The information received from Sophie McKeand at the last meeting of the Council regarding the Cittaslow Project outlined in under Min No: 117/12 of the July Ordinary Meeting was CONSIDERED. The Clerk provided a brief overview of the presentation by Ms McKeand. **It was RESOLVED due to the cost of the joining fee of £1500 not to join at present but to DEFER the matter to the Town Centre Working Group for further consideration.**
- (b) Update from CCBC regarding parking on the pavement (item on page 42 was considered together with this item). Members discussed the matter and stated that the pavement was not designed for cars to be parked on and the danger was to the services that lie under the ground. **It was RESOLVED to forward Mr Cooks email to CCBC and for a note to be made in the Newsletter that the law states double yellow lines near a pavement is parking offence and must be adhered to.**

An A55 Road closure on the 24-26th September between Abergele and Old Colwyn was discussed. **It was RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the Parking Section to request that the Wardens patrol for longer on those date in order to prevent parking on the pavement creating an obstruction.**

Mr Isherwood arrived at this juncture

- (c) Cllr Wood has met with the resident regarding no path from Abergele Hospital and has shown an alternative path. Cllr. S. Rowlands and Cllr MacLennan have met with CCBC Officers regarding the maintenance of the path through the Rural Development Grant.
- (d) An update regarding the funding from Pinders Circus for use of Pentre Mawr Park was RECEIVED. Members stated that there is a Management Plan, which outlines what CCBC are to carry out as part of their duties for the Park. Cllr Wood will provide a copy of members. CCBC are to consider the leasing of areas within the County at their Meeting on the 11th September 2012.
- (e) The first Mayors Surgery was scheduled for September 3rd; adverts were placed in the Library, notice boards and local press.
- (f) An email from CCBC regarding the recent Community Environment Day was NOTED

205/12 Visitor to the Council

The Chairman welcomed Mr Mark Isherwood AM, Shadow Minister for Communities and Housing, to the meeting (deferred from Min No: 5) who provided members with an overview to the LDP.

Standing Orders were suspended

Mr Isherwood stated that there was sensitivity around the Plan in this area and when Wrexham County Council reduced the number of proposed housing this was rejected by the Welsh Government.

The approach is to work with Care and Repair to have a programme running from 2006-2026 which will require additional homes based on demographics, growth and social issues. Mr Isherwood discussed the role of Central, Welsh and Local Government and the release of affordable homes in England, which was welcomed by providers.

Mr Isherwood has met with North Wales Construction Group earlier with year and they have concerns that there may need to be redundancies, the Minister is in favour of a plan to support them.

At local level – localities should have a voice so that the plan is not thrust upon them to consider larger development without the wider impact, which is not sustainable. The Minister explained that there has to be a market of affordable housing to assist people to be able to access the housing market.

Questions were raised by Members regarding the following:

- (i) Closure of schools - if there are so many houses required then why are schools closing? Mr Isherwood stated that at present there are surplus places in schools and that Local Authorities have to plan for funding, if it not approved by Welsh Government the funding will not be allocated. When numbers do increase in the future, the aim is to have better facilities.
- (ii) Jobs before environment – the Planning system in Wales proposes a similar system to England? Mr Isherwood stated that an injection is needed to boost the economy and radical action is required – the debate is the impact on the environment.
- (iii) The local Business Parks have many empty units, Planning is not restricting this - it is other issues, is there anything that the economy can do to create investment? Members stated that they are not against growth but 830 houses with no infrastructure is an issue.

Mr Isherwood stated that Welsh Government is concerned about the number of houses but the location of the housing is for Local Government to decide. The scale of growth of the proposed housing is not sustainable. North Wales

Construction Group has stated that they will not be building, as they cannot afford to unless the regulations are relaxed.

There is a shortage across the spectrum of housing of all types and migration was 2000 people inwardly in Wales in 2011.

- (iv) Bodelwyddan has also been allocated 600 houses adding this together the impact for the area is substantial.
- (v) The Local Government Wales Measure 2011 supports the move to transfer power from County Councils to Town & Community Councils – would you prefer this went further?
- (vi) If there is a wish to submit any objections to the LDP such as voting on the legislation and /or amendments or wish to raise any matters through the Minister? Mr Isherwood stated that it is difficult to change matters that override the party in power and continued to explain his role in Welsh Government, and it is proposed to bring empty homes back into use. Denbighshire CC has won an award for their Empty Homes Project.
- (vii) Was the Member aware that people who are in assisted living housing were not counted towards the calculation? Mr Isherwood stated that this was an interesting point and questioned if this was unique to Conwy. It was NOTED that the Clerk would email this point to Mr Isherwood.

The Chairman thanked Mr Isherwood for attending.

Standing Orders were reinstated

Mr Isherwood retired at this juncture

206/12 **Correspondence**

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

- (a) Mayor's Diary - details of the Mayor's engagements for September 2012
- (b) To receive details of forthcoming meetings of the Council and its committees / sub-committees. The Clerk provided an update to the Meeting Schedule stating that the Local Government Sub Committee will meet on the 17th September and the Town Centre Sub Committee will meet on the 26th September.
- (c) Informal notes from the recent Police Liaison meeting
- (d) A letter from CCBC regarding nominations for communities to vote for an outdoor space in their area to be permanently protected as a tribute to the Diamond Jubilee. **It was RESOLVED that the Clerk forwards the Mount for consideration by the County.**
- (e) A press release by Lloyds TSB regarding funding programme to support older people. **It was RESOLVED to forward to the OAP Club, Autumn Club and the Chapel (Cllr MacRae to provide contact details)**
- (f) (i) An email from Cllr Medlicott regarding a proposed Community Orchard in Gele Park from the Environment Agency
(ii) An email from Cllr Wood (as Friends of the Parklands) regarding the above
- (g) A letter from a local resident regarding No 2 Sea Road
- (h) A letter from Tai Clwyd regarding their Annual Report
- (i) A letter from Shelter Cymru regarding their Surgeries in the County
- (j) An email from a local resident regarding the Town Centre. **It was RESOLVED to forward to the Town Centre Sub Committee**

- (k) A request from the Mayor to consider the Footpath at the entrance to Gwrych Castle. **It was RESOLVED to add to the General Purpose and Planning Sub Committee Meeting**
- (l) A email from OVW regarding Stakeholder Reference Group
- (m) An email from OVW regarding the Equality Act 2010
- (n) An email and letter from Welsh Government with regard to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report – December 2012. Cllr J.A. MacLennan had attended the Meeting and provided members with a brief overview of the report to be submitted on behalf of the NWATLCC, stating that Town & Community Councils should receive reasonable expenses for meetings that they have to attend outside of their area but should not be paid.
- (o) Members RECEIVED and CONSIDERED letters from Abergele Theatre Group regarding facilities in Abergele.

Standing orders were suspended

Members invited Mr Hubbard from the Theatre Group to provide an overview of the request. Mr Hubbard stated that he had written to the Council as Chairman of the Group and provided an overview of their request stating that they had no designated venue to meet. **It was RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Church in Wales Office, Cardiff to consider donating the Church House building as a Community facility to the people of Abergele.**

Standing orders were reinstated

- (p) A letter from PeBel regarding a fund raising event
- (q) A letter from the NSPCC regarding a request for funding. **It was RESOLVED to forward to the forthcoming grants meeting**
- (r) An email from Cllr MacLennan regarding the Tidy Towns Scheme. Cllr MacLennan explained that this is a scheme run by the probation service.
- (s) (i) An email from RWE regarding Gwynt y Mor Offshore Wind Farm
(ii) A letter from RWE regarding the Gwynt y Mor Offshore Wind Farm
- (t) An email request to post information on the Town Council Website regarding Blood Donors was APPROVED
- (u) An email from a local resident regarding parking was considered together with item 6b
- (v) An email from OVW Wales regarding a trip to Edible Todmorden
- (w) An email from Penmaenmawr Town Council regarding OVW training was welcomed by Members.
- (x) An email from a Llysfaen family regarding 'Kyle's Miracle Wish'. **It was RESOLVED that members support this item individually.**
- (y) A letter from a local resident regarding over hanging vegetation. **It was RESOLVED to forward the matter to CCBC Highways Department.**
- (z) A letter from the Abergele Harriers regarding the installation of lighting at Pentre Mawr Park. The Clerk updated members stating that a site visit had taken place today (Thursday) and that Mr Len Jackson CCBC was to draw up a scheme for consideration by members.
- (aa) A letter from OVW regarding motions for debate. **It was RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Abergele Harriers to provide them with an update**
- (bb) An email from OVW regarding training courses
- (cc) A letter from OVW regarding the 'Voice' magazine
- (dd) A letter from CCBC regarding a code of conduct course on the 27th September 2012. **It was RESOLVED that the Clerk and Cllr Morris Roberts should attend the course**
- (ee) A letter from Scottish Power regarding an Awards Evening

- (ff) A copy of a letter from Community Radio Wales
- (gg) An email from CVSC regarding Welsh Rugby Union Offers. **It was RESOLVED to forward to the Rugby Club for their consideration.**
- (hh) An email from John Barton of Conwy Access regarding a trip around Wales
- (ii) An email from Community buying regarding fuel
- (jj) An email from OVW regarding Health Board Consultation Document. **It was RESOLVED to forward to the Local Government Sub Committee for consideration.**
- (kk) An email from CCBC regarding a new wildlife habitat in your community. **It was RESOLVED to forward to Friends of the Parklands and PeBel for their attention.**
- (ll) An email from Sillson regarding Burbo Bank offshore wind farm
- (mm) A consultation document from OVW regarding the Local Authorities Powers to promote Wellbeing
- (nn) An email regarding Makaton Workshop
- (oo) An email regarding Health Board Consultation Document (dealt with under Min no: 206/12 (jj) above.
- (pp) An email from OVW regarding Citizen panels for Social Services in Wales
- (qq) An email from CVSC regarding Word tips and tricks. **It was RESOLVED that the Clerk attends the course.**
- (rr) An email from CCBC regarding B2C Professional Workshop
- (ss) An email from CVSC regarding Community Facilities and Activities Programme
- (tt) An email from NW Police regarding Drivers
- (uu) An email from OVW regarding Village SOS
- (vv) An email from CCBC regarding a temporary traffic order in Ffordd Tan y Fron
- (ww) An email and letter from a visitor to the area. **It was RESOLVED to inform the visitor that this is not within the Abergele area but in Kinmel Bay.**
- (xx) An email from CCBC regarding Walking Leader Meeting
- (yy) An email from CCBC regarding the Autumn Fest 2012
- (zz) An email from Unlockdemocracy regarding Sustainable Communities Act
- (aaa) An email from Cllr Wood regarding Coastal erosion/fence posts. Cllr Wood provided an update stating that erosion was predicted at 2 meters per year, creating a flood risk to the area. Mr Dafydd Rowlands is investigating. Cllr Wood also stated that there were 48 redundant posts on the beach which were to be removed in October. **It was RESOLVED that the matter remains on the Agenda for a further update.**
- (bbb) A letter from CCBC regarding LDP Consultation on the Focussed Changes Report. **It was RESOLVED that the Mayor, Chairman of the Policy & Finance Sub Committee and the Clerk meet to formalise a letter of response for APPROVAL by the Council for the next Ordinary Meeting.**

207/12 Resolution:

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 and with Standing Order no.68, it was RESOLVED that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

(a) **Administration Officer**

An update from the Clerk with regard to the post of Administration Officer for the Town Council was provided.

208/12 **Charity of Robert Roberts (Trustees)**

The Clerk informed members that to date no progress had been made with regard to the estate despite several emails to the Red Cross and the Solicitor dealing with the matter of behalf of the Trustees. **It was RESOLVED to write to Mr David Jones MP to request his assistance in this matter.**

209/12 **Annual Accounts 2011/12**

- (a) A copy of a letter from Hacker Young was RECEIVED. Members thanked the Clerk for all her work in the preparation of the Return.
- (b) **It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the Annual Return for Signing by the Chairman and the Clerk.**

210/12 **Urgent Correspondence**

- No additional items of urgent correspondence were RECEIVED

211/12 **Update from County Councillors**

- A verbal report from County Councillors was RECEIVED as follows:
 - (a) CCBC Principal Scrutiny has held a Meeting. Cllr S. Rowlands will forward a report to the Clerk for inclusion at the next Meeting.
 - (b) Council tax is set to be capped at 5% but will still require additional cuts to balance the budget. Members are aiming to keep the amount as low as possible but require to achieve a £5million saving.
 - (c) Welsh Government has stated that Social Services and Education Budgets are ring fenced and therefore in real terms the cuts have to come from the other departments.
 - (d) Audit Committee are now investigating the School Transport overspend of £500,000 in October
 - (e) Members congratulated Cllr S Rowlands on becoming Chairman of the Audit Committee
 - (f) Members have met with Marianne Jackson to discuss funding for the Abergele area and this should be addressed as the next focussed area.

212/12 **Minutes**

- **It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE the Minutes of the following Meetings / Committees:**

- (a) General Purpose & Planning Committee held 21st June 2012.
- (b) Policy & Finance Committee held 21st June 2012
- (c) Executive Committee held 13th October 2011
- (d) Christmas Decoration Sub Committee held 31st May 2012

213/12 **Draft Minutes**

- **It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE the Draft Minutes from the following Meeting**

- (a) Executive Committee held 21st August 2012

214/12 **Matters arising on those Minutes**

- (a) The Clerk provided members with an update regarding the Town Hall Car Park stating that the work will be carried out on Monday and Tuesday next week and lines will be painted on the Wednesday. Members APPROVED the closure of the Town Hall for the two days.
- (b) An email from Cllr Wood with regard to a recent meeting held at the Rugby Club was dealt with under Min No: 206/12 (gg) above.

215/12 **Suit received from old Abergele family**

Members were shown a hat from 1902/03 from the old Abergele School from a family with a local history to the area gifted to be displayed by the Council on behalf of the family. **It was RESOLVED that the hat should be framed in a box frame and a letter of thanks be sent to the family for the donation.**

216/12 **Letters of thanks**

The following letters of thanks were RECEIVED

- (a) A letter of thanks from Cytun
- (b) Abergele Camera Club
- (c) St George Village Hall Trust
- (d) A letter of congratulations from a local resident regarding the Olympic Torch

217/12 **Documents for Information**

The following documents for information were RECEIVED

- (a) Tai Clwyd 2011/12
- (b) Play and Leisure July 2012
- (c) Welsh Government News
- (d) Shelter Cymru
- (e) Play Wales members bulleting for August
- (f) Equalities Act 2010
- (g) Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report
- (h) Historic Towns Forum Newsletter for August
- (i) Action for Market Towns
- (j) ICO e-newsletter August
- (k) CCBC email regarding Events
- (l) Hafan and you
- (m) Kompan
- (n) Wicksteed
- (o) OVW Courses
- (p) OVW the Voice
- (q) Russell Play
- (r) Consultation Document – Power to promote wellbeing
- (s) Consultation Document – Healthcare in North Wales

Meeting Closed at 8:50pm

Signed
(Chairman)