

# Abergele Town Council

## MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 at 6.45pm in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

### 682/13 Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr A Wood;

Cllrs: M D Bird; M Bond; G P Davies; R M Medicott; B C Roberts; Cllr M Roberts; S Rowlands; Cllr J Stubbs; K J Sudlow; R G Waters;

Mrs Ann Roberts (Administration Officer)

### 683/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllr B Kinsey; Cllr J A MacLennan; Cllr D A MacRae; Cllr T Rowlands

### 684/13 Declaration of Interest: Code of Conduct

Members are reminded that they must declare the **existence** and **nature** of any personal interests (using the form provided for this purpose).

None were declared

### 685/13 A Word of Condolence

Cllr B C Roberts advised members of the sad news of the recent death of the Town Clerk's mother. The full Council stood for a minutes silence as a mark of respect and wished to convey their sincerest sympathy to the Town Clerk and her family.

### 686/13 Visitor to the Council

*Standing orders were suspended*

Chairman, Cllr A Wood, welcomed Mr Meirion Jones, Gwynedd Pension Service, to the Council, who was attending following a request from the Council for an overview of the new Pension Scheme introduced in April 2014. Mr Jones advised that the Pension Scheme needed to change as people are living longer resulting in a big rise in pension payments. The Hutton Report, which undertook a structural review of public service pensions, detailed recommendations on how pensions can be made sustainable and affordable in the future. The new Scheme is intended to be fairer and more cost effective.

Changes include:

- delaying payment of a pension from the fund until State Retirement Pension (SRP) age and this will increase in line with the SRP age
- the pension payable will now be calculated on each year's salary separately and not on the 'final year salary'
- the pension calculation will be based on 1/49<sup>th</sup> of pensionable pay each year
- no automatic lump sum payment

There is no change to:

- death in service payment
- ill health benefits remain the same
- dependents benefits remain the same

All pensions in payment or built up before April 2014 will be protected and for current contributing scheme members any pre-April 2014 pension will still be based on final salary at retirement. Employees can choose to opt out of the Scheme with benefit being frozen until retirement age; also available was the option to pay half

contributions to get half pension – this being a short term arrangement and renewable every three years.

Mr Jones was thanked for his very concise and informative presentation.

*Standing Orders were reinstated*

687/13 **Minutes**

**It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN as a correct record the Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 3 April 2014**

688/13 **Matters Arising from those Minutes:**

- (a) Members expressed their disappointment that the provision of parking spaces in Market Street was taking so long to complete. **It was RESOLVED to follow up the outstanding issue with a copy of the letter to Mr Will Roberts (Highways)**

689/13 **Correspondence**

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

- (a) Mayor's Diary - details of the Mayor's engagements for May 2014 were NOTED
- (b) Details of forthcoming meetings of the Council and its Committees / sub-Committees were RECEIVED
- (c) CVSC mail from 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014 to 18<sup>th</sup> April 2014 was RECEIVED
- (d) OVW emails from 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014 to 18<sup>th</sup> April 2014 were RECEIVED
- (e) An email from Mark Bailey from Fairways regarding the naming of the new dementia centre. **It was RESOLVED to request suggestions for appropriate names from Cllr D A MacRae as a local historian and these to be considered at the next General Purposes and Planning Committee**
- (f) The Agenda for the recent meeting of the Town and Community Council Forum was RECEIVED. A report from Cllr J A MacLennan DEFERRED due to his absence from the Ordinary Meeting
- (g) An email from North Wales Police with regard to Operation Darwen was NOTED. The Council considered that any measures to reduce motor cyclist deaths was to be applauded
- (h) An email from Nest with regard to a Fuel Poverty Scheme was NOTED.
- (i) An email from OVW with regard to the Final Climate Change Project Meeting Cllr R G Waters advised that he would be attending the final meeting in Builth Wells next week and that he will be prepare a report following this meeting
- (j) An email from Welsh Government with regard to the recent removal of the requirement for two signatories. Although it was possible to continue the two signature system, the Council recognised that the payment process needs to change. After some discussion, two proposals for making payments were made:
  - i. To adopt a procedure whereby a Councillor views an invoice, print their name and add signature to the invoice if in agreement for payment to be made. This would be the authorisation for the Clerk to make an electronic payment
  - ii. That the Clerk continues to make further enquiries to find an electronic system of payment suitable for the way this Council operates
- (k) A poster advertising May Day Rhos Festival was NOTED

690/13 **Nominations**

Procedural arrangements for the Annual Meeting to be held on 8 May 2014 were discussed and it was agreed that the nomination for Mayor for 2014/15 be

proposed by Cllr J A MacLennan, seconded by Cllr R G Waters; and that of Deputy Mayor for 2014/15 be proposed by Cllr K J Sudlow, seconded by Cllr M Bird

691/13 **Urgent Correspondence**

- To RECEIVE the following items of correspondence:
  - a) Coed Cadw Woodland Trust – Woodland Fête. Members supported this venture and suggested that details be included in the forthcoming Town Council Newsletter
  - b) Conwy Connect for Learning Disabilities – details of a Meeting on 13 May 2014 were NOTED

692/13 **Update from County Councillors**

County Councillor Sam Rowlands advised that:

- CCBC Audit Governance Report was positive
- CCBC AGM to be held on 8 May 2014 when a new Chair would be appointed
- Contract signed for a Restaurant to be operated by Bryn Williams at Porth Eirias. Conwy Council given £30,000 towards the new kitchen
- It was noted that residents had started moving in to the newly completed Hafod y Parc Sheltered Housing development

County Councillor Andrew Wood advised:

- An allocation of £500.000 for improvements in the Tŷ Crwn area

693/13 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the following Meetings / Committees were RECEIVED:

- (a) General Purpose & Planning Committee held on the 20 March 2014.
- (b) Policy & Finance Committee held on the 20 March 2014

694/13 **Documents for Information**

The following documents for information were NOTED:

- (a) Welsh Government Newsletter
- (b) CVSC News
- (c) Conwy 2014-15 Wildlife Events
- (d) Play for Wales (Issue 42)

Meeting Closed at 8.10pm

Signed ..... (Chairman)