

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council was held on Thursday 3rd April 2014 at 6.45p.m. in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

639/13 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, A. Wood;

Cllrs: M.D. Bird; M. Bond; G.P. Davies; B. Kinsey; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae; R.M. Medlicott; D. Meredith; J.E.H. Pitt; B.C. Roberts; S. Rowlands; T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters;

Mrs M. J. Evans (Clerk)

640/13 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from:

Cllr. M. Roberts

641/13 **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

642/13 **Visitor to the Council**

Standing orders were suspended

The Chairman welcomed Mr Tom Gravatt, from CCBC to the Council who is attending by request from members to discuss matters relating to the local area.

Mr Gravatt informed members that he was the Countryside and Rights of Way Manager, his manager is Mr Lyn Davies, who is responsible for Open Spaces, Countryside/Rights of way, parks and street cleaning.

Countryside and Rights of Way have been split into three geographic areas, coastal west, coastal east and rural with a Manager for each.

Mr Garrett explained that he is responsible for all Right of Way issues, natural resources, SSSI, biodiversity, woodland, promoting walks etc.

The Deputy Mayor requested if an urgent item under Min No: could be brought forward regarding the pipes that are being constructed for Colwyn Bay on Pensarn Beach and transported over the weak Sea Road Bridge on a lorry. This item did not come under Mr Gravatt and was DEFFERED until later in the Agenda.

Members enquired about Tower Hill, Styles, crossings and if grants could be obtained to maintain and the development at the Castle with a right of way through the area. Mr Gravatt informed members that the right of way at Tower Hill has now been added to the definitive map but that CCBC have no funds to maintain but ATC could source grants to apply to be able to make improvements. If the route is on a map then grant funding can be applied for to improve.

Rights of way improvement plan is based on categorising danger. If Gwyrch Castle receive enough evidence statements and the owners are identified, then the area can be added to the map.

The path at Bryn Twr, funding was sourced, members enquired if there any further plans to save the path? Mr Gravatt informed that the revenue budget has decreased and have engaged engineers to ascertain the short, medium and long term requirements for the path.

Members enquired how Ffordd y Dwr was to be protected under the LDP? Mr Gravatt informed that Rights of Way with Planning and legislation can divert the right of way to a more practical line. Members informed that Roman coins had been found in the lane.

Graig Llan on Vardre Hill has disappeared and Vardre Hill to Warren Cottage is blocked. Mr Gravatt informed that Rights of Way have a duty to deal with such matters.

Ty Crwn is not on the definitive map, an application is required for it to be added, and otherwise it has not legal status.

Cycle Path, Councillors were informed that this falls under Highways.

Tan y Fron Road, Access is blocked on the old public road, and Green Lane, members were informed that this is a Highways matter.

SSSI concerned regarding erosion, and coastal protection. This matter is being dealt with by Dyfed Rowlands as the Flood Risk Manager. Natural Resources Wales have a statutory responsibility for such matters and have funding to carry out remedial works.

Members enquired if path signage could be improved to show where the paths goes to i.e. Tower Hill, Mr Gravatt informed members that there is a Right of Way improvement grant available to provide locations and requested if members could provide suggestions for detail and will consider including in a bid for funding if the Town Council put together a package of proposals.

Mr Gravatt informed members that there is a map available on the internet and gave members a cd with statements.

Members enquired about the paths by the chest hospital and what is CCBC responsibility regarding maintenance and accessibility. Mr Gravatt informed that there had been a pay freeze last financial year and only urgent items were being dealt with.

Members enquired with Mr Gravatt as custodian of SSSI what influence does the department have and was informed that Natural Resources Wales have a statutory duty to find a solution.

Mr Gravatt informed members that the maps can be located on the CCBC website under find it/online mapping/paths and rights of way

The Chairman thanked Mr Gravatt for attending.

Standing order were reinstated

643/13 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN as a correct record the Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on 6th March 2014

Matters Arising from those Minutes:

- (a) An update from the Clerk regarding the provision of disabled spaces on Market Street. County Members informed members that the matter was subject to call-in and will go to cabinet next week. No update was received from the County Officer.
- (b) An email from CCBC with regard to the provision of heritage lamp columns on Llanfair Road. Members considered the request for funding and the response from CCBC. **It was RESOLVED that at this time the Council will only fund heritage lighting within the conservation area and all the columns in this area are already heritage lighting. It was FURTHER RESOLVED that at this time the Council is not able to assist with funding**
- (c) A letter from Towyn & Kinmel Bay Town Council following a matter raised by the Deputy Mayor was NOTED. The Deputy Mayor informed members that Cllr Stone from Towyn and Kinmel Bay was unwell. **It was RESOLVED to send a letter of best wishes to Cllr Stone.**
- (d) An email from CCBC with regard to Pensarn Beach work. **It was RESOLVED to write to CCBC Harbour Master to highlight the damage to Pensarn beach following the construction of the pipes for Colwyn Bay on the beach. It was FURTHER RESOLVED to highlight the matter that the pipes were then being transported over the Sea Road Bridge and through the Town in the daytime.**

Correspondence

- The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED, CONSIDERED and NOTED:
 - (a) Mayor's Diary - details of the Mayor's engagements for April 2014
 - (b) Details of forthcoming meetings of the Council and its committees / sub-committees were RECEIVED. Cllr Waters informed members that there would be a Climate Change Meeting week commencing 28th April.
 - (c) the CVSC mail from 15th March 2014 to 27th March 2014
 - (d) the OVW emails from 15th March 2014 to 27th March 2014
 - (e) a letter and attachments from the SLCC
 - (f) A letter from SP Manweb with regard to the Stage 3 Consultation. This was considered to be out of the Abergele area.
 - (g) An email from CCBC with regard to the Palm Sunday walk of witness
 - (h) An email from Communities Equality and Local Government Committee regarding Stage 1 report on the Housing (Wales) Bill
 - (i) An email from Parking Services regarding the Abergele Car parks. The clerk provided members with an update. **It was RESOLVED to request an update from Parking Services.**
 - (j) An email from Cllr Bird and update from CCBC for members' consideration. County Councillors informed that they had been in touch with Legal and they were currently investigating. **It was RESOLVED to contact Enforcement to investigate.**
 - (k) A letter of thanks from the Headteacher of Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan was NOTED
 - (l) An email from Rhiannon Wind Farm with a notice of statutory consultation
 - (m) An email from OVW with regard to an invitation to a Land and Asset Seminar
 - (n) An email from OVW with regard to holding a course at the Town Hall
 - (o) A request from the Clerk to attend the SLCC/OVW Wales conference on the 15th May was APPROVED.

- (p) An email from CCBC with regard to the Affordable Housing SPG. **It was RESOLVED to forward the Planning consultation to the Local Government Sub Committee for consideration before the deadline.**
- (q) An email from a local resident regarding volunteering

Cllr Pitt retired at this juncture

646/13 **Procedure Matters**

- (a) The Clerk provided members with information with regard to the Mayor's allowance. **It was RESOLVED to continue with the current system of administration until further information is received.**
- (b) The Clerk provided members with an update of required to be added to the Town Council website regarding members. Members APPROVED the Clerks RECOMMENDATION and will wait for further information regarding additional information to be added.
- (c) The following recently adopted Policies were SIGNED by the Mayor Cllr Andrew Wood.
 - (i) Welsh Language Scheme
 - (ii) Equal Opportunities Council

647/13 **Nominations**

- Nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor for 2014/15, in preparation for the Annual Meeting, to be held on 8th May 2014 were RECEIVED and CONSIDERED as follows:

Deputy Mayor for 2013/14 Cllr S. Rowlands
Proposed by Cllr J MacLennan
Seconded by Cllr B C Roberts

648/13 **Support for Gwyrch Castle Preservation Trust**

Members APPROVED the letter of support from the Clerk with regard to the above project. Members expressed that they were disappointed that Mr Mark Baker had not met with the Council to discuss support with members of the Council. **It was RESOLVED to request that he attends the Council to discuss support with members**

649/13 **Electors Register**

- Copies of the electors register for members' area were RECEIVED.

650/13 **Urgent Correspondence**

- (a) A matter from the Deputy Mayor regarding the pipes on Pensarn beach which are being then transported to Colwyn Bay over the weak bridge was discussed in item Min No 644/13(d) above
- (b) The Clerk enquired with members as to who was willing to not receive a paper copy of the correspondence file, Cllr Tim Rowlands, and Cllr Bird AGREED to stop receiving paper correspondence at this time.

651/13 **Update from County Councillors**

- Written and verbal reports from County Councillor were RECEIVED

- (a) New plans for unrecyclable waste have been unveiled.
- (b) Licensing has been split into Statutory for public houses and General for taxi and harbour matters
- (c) A new licensing policy for members and predetermination when dealing with matters and not to be able to sit on the Committee if they are a Community

Councillor. **It was RESOLVED to write to CCBC for clarification and for an explanation as to why a declaration of interest is not sufficient.**

- (d) CCBC meetings are now recorded and on the website
- (e) Cllr Rowlands informed members that he is on the Gypsy travellers working group and a meeting will be held in three weeks time to discuss sites.
- (f) Fly tipping is a problem on Tan y Fron Road. **It was RESOLVED to report to CCBC and add contact details for CCBC to the next Newsletter.**
- (g) Yellow lines are to be reinstated at the primary schools
- (h) Marianne Jackson is to hold a meeting with County Members regarding the Abergele Plan in the near future

652/13 **Minutes**

- The Minutes of the following Meetings / Committees were RECEIVED:
 - (a) General Purpose & Planning Committee held on the 20th February 2014.
 - (b) Policy & Finance Committee held on the 20th February 2014

653/13 **Documents for Information**

The following documents for information were NOTED

- (a) Welsh Government Newsletter
- (b) Empowerment and Responsibility Legislative Powers to Strengthen Wales
- (c) North Wales Wind Farm Connection Project
- (d) Itaca – flyers

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed
(Chairman)