

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE was held at 6.55pm on Thursday 19th September 2013, in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

256/13 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, A. Wood;
 Cllrs: M.D. Bird; M. Bond (Chairman); G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae; R.M. Medicott; M. Roberts; J. Stubbs; R.G. Waters;
 Mrs M. J. Evans (Clerk)

257/13 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from:
 Cllrs: B.C. Roberts; T. Rowlands; K.J. Sudlow;

258/13 **Disclosure of Interest**

- Members were reminded that they must declare the **existence** and **nature** of any personal interests (using the form provided for this purpose).
 Cllr A Wood Min No: 265/13

259/13 **Minutes**

-It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the last meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee, held on the 17th July 2013.

260/13 **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

- (a) Following concern raised by the Caretaker regarding the condition of the gents urinal, (differed from the previous meeting). Quotations for consideration were RECEIVED. It was explained that as a public building the toilets must not have an open drain and modification in line with current guidelines is required. **It was RESOLVED to approve the quotation with the lowest price RECEIVED.**

Standing orders were suspended

As Mr Darren Miller AM arrived at this juncture it was RESOLVED to Suspend Standing Orders

Mr Miller AM explained that he hopes to meet with members on an annual basis and has been discussing many issues with the public recently. In the North Wales area there has been news regarding the Betsi Cadwaladr Health Trust and infection control in Ysbyty Glan Clwyd resulting in a number of patients' lives and cuts in staffing. Lack of investment in controls may have led to the outbreak. There have been meetings with the Chief Executive and the Health Board are being held to account. The chief Executive's team and the Independent members have become dysfunctional and Mr Miller will be closely monitoring injury units, bed numbers and community hospitals. Regarding the relocation of neonatal care to Arrow Park, the first Minister has set up a review panel which is reporting back with recommendations. There will be a response to the report in October/November time. Welsh Government has the power to dismiss the board and it is considered that the all members of the board are responsible for this situation.

A question was raised regarding local Doctors Surgeries having the power to veto any additional practices in an area? Mr Miller stated that he was not aware of this and would look into the matter.

The LDP has been signed off by CCBC and the proposal for a gypsy camp, playing fields future and new homes remain a threat to Abergele. Mr Miller stated that he wishes to protect the playing fields and see a reduction in number of homes on the contingency list as he is not convinced that there is a need for so many houses. Mr Miller will do his best to scrutinise the document and will work with the Council on this matter. Mr Miller was asked a question with regard to the power that a local authority has over the provision of housing and that the 800 proposed houses is not sustainable. Mr Miller stated that he is looking into the unlawful occupancy of Caravans and concern regarding people who live in them on a holiday park, which requires better regulation. There are 3000 people living unlawfully on a site in the UK. Mr Miller has the support of the Caravan Council on this matter.

Mr Miller congratulated to the Council on the success of the Market. The new market has a good balance.

Wind turbines were discussed and micro turbines for farms if this does not form a part of a bigger project is supported by Mr Miller. TAN 8 Governs the Wind farms and is too open to interpretation. Cabling overland in pylons, Scottish Power has a preference to install these over ground. Formal objections have been lodged to install underground close to populations. Mr Miller recommended that objections are made.

Job creation in Wales is required, there are a few incentives for schemes in Wales, and the benefit system requires a review.

Mr Miller welcomes the new Cartrefi Conwy Offices to Abergele and stated that the Business Park is thriving with a good mix of organisations on the site.

Gele River has been left in a poor condition following the recent work. Mr Miller informed members that there have been some issues regarding the recent changes to the organisation and if the information is forwarded, he will investigate and hold a site meeting if required. Mr Lyn Davies attended the site yesterday to view.

The A55 noise reduction barriers will be in place later this year.

Mr Miller thanked the Clerk for keeping the lines of communication open.

The Chairman thanked Mr Miller for attending.

Standing orders were reinstated

- (b) A report from the Clerk with regard to the recent Gwynedd Pension meeting attended and a update following a meeting held on the 16th September 2013 was NOTED

- (c) An email from OVW with regard to the membership fees, together with original documentation and the Climate Change adaptation project was RECEIVED. Members considered the information. **It was RESOLVED to join One Voice Wales on the proviso that they hire rooms at the Town Hall for courses and meetings to offset the cost. It was FURTHER RESOLVED to accept the invitation to join the Climate Change adaptation project in principal. Members requested further information be forwarded to a Task and Finish group for consideration.**

261/13

Correspondence

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

- (a) To consider the fitting of a velvet backing for the Mayors Chain was NOT APPROVED.
- (b) A letter from Hafan Cymru with a request for funding. **It was RESOLVED to forward to the Annual Grants Committee**
- (c) A request from Local Works for a donation. **It was RESOLVED to forward to the Annual Grants Committee**
- (d) An email from Gwynedd Council regarding Multi-disciplinary infrastructure consultancy was NOTED
- (e) An email from Gwynedd Pension regarding the Triennial Valuation Meeting on the 7th November. It was APPROVED for the Clerk to attend.
- (f) An email from OVW regarding Energy Efficient Interest Free Loans. **It was RESOLVED to include with the Climate Change adaption project.**
- (g) An email from Gwynedd Pensions with regard to the new scheme commencing in 2014 was NOTED
- (h) An email from CVSC regarding a Community Development Grant
- (i) An email from Gwynedd Pensions with regard to the revised Ill Health information
- (j) An email from Gwynedd Pension regarding newly launched employers section of the website
- (k) An email from Gwynedd Pensions with regard to Circular 272
- (l) A request from the Hospital League of Friends to consider the installation of a bus shelter in the hospital. **It was RESOLVED to forward to CCBC Bob Saxby for consideration but that the responsibility for a bus stop is with the hospital.**

262/13

To consider any urgent Items of Correspondence

No items of urgent correspondence were received

263/13

Installation of Notice Board

The quotation for the installation of the Notice Board in Belgrano were RECEIVED and CONSIDERED. **It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the lowest cost received for the work.**

264/13

New Chair for the Clerk's Office

Members RECEIVED and CONSIDERED the costs for a new office chair deferred from the Executive Committee. **It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the purchases of the chair. It was FURTHER RESOLVED to provide**

delegated power to the Clerk for the purchase of a suitable desk for the office.

265/13 **Donation**
Cllr Wood retired at this juncture

Members considered the request by the Deputy Mayor for a donation to the Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research following the passing of the Mayors father. **It was RESOLVED to APPROVE a donation of £100 to the Charity.**

Cllr Wood returned at this juncture

266/13 **Release of funds from Accounts**

To consider a matter differed from the Executive Committee:

- (a) Members discussed the request from the Mayor to release funds from the Hall & Development Account. Members stated that they were willing to consider releasing the funds to any robust project with a Business Plan, but at this time would like to investigate the separating of the utilities and solar panels for the Town Hall in the first instance.
- (b) Members considered the request from the Mayor to release funds from the General Reserve Account for Community Projects. The Clerk informed members that a minimum of 25% or three months turnover of the precept should be held in reserve for good practice and cash flow. The Clerk RECOMMENDED that the decision to release the funds should be taken at the Estimates Committee.

267/13 **To Note the Financial Situation as at today:-**

The financial situation as at today was NOTED

	£
Current Account	22223.63
Monthly Interest Account	102524.33 (2 ³ Reserve rec'd)
General Reserve	<u>51389.00</u>
	<u>176136.96</u>

TOTAL:

	£
Hall & Development Account	56478.61
Regeneration Reserve	522.13

268/13 **Payment of Accounts**

The AUTHORISATION of the payment of accounts falling due, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached was APPROVED.

269/13 **Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report**

The Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report as at 30th June 2013 was RECEIVED.

270/13

Minutes

The Minutes of the following Meetings/Committees were RECEIVED:

- (a) Staffing Sub Committee Meeting held on the 11th July 2013
- (b) Christmas Decorations Sub Committee held on the 24th June 2013
- (c) Christmas Decorations Sub Committee held on the 22nd July 2013

271/13

Documents for information

The following documents for information were NOTED

- (a) Local Government Pension Bulletin 106

Meeting closed at 8:35pm

Signed
(Chairman)