

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE was held at 6.45pm on Thursday 21st November 2013, in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

377/13 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, A. Wood;

Cllrs: M. Bond (Chairman); G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae; R.M. Medicott; D. Meredith (arrived at 6:55pm); B.C. Roberts; M. Roberts; S.

Rowlands; T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs (arrived at 6:50pm); K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters; Mrs M. J. Evans (Clerk)

378/13 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from:

Cllrs: M.D. Bird; J.E.H. Pitt;

379/13 **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).

Declarations of interest were received from:

Cllr B C Roberts Min No 389/13

Cllr R G Waters Min No 389/13

380/13 **Visitor to the Council**

Standing orders were suspended

The Chairman welcomed Mr Andrew Bowden from Cartrefi Conwy to the meeting who providing members with an update regarding the service. Mr Bowden updated members with regard to the stock transfer from CCBC and the work that has been completed in the last five years to bring up to Welsh Housing Quality Standard. The transfer took place in 2008 and in the offer document there was a promise to maintain housing rent levels for five years.

The standard has been achieved with 3500 new front doors, 500 windows, 325 wall installation to name but a few.

Cllr Stubbs arrived at this juncture

This has also enabled the welsh pound to stay in wales with 95% of the work remaining in the area and employment for 320 people. CREST has provided 300 training opportunities and 6 full time apprentices. Fifty have completed their NVQ level 2 and 3 with Llandrillo College

The Headquarters has moved to Abergele and has received positive feedback to date.

Cllr Meredith arrived at this juncture

The local authority has recognised that Cartrefi have delivered and exceeded the offer document and CCBC Scrutiny supported the recommendation.

The next step is to be a good landlord and provide new accommodation, currently plans to build in Penmachno, Maes Glyn Colwyn Bay, and Llandudno. Llys Seiriol in Llandudno will be replaced with Sheltered housing.

Members asked Mr Bowden the following questions:

Does the right to buy still apply?

Yes, income from properties sold is ring-fenced to reinvest in new buildings. Will also consider old plots.

What can the Town Council do?

Happy to investigate options of providing new affordable housing with the Council.

Future of the land at Maes y Dre?

Mr Bowden is happy to meet with members to walk around the area to identify potential land for use.

Does Cartrefi look at areas outside of Conwy County?

Yes but the area needs to be in the right location

The stock that was received did that include Extra Care Housing?

No not in that market, as it is very expensive accommodation to provide and there are currently 650 sheltered accommodation in Conwy, the aim is to improve these with Community facilities.

Mr Bowden then went on to say that the Bedroom tax has had an impact on their tenants and this will have an impact on Cartrefi. When the new Universal Credit is launched in the near future this will have an added problem for the organisation. There are currently not enough small accommodation for tenants who wish to transfer to and Cartrefi is working private landlords with to try and find an alternative but can foresee that enforcement will be taken on tenants in the future and this is very worrying.

Is there future planning for smaller accommodation?

Mr Bowden stated that they are looking into the allocation and as larger properties are sold off, smaller can be purchased.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bowden for attending.

Standing orders were reinstated

381/13

Minutes

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

382/13

Matters arising on those and previous Minutes

- (a) The Clerk informed members that she had received a request from Cllr Wood to become the Community Governor for Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan. **It was RESOLVED to write to the school to inform them that Cllr Wood is their representative for Abergele Town Council.**

- (b) (i) To consider an email cost from CCBC for the removal of the tree at the front of the Town Hall, together with costs for work in 2013. **As the CCBC cost related to another tree, it was RESOLVED to request an additional quotation. The matter was DEFERRED to the next meeting.**
- (ii) The cost for the removal of the tree at the front of the Town Hall from the Tree Warden was RECEIVED.
- (c) **It was RESOLVED to forward the email from Revive and Thrive to the Town Centre Working Group for further consideration.**

383/13 **Correspondence**

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

- a) An update from the Clerk regarding the recent valuation meeting with Gwynedd Pension Service was NOTED
- b) An email from AON Hewitt regarding the LGPS
- c) An email from House of logo's was RECIEVED
- d) An email from CVSC with regard to Conwy Communities first tackling poverty
- e) An email from CVSC regarding Crime Reduction project
- f) An email from CVSC with regard to fuel poverty
- g) An email from OVW with regard to Auditing requirements
- h) An email from OVW with regard to Nature Funding
- i) An email from CCBC with regard to a cost for bollards/hanging basket columns on Market Street. **It was RESOLVED to forward to Dafydd Hughes CCBC for consideration.**
- j) An email from OVW with regard to Asset Skills Wales course. It was APPROVED for the Clerk to attend should she wish.
- k) An email from OVW with regard to illegal money lending
- l) A proposal from Digital Europe with regard to a telephone line and calls proposal. **It was RESOLVED to defer the matter for six months and then to look at either a mobile phone or a second line into the Town Council.**
- m) An update from CCBC with regard to the Pensarn Barrier project was RECEIVED from the Mayor.

384/13 **To consider any urgent Items of Correspondence**

- (a) **It was RESOLVED that the item should be included as part of the Friends of the Parklands news in the Newsletter. It was FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Newsletter Sub Committee would reword and the Clerk to email to members before it is submitted.** The Clerk informed members that the Newsletter must go to print tomorrow in order for it to be distributed for Christmas.

Cllr Sudlow arrived at this juncture

385/13 **Storage Shelving in Room 4**

Members considered the provision of shelving in room 3 of the Town Hall for storage of files.

- (a) A quote from a local contractor for a purpose built shelving system was RECEIVED

(b) A cost from Oakwood Office furniture for freestanding bookshelves was APPROVED.

386/13

Housekeeping Matters

An increase in the BACS payment amount allowed in a single transaction was APPROVED

387/13

Draft Meeting Notes

Members RECEIVED and CONSIDERED the recommendations made by the Town Centre working group and an update from the Clerk regarding matters raised at the Meeting. **It was RESOLVED to APPROVE option 2 to fund free parking at a cost of £100 for a Saturday from the budget allocated for free parking and £50 for a Sunday from the Market budget for 12 weeks. It was FURTHER RESOLVED to NOT APPROVE the cost of £50 per Sunday for maintenance and overheads unless this is also to include the cleaning of the car park following the Market. It was FURTHER RESOLVED to invite Cllr Mike Priestly to the next meeting of the Council to discuss the matter with him directly.**

Members APPROVED the Draft flyer with amendments to be included for printing and distribution.

388/13

The Financial Situation as at today was NOTED:-

	£
Current Account	10249.79
Monthly Interest Account	70524.33
General Reserve	<u>51,389.00</u>
	<u>132163.12</u>

TOTAL:

	£
Hall & Development Account	56861.20
Regeneration Reserve	272.13

389/13

Payment of Accounts

The payment of accounts falling due, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached were Authorised.

390/13

Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report

A copy of the Report as at 30th September 2013 was RECEIVED

391/13

Minutes

The Minutes of the following Meetings/Committees were RECEIVED:

- (a) Newsletter Sub Committee Meeting held on the 25th June 2013
- (b) Town Guide Sub Committee held on the 26th September 2013

392/13

Document for information

The following documents for information were NOTED

- (a) A thank you card from the retired Caretaker
- (b) Nature Resource Management Bulletin
- (c) Gwynedd Pension Employers forum
- (d) Gwynedd Pension Fund

Meeting closed at 8:15pm

Signed
(Chairman)

Abergele Town Council

SCHEDULE 'A'

Payments authorised as at 21st November 2013:

		Chq No:	Total £	Incl. VAT £	Notes / Statutory Powers (new or unusual payments)
1	Salaries	DD	2778.55		November Salary
2	CCBC	DD	696.00		November Payment
3	Scottish Power	DD	71.00		November Payment
4	Bank Charges	DD	60.70		
5	BT Phone	DD			
6	HMRC	DD	853.10		November Payment
7	Gwynedd Pension	104765	902.17		November Payment
8	Petty Cash	104748	119.68		
9	Elfod Heritage Group	104749	250.00		Donation
10	Meirion Jones	104750	348.00	64.80	Sleeve on Pensarn roundabout
11	SJ Ward	104751	163.80	27.30	PAT Testing
12	IDB Systems	104752	78.00	13.00	Repair Audio System
13	WNW	104753	36.89	6.15	Cleaning & Stationery
14	Brian Lawrence Signs	104754	36.00	6.00	Wreath Centres
15	Digitaldream	104755	45.00		E-mail Hosting
16	Torino Italian Design	104756	355.00		Picture Framing and Notice Boards
17	Cllr R G Water	104757	23.40		Travel
18	Best One	104758	5.20		Newspapers
19	CCBC	104759	3010.00		Pensarn Barrier Works & Trade Rycycling Market
20	Keith Goodall	104760	400.00		
21	Cathedral leasing Ltd	104761	13.00	2.17	monthly charges
22	Clothes for Work	104762	156.00	26.00	protective clothing for caretaker
23	Staples	104763	40.99	6.83	stationary
24	Cllr B C Roberts	104764	22.95		Travel
25	CCBC	104766	250.00		Bus Shelter contribution
26	Petty Cash	104767	121.15		
27					
28					
29					
30					
31					
32					
33					
34					
35					
Total Payments		25	10,836.58	152.25	

** Under the Local Government Act 1972, Sect. 137 & 139, the Council can incur expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interest of the area or it's inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.