

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Ordinary Meeting of the Council was held on Thursday 5th June 2014 at 6.45pm in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

41/14 Attendance Register

The Mayor, B.C. Roberts;
Cllrs: M.D. Bird; M. Bond; G.P. Davies; B. Kinsey; J.A. MacLennan; D.A. MacRae;
R.M. Medicott; J.E.H. Pitt; S. Rowlands; T. Rowlands (arrived at 7:30pm); J. Stubbs
(retired at 8:35pm); A. Wood;
Mrs M. J. Evans (Clerk)

42/14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:
Cllrs: M. Roberts; K.J. Sudlow; R.G. Waters;

43/14 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).

Cllr. MacRae Min No: 48/14
Cllr Medicott Min No: 47/14 (n)

44/14 Internal Audit and Annual Return for 2013/14

Standing orders were suspended

- a) The Chairman welcomed Mr David Shore to the Meeting who provided members with an overview of the Annual Accounts for 2013/14. Mr Shore informed members that the Audit Commission is requesting the final accounts to be produced earlier and earlier each year. This is putting added pressure on the Clerk and it may be prudent to consider an Accountancy software package that some of the other Town Councils have purchased. A matter was raised regarding depreciating assets and Mr Shore confirmed that Town council use the insurance valuation for its assets and suggested that it may be prudent to obtain an independent valuation. Mr Shore informed members that the Council has almost a precept in reserves and that one third was for the Hall and Development account which is for a designated project. It is prudent to have approximately a half to three quarters of a precept in reserves for a Council and this would be the case in this instance.

The Chairman thanked Mr Shore for his report

Standing orders were reinstated

It was RESOLVED to obtain a valuation as suggested by the Internal Auditor

- b) The signing of the Statement of Accounts for 2013/14, subject to External Audit was APPROVED
- c) The signing of the Annual Return for 2013/14 together with the Annual Governance Statement was APPROVED.

45/14 **Minutes**

It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN as a correct record the Minutes of the following meetings:

- (a) **Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on the 1st May 2014**
- (b) **Annual Meeting of the Council, held on the 8th May 2014**

46/14 **Matters Arising from those Minutes:**

- (a) An update from CCBC with regard to the provision of the disabled parking spaces on Market Street was NOTED
- (b) An email from Mark Bailey from Fairways regarding the naming of the new dementia centre was RECEIVED. Members AGREED that they had provided the names and their observations and would like to be involved with the choosing of the final name.
- (c) A report from Cllr Waters with regard to the OVW Final Climate Change Project Meeting was NOTED. Members thanked Cllr Waters for all his hard work.
- (d) An email update from OVW with regard to the path at Ty Crwn and a copy of a letter from OVW solicitor with a request for further information. The Clerk informed members that the Solicitor has now received all the information requested and that an update has been requested from CCBC but they were unable to provide any further information to date. **It was RESOLVED that the Clerk requests what position ATC are in the queue and what is the approximate timescale for the task to be completed.**

47/14 **Correspondence**

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

- (a) Mayor's Diary - details of the Mayor's engagements for June 2014
- (b) A request from the last Mayor's surgery for a local resident to provide a presentation to members regarding a project that she has been working on regarding Conwy Connect – 'Stigma' was APPROVED.
- (c) Details of forthcoming meetings of the Council and its committees / sub-committees. Members NOTED that the date for the Town Centre Working Group Meeting had changed to the 30th June and a meeting of the Christmas Decoration Sub Committee has been arranged for the 23rd June.
- (d) CVSC mail from 29th May 2014 to 23rd May 2014 was RECEIVED
- (e) OVW emails from 9th May 2014 to 23rd May 2014 was RECEIVED
- (f) A letter from Scottish Power with regard to the North Wales Wind Farms connection project was RECEIVED. Cllr MacLennan informed members that Llanefydd and Henllan Community Councils were objecting to the cables being installed over ground. **It was RESOLVED to support the Community Councils and write a letter of support to David Jones MP and Darren Miller AM, requesting that the cables are installed underground.**
- (g) To receive a copy of the waste management transfer note for 2014/15 was RECEIVED. **It was RESOLVED to request that the Caretaker ensures that plastics are recycled, the Clerk AGREED to investigate obtaining a plastic recycle bin.**

Cllr T Rowlands arrived at this juncture

- (h) An email from Celticarray with regard to the proposed Rhiannon Wind Farm. **It was RESOLVED to DEFER to the Local Government Sub Committee for consideration.**
- (i)
 - (i) A consultation document from Welsh Government with regard to the Access for information on Community & Town Councils. **It was RESOLVED to DEFER to the Local Government Sub Committee for consideration.**
 - (ii) A list of members political party for adding to the website was RECEIVED and APPROVED for adding the Website
 - (iii) A email from Welsh Government with regard to the Local Government Wales Measure 2011 final guidance was RECEIVED
- (j) An email from Natural Resources Wales regarding a request for flood wardens. Cllrs: Medlicott, Wood and M Roberts were already signed up as Wardens. Cllrs: Waters, S Rowlands, J MacLennan, D MacRae and Pensarn Councillor Sudlow agreed to become wardens.
- (k) An email from a local resident with regard to the use of Ipad's by the Town Council was NOTED. Cllrs: B. Roberts, S Rowlands, M. Bond, A. Wood, D. MacRae AGREED to not receive paper copies in future. Cllr T Rowlands AGREED that if training was required he was happy to provide a session to members and **it was RESOLVED that by December this year all Councillors with I Pads would only receive a hard copy of the legally required paperwork.**
- (l) Email confirmation from CCBC of submission to the Planning SPG Consultation was NOTED
- (m) An email from Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales with regard to a request for information on members' expenses was RECEIVED. **It was RESOLVED that the Clerk returns the form to the panel. It was FURTHER RESOLVED that payment for being a Councillor would compromise their Independence as members and that small Councils are not able to sustain such payments.**
- (n) **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.**

An email from Gwyrch Castle preservation trust with a request for support was RECEIVED. The matter was debated at length by members. **It was RESOLVED to issue a letter of support to the Trust. Cllr MacLennan opposed to a letter being sent at this stage. It was FURTHER RESOLVED to invite Mark Baker to a Special Meeting of the Council and to request a copy of their Lease**

- (o) An email from CCBC regarding an office move was NOTED
- (p) A notice from the Colwyn Bay and district Twinning Association regarding a forthcoming AGM was NOTED
- (q) An email from Progressive Engagement Pathways for consideration
- (r) An email from OVW with regard to consultancy services was NOTED
- (s) A letter of thanks from Ty Croeso for the donation from the Christmas collection was RECEIVED.

48/14 **Hire Agreement**

The Hire Agreement between ATC and AJBC for this financial year was RECEIVED, CONSIDERED and NOTED.

It was RESOLVED that the fees are reviewed every five years.

The MAYOR signed the Agreement for this financial year.

49/14 **Project update**

-An update from the Clerk with regard to the following:

- (a) The introduction of a loyalty scheme for the businesses in the Town. **It was RESOLVED to forward to the Town Centre Working Group for further consideration and that an article is issued through the Newsletter for public opinion of the scheme.**
- (b) Solar panels for the Town Hall was NOTED
- (c) Separating of utilities between the Town Hall and Police Station was NOTED
- (d) Ongoing priorities for 2014/15 was RECEIVED. **It was RESOLVED to return the RECOMMENDATION by the PDR Committee back to the Committee for Consideration.**

50/14 **Membership of Sub-Committees for 2014/15**

- (a) A Chairman and Vice Chairman for the General Purpose and Planning and Policy and Finance Committee for 2014/15 were CONSIDERED. **It was RESOLVED that Cllr MacRae will be the Chairman for the General Purpose and Planning Committee and Cllr K. Sudlow will be the Vice Chairman. It was FURTHER RESOLVED that Cllr Bond will be the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee and Cllr Waters will be Vice-Chairman**
- (b) The existing Sub Committees were CONSIDERED. **It was RESOLVED to dissolve the CCTV & Crime Prevention and Community Care Committees and to merge the Park & Play areas and Street Scene Committee.**
- (c) The membership of each Committee was REVIEWED. **It was RESOLVED to reduce the membership of the Local Government Sub Committee from ten members to eight and for the terms and conditions to be amended accordingly.**
- (d) Members wanting to vacate a seat were NOTED on the schedule
- (e) Members to fill vacancies were NOTED on the schedule

51/14 **Representation on Outside Bodies**

- Members RECEIVED, CONSIDERED and APPROVED the Council's representatives on Outside Bodies for 2014/15 and were NOTED on the Schedule. The Clerk informed members that she had received an email from Ysgol St Elfod requesting that the Town Council nominate Rev Kate Johnson as a Community Governor. Members informed the Clerk that the Town Council were not able to nominate it is the role of the Governing Body. **It was RESOLVED that the Clerk informs the school of this information.**

52/14 Members Details

Members details were REVIEWED and amended accordingly

53/14 Revised list of Councillors as at May 2014

- A revised list of Councillors in order of seniority for the Members Information file was RECEIVED

Cllr Stubbs retired at this juncture

54/14 Urgent Correspondence

- The following urgent item of correspondence was approved for inclusion by the Mayor:

- (a) An email from a local resident with regard to a bus stop. Cllr T Rowlands provided an overview of the matter regarding the provision of a bus stop outside Spar. Members felt that there had not been a bus stop in that area for many years. **It was RESOLVED that although members sympathise with the resident that disabled parking is earmarked that that area which is a need for that area.**
- (b) A report from the Chairman of the Robert Roberts Trust was RECEIVED. Members thanked Cllr MacRae for all her hard work and the Clerk outlined the situation with regard to the Town Council's position and that the Council are Custodian Trustees which means that they are not able to be involved in the day to day running of the building and are only the owners in name.
- (c) Cllr Medicott provided members with an update following a telephone message left on the Town Councils telephone. Cllr Medicott informed members that a local resident wished for members to be aware that the Doctors Surgery was not open at weekends and those locals must travel to Glan Clwyd for treatment and that the Town Council should take action to ensure that a local doctor is appointed. Members thanked Cllr Medicott for visiting the resident.

55/14 Update from County Councillors

- Members RECEIVED verbal reports from County Councillors
- (a) Scrutiny received a report regarding Ty Na Nog Children's Home – controls by the County Council were queried
- (b) English GCSE regarding the January examination results and CCBC members called for the Minister to resign and apologise
- (c) Gwe will oversee all curriculum subjects over North Wales, core subjects will be standardised
- (d) Amber House – Report to Audit and County Inspections are to be queried
- (e) Emrys ap Iwan – Mrs Maureen James, Deputy Headteacher is retiring. The school has had a successful few months. Pupil numbers are on the increase.
- (f) The Public can now view meetings on the County Council website

56/14 Minutes

- The Minutes of the following Meetings / Committees were RECEIVED:
- (a) General Purpose & Planning Committee held on the 17th April 2014.
- (b) Policy & Finance Committee held on the 17th April 2014

57/14 **Documents for Information**

The following documents for information were NOTED

- (a) Welsh Government Newsletter
- (b) Broxap bollards
- (c) Clerks Direct
- (d) Conwy Connect Newsletter
- (e) Welsh Government News (Town & Community councils
- (f) Welsh Government Measure Summary of Responses 2014

Meeting closed at 8.58pm

Signed
(Chairman)