

# Abergele Town Council

## DRAFT MINUTES

A meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009 in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, nominations were requested for a Chairperson for the meeting.

**It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr J A MacLennan as temporary Chairman for this meeting.**

### 468/08 Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr R D Peacock  
Cllr J A MacLennan (Acting Chairman)  
Cllrs: M Bird; M Bond; G P Davies; D A MacRae; R M Medlicott; P D Meredith;  
J D Mortimer; T Rowlands; R G Waters; A Wood.  
Mrs C J Earley (Clerk)  
Mrs J Ann Roberts (Admin Assistant)

### 469/08 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs: B C Roberts (Vice-Chairman); S Rowlands; J Stubbs; K J Sudlow (Chairman).

### 470/08 Disclosure of Interest

Members were reminded that they must declare the **existence** and **nature** of their declared interests (using the form provided for this purpose).  
None were declared.

### 471/08 Minutes

**It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee held on Thursday 18 December 2008.**

### 472/08 Matters Arising on Previous Minutes:

- a) Traffic Calming – Pentre Mawr Park – Min. 417/08(a)  
It was NOTED that work is due to commence on the new traffic calming scheme in early February and that CCBC have agreed that £11,723 of S.106 Planning monies can be used to finance this scheme, thus releasing the amount put aside in the budget by this Council towards the first phase of the installation of height barriers and protection measures for Pensarn Promenade.
- b) Town Maps – Min. 419/08(e)  
The final draft of the Town Map was RECEIVED and considered.

**It was RESOLVED to request several minor amendments and to then authorise an order to be placed for three maps from Micrographics, at a cost of £483, plus £330 for sign posts and fixings, excluding installation, delivery and VAT.**

- c) Street Scene Sponsorship – Min. 417/08(c)  
A response to the request made for three additional bins, one relocated bin and one repair to a bin was RECEIVED.

**It was RESOLVED to await a further response and to report a broken litter bin door at Compton Way.**

- d) Annual Grants – Min. 417/08(d)  
It was NOTED that letters of thanks have been received from the following:
- (i) Friends of Awel y Mor
  - (ii) Samaritans
  - (iii) Conwy Voluntary Health & Social Care Network
  - (iv) N W Assoc. for Spina Bifida & Hyrdocephalus
  - (v) St. Vincent de Paul Society
  - (vi) Saint Kentigern Hospice
  - (vii) Abergele Old People's Club
  - (viii) Colwyn Link Magazine for the Blind
  - (ix) Abergele Social Club for the Blind
  - (x) Crossroads – Caring for Carers
- e) The Mount – Min. 226/08  
Concern was expressed that no further response had been received to the request for a site meeting with representative(s) from Stepnell Ltd.

**It was RESOLVED to ask the Clerk to chase this again and to enquire whether Stepnell would prefer the Council to arrange for the required work to be undertaken, at their expense.**

473/08 **Correspondence:**

The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:

- a) Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report  
The financial report from the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> December was distributed and a brief verbal report was given by the Clerk.

**It was RESOLVED to include an article in the forthcoming newsletter to publicise what the Council is doing.**

- b) Requests for Financial Support  
It was NOTED that two urgent requests had been received for financial assistance and one applicant for a grant last October had now supplied the further information requested.

It was PROPOSED that all late applications be deferred until October. After some discussion, this was defeated by a vote of 3 FOR to 6 AGAINST. The following applications were therefore considered:

- (i) Home Start Conwy  
An application for urgent funding to support continuing provision of the Home Start service was considered, due to core funding having been withdrawn by CCBC Social Services.  
It was NOTED that several local families would suffer if this service was withdrawn.

**It was RESOLVED to write to the Head of Social Services to enquire why they feel that the service is no longer of use / worthy of support.**

(ii) Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod

It was NOTED that this application was received annually in December/January, for the event held in July.

**It was RESOLVED to make a budget virement from the £500 under-spend in S.137 grants and to make a donation of £200 towards the July 2009 event (to avoid having to defer the application until the start of the new financial year).**

(iii) Abergele Swimming Club

Further information received to support the original application made in September 2008 was RECEIVED.

**It was RESOLVED to make a donation of £300 for 2008/09 from the remaining balance of the S.137 grants budget.**

c) Flower Beds and Planting

- (i) Members received information from Mark Earp of CCBC Parks section regarding a partnership set up with pupils from Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan (PACE programme) to develop and manage a piece of land along the banks of the Gele (by Glanrafon), possibly to include rotavating, re-seeding, re-planting with river/wildlife plants and trees and providing log benches. It was NOTED that the project is not looking for financial support, but if any were to be provided, CCBC may be willing to provide matched-funding.

**It was RESOLVED to inform Mr Earp that the Council has made a provision of £200 in its budget for 2009/10 for planting alongside the Gele, which could be used towards this project, and to invite him to attend the next meeting of the General Purposes & Planning Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 to discuss his plans further.**

- (ii) An Estimate for the continuation of the existing contract with Meirion Jones Landscapes for the planting and maintenance of the Sea Road and Town Hall flower beds/planters was RECEIVED.

**It was RESOLVED to authorise the continuance of this contract for 2009/10, at the total cost of £1,200 for planting and maintenance.**

d) Play Wales

**It was RESOLVED to authorise renewal of membership for 2009, at a cost of £25.**

e) Public Works Loan Board

Members received information on the cost of early repayment of the loan and a summary prepared by the Clerk detailing the options available.

**After careful consideration of all the relevant information, including the early settlement penalty of over £3,000, it was RESOLVED to leave the loan to run its course.**

**It was FURTHER RESOLVED to request the Clerk obtains further information on the investment rates currently available to Town Council from the Co-op Bank.**

474/08 **Premises Maintenance**

- a) It was NOTED that the overdue premises maintenance check has not yet been completed.  
**It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Clerk to complete this as soon as possible, with assistance from Mr Chris MacRae.**
- b) A proposal by Cllr. J.A. MacLennan that the council considers replacing the old curtains in the main chamber with vertical blinds was considered. It was NOTED that the curtains help to reduce both reverberation and light and that this would not be achieved by blinds.

**It was RESOLVED to request the Clerk to seek quotations for new curtains for the main chamber.**

475/08 **Minutes**

The draft Minutes of the following sub-committees were RECEIVED:

- a) The Local Government Sub-Committee, held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
b) The Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee, held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009

476/08 **Matters Arising on Those Minutes:**

- a) Local Government Sub-Committee  
Members received and considered the responses of the sub-committee to the consultation documents, as detailed in the Minutes.

**It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the response of the Sub-Committee, subject to one addition to the comments made on the “Delivering the new NHS for Wales” consultation paper.**

- b) Christmas Decorations Sub-Committee  
Members received and considered the recommendations of the sub-committee, as detailed in the Minutes.

**It was RESOLVED to ENDORSE the recommendation that a Christmas Concert be arranged again, provisionally to take place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009.**

477/08 **The Financial Situation, as at Today, was NOTED :-**

	£
Current Account	5,521.29
Monthly Interest Account	135,429.99
High Interest Bond	<u>472.42</u>
TOTAL:	141,423.70
Hall & Development Account	472.42
Hall & Development Reserve	<u>69,164.64</u>
TOTAL:	69,637.06

478/08 **Payment of Accounts**

It was RESOLVED to authorise payment of the accounts, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

..... Chairman

## Abergele Town Council

### SCHEDULE 'A'

Payments authorised on Thursday 22nd January 2009:

	<b>Chq No:</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Incl. VAT</b>	<b>Statutory Powers</b>
		£	£	(new or unusual payments)
a) Salary payments	BACS	2,666.73		
b) Inland Revenue (Salaries)	103323	976.11		
c) Gwynedd Pensions	103324	973.03		
d) Tiscali (Broadband)	DD	15.99	2.00	
e) University of Gloucestershire - Clerk's Training	DD	131.00		
f) CCBC - National Non-Domestic Rates	DD	571.00		
g) Petty Cash Imprest Acc	103325	108.58		
h) Canon - copier service charge	103319	183.68	23.96	
i) Blue Fox Technology Ltd	103320	402.50	52.50	
j) Information Commissioner's Office (Data Protection)	DD	35.00		
k) Staples (ink)	103321	128.75	19.18	
l) NWATC Meeting	103322	50.00		

\*\* 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.