

# Abergele Town Council

## MINUTES

A meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee, held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009, at 8.00pm (immediately after the General Purposes & Planning Committee), in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

134/09 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. D.A. MacRae

Cllr. B.C. Roberts (Chairman)

Cllrs: M. Bond; G.P. Davies; J.A. MacLennan; R.M. Medicott; P.D. Meredith;

J.D. Mortimer; R.D. Peacock; S. Rowlands; T. Rowlands; J. Stubbs; R.G. Waters;

A. Wood

Mrs C.J. Earley (Clerk)

135/09 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were RECEIVED from:

Cllrs: M. Bird; J.E.H. Pitt; K.J. Sudlow

136/09 **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).

The following interests were declared:

Cllr. J. Stubbs – agenda item 6(a) – Chairman of PeBel

Cllr. R.G. Waters – agenda item 5(c) – Local Government pension holder

Cllr. D.A. MacRae – agenda item 9 – travel claim

137/09 **Minutes**

**It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee, held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2009.**

138/09 **Matters Arising on Previous Minutes:**

a) Land Adjacent to The Mount- min. 075/09 (a)

- It was NOTED with disappointment that, despite his assurances, Stepnell had still not been in touch with the contractor to instruct him to carry out the required work.

b) Hanging baskets- min. 075/09 (b)

(i) It was NOTED that a watering device has now been purchased for use by the caretaker.

(ii) **It was RESOLVED to authorise Dave Hargreaves, a window cleaning contractor, to water the hanging baskets in the town centre twice per week at a cost of £150.**

c) Gwynedd Pension- min. 076/09 (a)

(i) A copy of the agenda for the Annual Meeting and the Annual Report for 2008/09 was RECEIVED.

(ii) An informal consultation document regarding expected deficits at the next valuation was RECEIVED and considered.

**It was RESOLVED to seek assistance from Cllr. J. Mortimer in looking at the report in depth and reporting back to the Council prior to any formal consultation on proposed changes to the Scheme expected later this year.**

- d) CCBC Trade Waste Recycling- min. 076/09 (b)  
It was NOTED that it may not be possible to have a four weekly collection of paper, due to the disruption this would cause to scheduling and invoicing, and that the maximum payable if weekly collections continue will be £91 per annum.
- e) Grants Policy and Application Form- min. 076/09 (d)  
Members considered the draft grants policy and amended application form, deferred at the last meeting.  
The Clerk advised members that it was good practice to adopt a written policy on grants to provide guidance for applicants and clarify how and when applications are determined. Additions to the existing application form were recommended to ensure sufficient information was available for members when determining applications.

Concern was expressed that a detailed written policy may limit the power of members to judge each application on its own merits and that some of the additional questions on the application form may be difficult for applicants to answer.

**It was RESOLVED to REFER this matter to the Executive Committee, to consider the possible implications of a written Grants Policy, whether it could be simplified and adopted as ‘guidelines for applicants’ and to review the proposed amendments to the application form.**

139/09 **Correspondence:**

- The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED and considered:

- a) Pensarn and Belgrano Residents Association  
- A request for a start up grant of £500  
It was PROPOSED that this application should be deferred and considered with the annual grants in October, as insufficient evidence had been provided to demonstrate that it was urgent.  
**An AMENDMENT to the PROPOSAL, that a £100 start-up payment be made immediately with a full application to be submitted by October for any further funding, was CARRIED by a majority of 8 in favour to 5 against.**
- b) Abergele Community College, History Bursary  
It was proposed that the council should consider an annual bursary to aid research by post-16 students into the history of Abergele.  
**It was RESOLVED to invite Tony Robinson, Principal of the College, to a future meeting to provide more information.**
- c) Clerks Training  
(i) The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the Regional (Wales) SLCC conference held on 7<sup>th</sup> July.  
(ii) It was NOTED that the Clerk had received late information about several interesting items on the agenda for the ILCM annual conference, previously considered by the Council as part of the three day ‘Summer Seminar’

package, and had spoken with The Mayor to discuss her attendance. The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the conference, held in Cheltenham on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

(iii) It was NOTED that the Clerk had been requested to attend the national SLCC conference on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2009, to receive her Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy and the Prize awarded to her by the University and the SLCC.

**It was RESOLVED to support the Clerk in attending the conference, at a cost of £330 (plus travel expenses).**

140/09 **Budget Monitoring**

- The budget monitoring reports prepared by the Clerk for the year-ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 and the quarter ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 were RECEIVED.

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the two documents, explaining the reasons for the under-spend in 2008/09 and highlighting the additional £5,000 available in the general reserve for 2009/10. Members were asked to contact the Clerk if they had any queries regarding either of these documents.

141/09 **The Financial Situation, as at today, was NOTED :-**

	£
Current Account	9,731.96
Monthly Interest Account	<u>104,768.92</u>
TOTAL:	114,500.88

Hall & Development Account	472.82
Hall & Development Reserve	<u>69,908.64</u>
TOTAL:	70,381.46

142/09 **Payment of Accounts**

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

The Meeting Closed at 9.10 p.m.

..... Chairman

## Abergele Town Council

### SCHEDULE 'A'

Payments authorised on Thursday 16th July 2009:

	Chq No:	Total £	Incl. VAT £	Notes / Statutory Powers (new or unusual payments)
a) Salary payments	BACS	2,785.12		
b) Inland Revenue (Salaries)	103453	1,020.43		
c) Gwynedd Pensions	103454	927.44		
d) Tiscali (Broadband)	DD	18.79	2.80	
e) University of Gloucestershire - Clerk's Training	DD	131.00		
f) CCBC - National Non-Domestic Rates	DD	599.25		
g) Petty Cash Imprest Acc	103452	149.86		
h) CCBC- Summer Play Schemes	103434	1,465.00		
i) Staples- Toner	103435	177.35	23.13	
j) D Shore- Internal Audit	103436	300.00		
k) PG Lloyd- Planning Consultant	103437	2,126.80		
l) LexisNexis- Reference Book	103438	59.05		
m) WNW- Stationary	103439	40.86	5.33	
n) Clifton Glass Ltd- Window repair	103440	86.25	11.25	
m) Garden Pride	103441	133.00		
n) North Wales Garden World- Hanging Baskets	103442	480.00	62.61	
o) Meirion Jones- Sea Road Flower Bed	103443	690.00	90.00	
Meirion Jones- Hanging Baskets (Town Hall)	103444	92.00	12.00	
p) Canon - service charge	103445	215.59	28.12	
q) Banner - stationery	103446	99.18	12.94	
r) Merlin Lighting - xmas motif	103447	437.00	57.00	
s) SLCC - ILCM Conference	103448	40.00		
t) Pennine Tea & Coffee - supplies	103449	50.99	1.05	
u) Travel Claims:				
D.A. MacRae - mayoral events	103450	82.40		
C.J. Earley - conference rail fare	103451	68.30		

\*\* 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.