



Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

The Annual Meeting of the Council, was held on Monday 15th May 2023 at 6.45 pm by Hybrid attendance.

1/23 **Welcome & Opening Prayers**

The retiring Mayor Cllr. Alan Hunter, welcomed Councillors, dignitaries and members to the meeting and an opening Prayer was conducted by the Rev Kate Johnson.

2/23 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, Cllr. A Hunter,
Cllrs: T. Brennan; M. Davies; D. Fetherstonhaugh; D. Green; P. Heap-Williams;
J. Jones; S. Jones-Roberts; P. Luckock; C. McCoubrey; N. Williams; A. Wood;
K. Yarwood
Mrs M. J. Evans (Town Clerk)
Mrs. Fiona Taggart (Assistant Clerk)
Invited guests and Members of the public

3/23 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs: A. Williamson;

4/23 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting, held on the 12th May 2022 (which were approved and signed at the following Ordinary Meeting of the Council) were RECEIVED.

5/23 **Annual Report**

The 2022/23 APPROVED Annual Report Min No: 632/22 was ADOPTED.

6/23 **Policies**

The following Policies APPROVED by the Town Council during 2022/23 were ADOPTED

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|----------------------------------|---------|--------|
| a) Code of Conduct | Min No: | 428/22 |
| b) Financial Regulations | Min No: | 428/22 |
| c) Standing Orders | Min No: | 428/22 |
| d) Annual Leave Policy | Min No: | 699/22 |
| e) Section 6 Biodiversity Report | Min No: | 632/22 |

7/23 A copy of 2022/23 Inventory of Contents for Abergele Town Council Min No: 632/22 was RECEIVED.



8/23 **Presentation by the Retiring Mayor**

The Retiring Mayor Cllr. Alan Hunter presented the Annual Mayor's Award for outstanding achievement in the Community to Pam Lake from the Hummingbirds and thanked her for all her hard work over the year. Pam thanked the Mayor for his support and provided a brief overview of how the organisation had started, from its humble beginnings in her front room to giving out over 800 Christmas gifts to children.

The Retiring Mayor then presented a certificate of Recognition to George Frost and Carl Bishop for their dedication to the Abergele Camera Club and support for the Retiring Mayor over the last two years.

9/23 **Address by the Retiring Mayor**

The Retiring Mayor Cllr. Alan Hunter, gave an overview of the last two and a half years as Mayor and the poignant events that had taken place during his reign including the Covid pandemic, and the slow return to normal life, the opening numerous businesses in the Town, visits to school, care homes and sheltered accommodation. He and Mayoress attended almost every event that they were invited to. Including the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the lighting of the Beacon. Just three months later the announcement of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, followed by the Proclamation of King Charles III.

This year the Retiring Mayor was invited to attend the Holocaust Memorial in person for the first time in three years and was privileged to light one of six candles, each representing 1 million Jewish lives taken during the Holocaust.

At the last Annual Meeting the Retiring Mayor, had the honour of presenting two longstanding Councillors with the Freedom of the Town. He supported several charities and St. Kentigern benefitted of in excess of £12k with the Mayoress' wing walk recently raising over £4k of the grand total.

The Retiring Mayor thanked the Clerk and staff for all their support, and fellow Councillors both past and present. He thanked Rev Kate Johnson for her support with the Civic Service and Service of Remembrance and thanked the residents and traders of Abergele for their support. His biggest thanks was to his Mayoress Cheryl Hunter who has been at his side throughout his time as Mayor and stated that it had been a privilege to be Mayor and Mayoress and grateful for the opportunity to represent the Council and Town.

10/23 **Election of Town Mayor for the year 2023/24**

The Mayor called for nominations for the Office of Town Mayor for 2023/24. It was PROPOSED that Cllr. Charlie McCoubrey is Town Mayor by Cllr. Shirley Jones-Roberts and SECONDED by Cllr. Paul Luckock

There being no further nominations, Cllr. Charlie McCoubrey indicated his willingness to accept the Office of Mayor and it was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to elect him as Town Mayor for 2023/24.



11/23 Installation of the New Mayor and Signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr. McCoubrey was invested with the Mayor's Chain of Office by the Retiring Mayor and read aloud and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was then countersigned by the Clerk, as Proper Officer of the Council.

Cllr. Hunter was then presented with the Past Mayors medallion by the new Mayor Cllr. McCoubrey and gave flowers to the retiring Mayoress Cheryl Hunter as a small token of appreciation on behalf of the Council

12/23 Address by the New Mayor

Cllr. McCoubrey thanked his fellow members for the confidence placed in him and indicated that his wife Gaynor McCoubrey has kindly agreed to act as Mayoress.

Cllr. McCoubrey stated that he moved to St George in 1992, with a passion for Rugby and moved to the Town in 2000. He then provided an overview of his time with Abergele Rugby Club, and the warm welcome he was given by the Community.

He stated that he is proud of the Town Council and the role of Mayor. His Charity for 2023/24 is CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) for young people with undiagnosed heart conditions and is based in Llanddulas and has been running for the last four years.

Cllr. McCoubrey lost a nephew to the condition two years ago and the nephew's brother was screened and diagnosed and then received treatment. The organisation also provides help and support.

Cllr. McCoubrey also wished to thank the staff for their hard work and looks forward to taking on the role for the next year.

13/23 Election of Deputy Mayor for the year 2023/24

The Mayor called for nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor for 2023/24. It was PROPOSED that Cllr. Diane Green is Deputy Mayor by Cllr Keilah Yarwood and this was SECONDED by Cllr. J. Jones

There being no further nominations, it was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to elect Cllr. Green as Deputy Mayor for 2023/24.

14/23 Installation of the Deputy Mayor and Signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr. Green was invested with the Deputy Mayor's Chain of Office by the Mayor Cllr. McCoubrey. She then read aloud and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, countersigned by the Clerk, as Proper Officer of the Council.

Cllr. Green thanked the Mayor and her fellow Members for the confidence placed in her and indicated that her colleague Cllr. Keilah Yarwood had kindly agreed to act as the her consort and the new Mayor invested her with the insignia of office.

15/23 Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

It was RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next Ordinary meeting of the Council, to be held on 15th June 2023.



16/23 It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the continued delegated authority to the Clerk and other Officers as set out in the Delegation to Officers Policy

17/23 **Appointment of Committees**

(i) It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the continued delegation of full decision making powers to the two Standing Committees of the Council in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference

- (a) **General Purposes and Planning Committee**
- (b) **Policy and Finance Committee**

(ii) It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the continued delegation of full decision making powers to the Place Plan Committee in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference.

(iii) It was **RESOLVED** to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the Committees as follows:

(a) **General Purpose and Planning Committee**

The Mayor called for nominations for the role of Chairman of the Committee for 2023/24.

Cllr. D. Fetherstonhaugh was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and **APPROVED** as Chairman

The Mayor called for nominations for the role of Vice Chairman of the Committee for 2023/24.

Cllr. Luckock was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and **APPROVED** as Vice Chairman

(b) **Policy and Finance Committee**

The Mayor called for nominations for the role of Chairman of the Committee for 2023/24.

Cllr. Wood was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and **APPROVED** as Chairman

The Mayor called for nominations for the role of Vice Chairman of the Committee for 2023/24. Cllr N. Williams was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and **APPROVED** as Vice Chairman

18/23 The Terms of Reference for Committees was **RECEIVED**

19/23 It was **RESOLVED** that the appointment of members to the Committees is **DEFERRED** to the next meeting Ordinary Meeting on the 15th June 2023

20/23 Confirmation that the Town Council holds the relevant insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks was **RECEIVED**.

21/23 The subscriptions to other bodies was **RECEIVED**

22/23 The Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Power of Well-being was **RECEIVED**.

23/23 Conclusion of Meeting to be followed by photographs

Meeting Closed at 7:25pm

Signed
(Chairman)