



# Cyngor Tref Abergele Town Council

## MINUTES

Cyfarfod Cyffredinol y Cyngor i'w gynnal ar Dydd Iau, 16 Tachwedd 2023 am 6.45yh i'w gynnal yn rhannol yn y siambr, a phresenoldeb yn bosibl hefyd ar Zoom yn.  
The Ordinary Meeting of the Council was held on Thursday 16 Tachwedd 2023 at 6.45pm via hybrid attendance.

### 337/23 Cofrestr Presenoldeb - Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. C. McCoubrey;

Cllrs: T. Brennan; D. Fetherstonhaugh; D. Green; P. Heap-Williams; J. Jones; T. Jones; S. Jones-Roberts; P. Luckock; N. Williams; A. Williamson; A. Wood; K. Yarwood  
Mrs M. J. Evans (Town Clerk)

Mrs. F. Taggart (Assistant Town Clerk)

Member of the public

### 338/23 Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb – Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllrs: M. Davies; P. Fletcher; A. Hunter;

### 339/23 Absenol heb ymddiheuriad- Absence without Apology

None recorded.

### 340/23 Datganiad o Ddiddordeb: Côt Ymddygiad - Declaration of Interest: Code of Conduct

Atgoffir aelodau ei bod yn rhaid iddynt ddatgan **bodolaeth** a **natur** unrhyw fantais personol (gan ddefnyddio'r ffurflen a ddarperir ar gyfer y pwrpas hwnnw).

Members were reminded that they must declare the **existence** and **nature** of any personal interests (using the form provided for this purpose).

Cllr. A. Williamson	Min No:	346/23 (a)
Cllr. A. Williamson	Min No:	350/23 (a)
Cllr. A. Williamson	Min No:	350/23 (b)
Cllr T Brennan	Min No:	346/23 (a)
Cllr D Fetherstonhaugh	Min No:	350/23 (a)
Cllr P Heap-Williams	Min No:	346/23 (a)
Cllr N Williams	Min No:	346/23 (b)
Cllr N Williams	Min No:	346/23 (c)
Cllr C McCoubrey	Min No:	346/23 (b)
Cllr C McCoubrey	Min No:	346/23 (c)
Cllr. J. Jones	Min No:	349/23 (c)

### 341/23 Guest Speaker

The Chairman welcomed Sarah Murphy, Development Project Manager from Cartrefi Conwy to the meeting who provided members with a presentation on the Abergele Western Gateway site. This is a Town Centre Regeneration Scheme with the key focus area on the Abergele Placemaking plan. Only principal structures will remain. The Bee is a separate building and it was not considered that the site was optimised. This has been



amended to reflect Cartrefi Conwy's requirements over three deliverable phases:

1. The Bee will be occupied by Llandrillo college as a Post 18 site, funding is identified by Welsh Government (transferred from the Dinorben site)
2. Extra care for the over 55s – will go out to consultation once funding is secured – there are 180 residents currently on the list for relocation, if there are still availability then it will be offered to residents on the housing waiting list and then to new people – funding from a social housing grant with a changing places toilet included.
3. Public sector/residential – proposed that a section of the site will be for people to engage in a well-lit area. Developed over a three year period and will consult with the public. Will be a kick start, social care area funded by Welsh Government.

On site security will be paramount the walkway will not be reinstated until phase 2 or 3. Working on different assessments at present to ensure that any grant requirements are adhered to and must be in keeping with the rest of the town.

A question was raised if Learning Disabilities could be accommodated with the over 55's as this was agreed previously. Principally the accommodation will be for the over 55's. Parking for scooters and cars will be provided.

A further point was raised with regard to the aesthetic look of the Bee and that all buildings should be in keeping with the historic Market Town.

The Mayor thanked the Officers for attending and they retired at this juncture.

342/23 **Public participation**

No requests with regard to Community matters, received by Members of the public wishing to address the Council we RECEIVED

343/23 **Announcements by the Mayor**

- a) The Mayor thanked members for volunteering for the Firework event.
- b) The Mayor attended the funeral of Richard Waters, who was a member of the Town Council for 39 years. The service was very dignified.

344/23 **Cofnodion - Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECEIVE, CONSIDER** and **APPROVE** as a correct record the minutes of the following meetings:

- a) **Ordinary meeting, held on Dydd Iau/Thursday 19 Hydref/October 2023**
- b) **Policy & Finance meeting, held on Dydd Iau/Thursday 19 Hydref/October 2023**

PROPOSED by Cllr. P. Luckock  
SECONDED by Cllr. D. Fetherstonhaugh

- 345/23 **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. (Min No: 346/23 (b) & (c))**



346/23 **Matters arising on those and previous Minutes**

- a) An update from CCBC with regard to the request to attend a meeting regarding the Abergele Community Centre was RECEIVED.  
The WWI memorial must be preserved and that any other artefacts should be offered to the Town Council in the first instance if to be removed. It was NOTED that the financial information was RECEIVED.

It was advised that a meeting of the proposed Trustees had taken place with CCBC Officers yesterday, and the matter will be going to cabinet in January 2024 for a decision. The Mayor informed members that the building will not neglected in the interim, will be maintained and everything will remain in the building.

As an officer had not agreed a date to attend a meeting it was RECOMMENDED to DEFER until the outcome of discussions have been concluded.

Proposed by Cllr. D. Fetherstonhaugh  
Seconded by Cllr. N. Williams

All in favour

- b) An update from CCBC with regard to the takeover of the Abergele Toilets was NOTED. The Mayor informed members that CCBC were looking at proposing several different options.

*Cllr. C. McCoubrey retired at this junction*

- c) An update from CCBC with regard to the future sponsorship of the Abergele car parks was RECEIVED. Any amendment to the long stay parking was DEFERRED to the next meeting.  
**It was RESOLVED to accept the amount of £25k for 2023/24 to ensure that the Abergele Car parks remain free for the Community and to request that this is extended for two years.**

PROPOSED by Cllr D Fetherstonhaugh  
SECONDED by Cllr N Williams

*Cllr. C. McCoubrey returned at this junction*

- d) A request from Cllr. Luckock for the Town Council to write to Welsh Government with regard to regeneration funding. Cllr Luckock advised 2.843Billion of regeneration funding and would like the Council to write to Welsh Government to request that Abergele is prioritised for funding in order to attract private investors to develop in the area. Funding is required for street scape, Pensarn flats, Pensarn promenade, transport and schools. Cllr, Luckock would like a Minister to visit the area to highlight the issues for accessing funding for the area through Welsh Government or UK Government funding as it appears that the area is not considered a priority.

It was RECOMMENDED to write to the First Minister, the Local and Regional MS's.

PROPOSED by Cllr. P. Luckock  
SECONDED by. Cllr. T. Jones



6 in favour  
5 against  
1 abstained

Motion carried.

- e) An email from Cllr. Williamson with a request for a Ward Budget to be set for members and an example of the criteria for consideration was DEBATED. It was NOTED that the Council does have a mechanism for awarding grants currently in place. This was considered to be a method for Members to engage with residents within their Wards. Members could pool their allocation together for a larger project/donation. The Clerk informed members that the funding was not be awarded to individual members, an application form must be completed and the Financial Regulations must still be applied.

PROPOSED by Cllr. A. Williamson  
SECONDED by Cllr A. Wood

Carried

### 347/23 **Gohebiaeth - Correspondence**

- DERBYN ac YSTYRIED yr eitemau gohebiaeth canlynol/The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED, CONSIDERED and NOTED:

- a) Mayor's Diary - details of the Mayor's engagements for November/December 2023
- b) Details of forthcoming meetings of the Council and its committees / sub-committees
- c) CVSC and OVW mail sent to members by email
- d) OVW Training for November/December. Clerk advised that CCBC are holding a Code of Conduct training session for Town & Community Councils in January and all members were encouraged to attend.
- e) A letter from the Town Council's bank with regard to interest rates for savings was RECEIVED.
- f) The Draft Annual Report from the IPRW for 2024/25 and an update from the Clerk on the tax deductions for the allowance was RECEIVED and CONSIDERED as follows:
  - (i) Determination 6 (Mandatory) £156 + £52 = £208 per member pa x 16 = for budget £3328 was APPROVED
  - (ii) Determination 7 (optional) Compensation for financial loss £119.62 per day or £59.81 for a half day was NOT APPROVED
  - (iii) Senior Role payment of £500 (mandatory 1 member, optional up to 5) the same as in previous years was APPROVED
  - (iv) Mayor's allowance (optional) up to a maximum of £1500 (approved previously) the same as in previous years was APPROVED
  - (v) Deputy Mayor allowance (optional) up to £500 NOT APPROVED
  - (vi) Care costs (mandatory) £500 approved previously, the same as previous years was APPROVED
  - (vii) Travel at 0.45p per mile out of area the same as in previous years was APPROVED

The Clerk informed members as raised by Cllr. Jones-Roberts at last week's



meeting, the HMRC have confirmed that determination 6 is not taxable moving forward. The senior role payment of £500 remains a taxable allowance.

**It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the above**

PROPOSED by Cllr. D. Fetherstonhaugh

SECONDED by Cllr. T. Brennan

348/23

**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. (Min No: 349/23 (a) & (c))**

349/23

**Other Business**

- a) A report from the Clerk on the hybrid system and to consider a quote from CCBC for the purchase of equipment for ATC. Previous equipment has been on loan from CCBC, and the Deputy Clerk had contacted companies to provide quotes for a system with no avail. The Owl system with a booster speaker, had proved to be the most efficient method. As ATC have an SLA with the County Council all the installation and purchasing of the equipment would be by the County Council under their standing orders and will invoice the Town Council in due course.  
**It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the proposed system at a cost of £2620.63 from the Town Council's reserves**  
PROPOSED by Cllr. P. Luckock  
SECONDED by Cllr. A. Wood  
All in favour.
- b) An update from the Clerk with regard to the Firework display collection. It was NOTED that £2352.11 was collected on the evening. The Mayor thanked members who volunteered on the evening.
- c) A quote for the purchase of Christmas cards for the Mayor was APPROVED.
- d) A request to consider recording Town Council meetings for accuracy of Minute taking was RECEIVED. It was NOTED that the recording would be deleted after the Minutes had been approved.  
PROPOSED by Cllr. N. Williams  
SECONDED by Cllr D. Fetherstonhaugh  
All in favour.
- e) Extending the closing date for the Annual grants for 2024/25 to January 2024 due to a low uptake, was RECEIVED. It was AGREED that the budget could be set at the same rate as 2023/24 and that a push for applications could be done over the next couple of months'.  
PROPOSED by Cllr. D. Fetherstonhaugh  
SECONDED by Cllr. A. Wood  
All in favour.

350/23

**Request for funding**

*Cllr A. Williamson retired at this junction.*



- a) A request from the Church Army for a donation towards their Warm Spaces was RECEIVED, and CONSIDERED.

**It was RESOLVED to APPROVE a donation of £250**

PROPOSED by Cllr. P. Luckock

SECONDED by Cllr. D. Fetherstonhaugh

All in favour

- b) A request from Foodshare for a donation towards the Christmas meal was RECEIVED and CONSIDERED.

**It was RESOLVED to APPROVE a donation of £400**

PROPOSED by Cllr. T. Brennan

SECONDED by Cllr. T. Jones

All in favour.

*Cllr A. Williamson returned at this junction.*

351/23 **The Financial Situation as at today was NOTED:-**

Current Account	37,244.32
Monthly Interest Account	239,237.76
General Reserve	<u>79,379.82</u>
<b><u>TOTAL:</u></b>	<b><u>£355,861.90</u></b>

Hall & Development Account £36,321.35

352/23 **Payment of Accounts**

The payment of accounts falling due, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached were RECEIVED, CONSIDERED and APPROVED as £35,172.54

353/23 **Monthly Report**

A copy of the Monthly Budget Monitoring Report for August 2023 was RECEIVED.

354/23 **Y diweddaraf gan Gynghorwyr Sir – Update from County Councillors**

- Derbyn adroddiadau llafar gan Gynghorwyr Sir / A verbal reports from County Councillors was RECEIVED as follows:

- A meeting with Legal at CCBC with regard to the Pensarn flats has taken place to discuss the landlord compliances.
- Progress has been made on the over-spend.
- Highway maintenance, culverts near the Golf Club, Business Park and on the A547/ A55.
- The budget remains difficult, meeting has taken place with other County Leaders. An increase in Care Homes fees has been introduced.
- Storm Babet cost the County £567K in damage;
- There are no rough sleeper in Conwy but pressure on housing is increasing with many families in B&B's challenging;
- Ysgol Y Foryd / Ysgol Eirias were voted best in North Wales. Estyn Report will be published in January. The Youth Service received a Gold Standard award, one of only five in Wales for work in the family centre which is unique to Conwy.



- 355/23 **Minutes**
- a) General Purpose and Planning Committee meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023
  - b) Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023

- 356/23 **Documents for information**
- a) Clerks and Councils direct

Meeting Closed at 20:37

Signed .....  
(Chairman)