



# Cyngor Tref Abergele Town Council

## Minutes

Cyfarfod Cyffredinol y Cyngor i'w gynnal ar Dydd Iau, 21 Medi 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 21 September 2023 at 6.45pm via hybrid attendance.

### 218/23 Cofrestr Presenoldeb - Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. C. McCoubrey; Cllrs: T. Brennan; M. Davies; P. Fletcher; D. Fetherstonhaugh; D. Green; P. Heap-Williams; A Hunter; J. Jones; T. Jones; S. Jones-Roberts; P. Luckcock; N. Williams; A. Williamson; A. Wood; K. Yarwood  
Mrs M. J. Evans (Town Clerk)

### 219/23 Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb – Apologies for Absence

### 220/23 Absenol heb ymddiheuriad- Absence without Apology

### 221/23 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. Hunter	Min No:	222/23 (a), 226/23 (a) & 238/23 (a) personal
Cllr. A. Hunter	Min No:	230/23 (a) & 241/23 (a) prejudicial
Cllr. A. Hunter	Min No:	230/23 (c) & 241/23 (c) personal Interest
Cllr. C. McCoubrey	Min No:	230/23 (c) & 241/23 (c) prejudicial
Cllr. C. McCoubrey	Min No:	226/23 (a) & 238/23 (a)
Cllr. T. Jones	Min No:	230/23 (a) & 241/23 (a) personal
Cllr. N. Williams	Min No:	226/23 (a) & 238/23 (a) personal interest
Cllr. N. Williams	Min No:	230/23 (c) & 241/23 (c) personal Interest
Cllr. P. Heap-Williams	Min No:	230/23 (a) & 241/23 (a) personal Interest

### 222/23 Visitor to the Council

(a) The Chairman welcomed Mr Sam Rowlands AS to the Council, who provided members with an overview of his work in the Community

Sam Rowlands referred back to his 14 years as a Member of Abergele Town Council, and that there has been many changes and new faces around the table since he has moved on to the Senedd.

As a Senedd Member for the North Wales area he covers 9 constituencies, a large area with over 700,000 in the region to represent, with a vast array of issues and concerns, but there is much to celebrate in area.

At the Senedd his responsibilities are for Local Government & Housing committees, community assets from Local Authority and private, homelessness and gypsy & traveller provision, diversity in democracy by encouraging people to stand for elections.



As Chairman for the Cross Party group for Outdoor Activities and Tourism. Linked to this is the Private Members Bill, and working to provide every child the ability to access outdoor education. Also as the Shadow Minister for Local Government and Policy Director for party.

The main purpose of the Senedd is to pass or not pass legislation, bill on Elections and the Elected members bill will investigate the way that members are elected. Sam would encourage the Council to respond to Consultations, especially the Local Government Funding Bill, and looking at the way that County Councils are funded in the future, with a new Council Tax regime.

Sam Rowlands' work in the community has involved the new 20 mph and has received over 800 letters to date. Housing development, Wind farm in Moelfre, Sports field, and traffic through the Town centre. Working with Darren Miller AS the local Constituency Member, on BCUHB, housing, transport issues, and road networks.

A member raised the Primrose Hill A55 Bridge, and thanked Sam for all his hard work, and requested if there was any update with regard to the £18,000 year for traffic lights, a barrier would be sufficient, without lights. Sam informed members that he will endeavour to find a solution.

A member raised that Abergele requires Welsh Government funding to assist with the regeneration of Abergele. Allocation of funding is required to deal with situations such as Pensarn flats and other housing needs. Sam Rowlands stated that they are endeavouring to push a Bill through the Senedd and stated that they would welcome a formal letter from the Town Council to rise these points.

- (b) **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: 222/23)**

Mr Geraint Edwards and Mr Gary Williams were welcomed to the meeting to discuss the Abergele Toilets. Details were recorded on the Confidential Ordinary Minutes under Min No: 237/23

**223/23 Public participation**

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

**224/23 Announcements by the Mayor**

- a) The Mayor informed members that previous Town Councillor Mr Mike Richards, had passed away recently. His funeral took place yesterday. The Council held a minute silence as a mark of respect for Mr Richards.
- b) The Mayor attended the Dementia friendly walk in Pentre Mawr Park and looking to promote annually.
- c) The Mayor attended Towyn Civic service



225/23 **Cofnodion - Minutes**

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

- a) Ordinary meeting, held on Dydd Iau/Thursday 20 July 2023
- b) Confidential Ordinary meeting, held on Dydd Iau/Thursday 20 July 2023
- c) Special Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

226/23 **Matters arising on those and previous Minutes**

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: 238/23)

*Cllr. Charlie McCoubrey retired at this juncture  
/the Deputy Mayor Cllr. Diane Green acted as Chairman for this item*

- a) The information received under Min No 222/23(b) above was **RECEIVED** and **CONSIDERED** under Confidential Minute Number 238/23 (a)

**It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to DEFER pending the figures for sponsorship from CCBC.**

**It was FUTURE RESOLVED to APPROVE the £300 for the outstanding work to be completed from the Toilet funding budget.**

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

227/23 **Gohebiaeth - Correspondence**

- The following correspondence was **RECEIVED**, **CONSIDERED** and **NOTED** as follows:

- a) Mayor's Diary - details of the Mayor's engagements for September/October 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 September
- e) An email from One Voice Wales with the Motions to be tabled at the AGM on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 was **RECEIVED**
- f) A consultation from CCBC with regard to the Public Toilet Strategy was **RECEIVED**. It was **NOTED** that members should respond individually.

228/23 **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: 229/23)**

229/23 **Draft Minutes**

- (a) The recommendations from the Draft Confidential Staffing Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were **RECEIVED** under Min No: 208/23 (c) & (g).  
**It was RESOLVED to APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION**



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

All in favour

The RECOMMENDATION to APPROVE the advertising of the Place Plan Facilitator post in the same format as the Deputy Clerk post

**It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the RECOMMENDATION**

PROPOSED by Cllr. D. Fetherstonhaugh  
SECONDED by Cllr. A. Hunter

All in favour

- b) In addition the Clerk requested if the Place Plan Committee Meetings could be suspended until the new Officer is in post, with the exception of the next meeting to be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> October which is a bespoke S106 session by Planning Aid Wales.

**It was RESOLVED to AGREE to suspend the Place plan Committee until the new officer is in post.**

- (c) The Clerk requested a small budget to move the photocopier and possible networking to another room and to purchase any furniture required for the new officer.

**It was RESOLVED to APPROVE £1500 from Reserves**

PROPOSED by Cllr. A. Hunter  
SECONDED by Cllr. N. Williams

All in favour.

## 230/23 Other Business

*Cllr. Hunter retired at this juncture*

- a) A complaint has been received with regard to a Member issuing correspondence to the Community with the Town Council return address and a Place plan consultation document within the body of the information

**It was RESOLVED to write to the member to inform him that the Council do not support this action and should not engage in such behaviour in the future and to remind the Councillor of his duties as a Councillor.**

**It was FURTHER RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Councillor attends Code of Conduct training and that training is provided to the Council as a whole.**

**It was FURTHER RESOLVED to issue a press release to confirm that the document was not a Town Council document and this should be distributed on social media and the website.**

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



7 in favour  
1 against  
3 abstentions

Carried

*Cllr. Hunter returned at this juncture*

- b) A request to consider a review on the percentage held in the Town Council Reserve Policy was RECEIVED. The Clerk informed members that a balance between 25 – 100% should be retained in reserve as best practice and prudent accounting. Town and County Council balances are not comparable, two very different situations, other town councils do hold 25% Good Practitioners Guides, and internal Audit all recommend retaining at least 25%. A member stated that they were uncomfortable to raise the precept when the Council has 31% in reserve. It was NOTED that in order to fund future expenditure that the Council should retain its balance in line with the policy recommendation.

**It was RESOLVED to retain the current policy.**

PROPOSED by Cllr. D. Fetherstonhaugh  
SECONDED by Cllr. N. Williams

14 in favour  
1 against

Carried

- c) An update from CCBC with regard to the future sponsorship of the Abergele car parks was RECEIVED.

*Cllr. Charlie McCoubrey retired at this juncture  
/the Deputy Mayor Cllr. Diane Green acted as Chairman for this item*

**It was RESOLVED to offer 15% for 3 year deal.**

PROPOSED by Cllr. D. Fetherstonhaugh  
SECONDED by Cllr. T. Brennan

Cllr. A. Hunter and Cllr P. Luckock abstained.

*Cllr. C. McCoubrey returned at this juncture*

### **231/23 Y diweddaraŷ gan Gynghorwyr Sir – Update from County Councillors**

- Derbyn adroddiadau llafar gan Gynghorwyr Sir / Verbal reports from County Councillors were RECEIVED:

- a) The Abergele Community Centre is to close, a visit by a County Councillor took place in May when the decision was taken. Due process was carried out. The building has been neglected for many years. The County Council budget from Welsh Government has a £30-£40m shortfall
- b) Police and Crime Commissioner meet on Monday, the Road Policing Inspector is



- presenting.
- c) Economy and Place meeting is next Wednesday
  - d) The Finance Portfolio holder has stepped down and Cllr Charlie McCoubrey has taken over the role and provided a brief overview
  - e) Conwy Youth Service were awarded the Gold Standard Award.

232/23 **Minutes**

The following Minutes were RECEIVED:

- a) General Purpose and Planning Committee meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023
- b) Policy & Finance Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023
- c) Place Plan Committee held on the 22 June 2023
- d) Confidential Staffing Committee held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023
- e) Confidential Staffing Committee held on the 26 June 2023
- f) Confidential Staffing Committee held on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- g) Executive Committee held on the 12 June 2023
- h) Marketing & Promotion Sub Committee meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Meeting Closed at 20:49

Signed

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(Chairman)