



Cyngor Tref Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

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

384/23 Cofrestr Presenoldeb - Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. C. McCoubrey;

Cllrs: P. Fletcher (arrived at 6:50pm); D. Fetherstonhaugh; D. Green; A Hunter; J. Jones; T. Jones; S. Jones-Roberts; P. Luckcock; A. Williamson; K. Yarwood;
A. Wood (arrived at 7:55pm);
Mrs M. J. Evans (Town Clerk);
Mr R. Grimward (Deputy Clerk)

385/23 Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb – Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllrs: M. Davies; P. Heap-Williams; N. Williams;

386/23 Absennol heb ymddiheuriad- Absence without Apology

Cllrs: T. Brennan;

387/23 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. J. Jones	Min No:	399/23	personal
Cllr. C. McCoubrey	Min No:	392/23 (b)	Prejudicial
Cllr D. Green	Min No:	393/23 (k)	personal
Cllr. K. Yarwood	Min No:	393/23 (k)	personal
Cllr. A. Hunter	Min No:	392/23 (b)	personal
Cllr. P. Luckcock	Min No:	392/23 (b)	personal

388/23 Public participation

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

389/23 Announcements by the Mayor

- The Mayor visited the primary schools to present the winners of the Design the Mayor's Christmas card award.
- The Christmas shop windows will be judged tomorrow (Friday) and the Mayor will be visiting the local Residential and Nursing homes.

390/23 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 16 Tachwedd/November 2023**
- b) **Special Ordinary meeting, held on Dydd Llun/Monday 16 Hydref/October 2023**

PROPOSED by Cllr. S. Jones-Roberts

SECONDED by Cllr. D. Fetherstonhaugh

391/23 **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: 392/23 (a) & (b))**

392/23 **Matters arising on those and previous Minutes**

- a) An update from the Trustees with regard to the Abergelle Community Centre was RECEIVED. It was NOTED that the Trustees are currently working on a business plan which should be ready in the New Year.

Cllr. C. McCoubrey retired at this juncture/Cllr. D. Green acted as Chairman for this item

- b) An update from CCBC with regard to the takeover of the Abergelle Toilets was RECEIVED. Various matters were raised including the lack of an audit trail, a domestic toilet was installed in the Pentre Mawr toilet and an estimate for a vandal proof toilet has been received. The toilets in the other two of the sites are sufficient. It was RECOMMENDED that the Clerk, Deputy Mayor and Cllr. Wood attend a meeting with CCBC officers to discuss the Capital repayment. Members are seeking clarification from that meeting, that if the Town Council sponsor the toilets that this will guarantee that they remain open and clarification of what is covered under the sponsorship agreement.

It was RESOLVED to DEFER the sponsorship and Capital funding request until after the meeting

PROPOSED by Cllr. D. Green

SECONDED by Cllr. A. Williamson

It was FURTHER RESOLVED to not amend the current budget figure from £10k

PROPOSED by Cllr. D. Fetherstonhaugh

SECONDED by Cllr. J. Jones

Cllr. C. McCoubrey returned at this juncture

- c) An update from CCBC with regard to the future sponsorship of the Abergelle car parks was RECEIVED and the revising of the long stay times at Water Street Car Park was CONSIDERED. The Clerk provided an overview of the process to amend the current times and that there would be a cost for the order. It was RECOMMENDED that the long stay times remain as it stands, and review in two years' time.
- d) An update from the Clerk on the tax deductions from the IPRW for 2024/25 was RECEIVED. The Clerk informed members that the £52 was exempt from tax



deductions but that the £156 was only exempt if the Clerk receives confirmation in writing that members work from home as part of their role as a Councillor. If confirmation is not received in writing then tax will be deducted from the allowance.

393/23 **Gohebiaeth - Correspondence**

- The following items of correspondence were RECEIVED, CONSIDERED and NOTED as follows:

- 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. It was NOTED that a Staffing Committee meeting was tabled for Monday 8th January 2024
- c) CVSC and OVW mail sent to members by email.
- d) OVW Training for January to March
- e) A letter from CCBC with regard to the Band D figure for the precept for 2024/25
- f) An email from OVW for the National Awards Conference 2024 was RECEIVED and to consider nominations was NOTED
- g) A letter from the Royal British Legion with regard to forthcoming Events for the 100th Anniversary was NOTED as a proud achievement.
- h) The financial requests for 2024/25 from CCBC some previously agreed under individual Agenda items (figures are included in the Draft 2024/25 budget) were RECEIVED, CONSIDERED and NOTED
- i) A letter from Welsh Government with regard to the S137 figure for 2024/25 was RECEIVED.
- j) An email from CCBC confirming that Code of Conduct Training for Town Councillors has been arranged with the Monitoring Officer on two dates in January & February 2024 was NOTED
- k) A request from Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan for a donation towards their Annual Christmas fair in aid of Mental Health & Wellbeing of £500 (due to the date of the event to ratify the decision for £300 donation supported by members 12/12/23) was RECEIVED, CONSIDERED and APPROVED.
PROPOSED by Cllr. C. McCoubrey
SECONDED by Cllr. P. Luckock
- l) A letter from Welsh Government with regard to new recycling law commencing on the 6th April 2024 was RECEIVED. The Clerk informed members that with the new recycling regulations that additional bins to separate items will be required and also for the separation of any food waste which will include the provision of a food waste dispenser from the County Council.
It was RESOLVED to delegate to the Clerk to implement.
PROPOSED by Cllr. S. Jones-Roberts
SECONDED by Cllr. C. McCoubrey

394/23 **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: 395/23 (a), (b) & 396/23)**

395/23 **Other Business**

- a) An update from North Wales Police on the utility charges for 2022/23 and 2023/24



was RECEIVED. It was NOTED that the 2022/23 invoice had not been received to date.

- b) An update on the 2023 Playing out scheme was RECEIVED. There were mixed reviews by Members of the Council and members queried if there were other options. More research on options is required. Engagement with local sports clubs. It was RECOMMENDED to not continue with the current provider at this time, but that the funding should remain in the budget and other options should be investigated.

PROPOSED by Cllr. C. McCoubrey

SECONDED by Cllr. S. Jones-Roberts

- c) The pay rates under the National pay agreement for 2023/24, and to receive an update from the Clerk on the budget implications was RECEIVED. The Clerk informed members that due to staff turnover that there should not be an over spend in the budget, however previous staff are entitled to the pay rise from April to their date of leaving.

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE that the back pay for previous staff is implemented.

- d) A letter from Welsh Government with regard to Asbestos Management on Public Estates was RECEIVED and to consider funding an updated report was NOTED

396/23

Quotes

- a) Additional electrical heating for the foyer and gents toilet was RECEIVED, CONSIDERED and APPROVED.
It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the quote RECEIVED from the Town Council's normal electrical installer at £875.19.
- b) Quotations for an Asbestos Report were RECEIVED and CONSIDERED.
It was RESOLVED to APPROVE contractor 'B' as the lowest cost RECEIVED of £325.00
- c) Quotations for the replacement of the PVC doors at the main entrance to the building was RECEIVED and CONSIDERED.
It was RESOLVED to APPROVE contractor 'B' at £1920.00 as the lowest cost received by a contractor who visited the site.

397/23

Draft Minutes

The Draft Minutes from the Estimates Committee held on the 7th December 2023 were RECEIVED and CONSIDERED as follows.

Matters arising on those Minutes

- (i) Recommendations made by the Estimates Committee in preparing the Draft Annual Estimates for 2023/24 were RECEIVED. It was NOTED that the Estimates were amended following the meeting to reflect the advice of the Auditor with regard to the inclusion of VAT as income. It was RECOMMENDED that a separate code was set up for the receipt of VAT so that it is clearer in the report.
It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the Draft Budget as RECEIVED from the Estimates Committee with the one amendment stated above.
- (ii) A copy of the proposed Fees and Charges for 2024 were RECEIVED and APPROVED.
- (iii) The Annual Estimates for 2024/25 and agree the level of the precept, for submission to CCBC were RECEIVED.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and APPROVED that an increase in the Band D from £66.29 in 2023/24 to £68.29 for 2024/25. It was AGREED that the 2024/25



Precept is set at £348,286, an increase of £15,734 from the 2023/24 Precept of £332,552.

- (iv) A copy of the Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25 was RECEIVED and APPROVED.
- (v) A copy of the Policy on Reserves, was RECEIVED.

398/23 **The Financial Situation as at today was NOTED:-**

Current Account	70523.29
Monthly Interest Account	284512.21
General Reserve	<u>79,379.82</u>

TOTAL £434415.32

Hall & Development Account £36447.83

399/23 **Payment of Accounts**

The payment of accounts falling due, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached was APPROVED as £65,034.38

400/23 **Monthly Report**

A copy of the Monthly Budget Monitoring Report for September & October 2023 was RECEIVED.

401/23 **Y diweddraf gan Gynghorwyr Sir – Update from County Councillors**

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

- a) A meeting with regard to Pensarn flats will be held on 4th January 2024
- b) The pre-planning application for the 4G pitch has not yet been submitted, more detail is required.
- c) The Police & Crime Commissioner precept survey is open till 7/1/24 which will impact the budget.
- d) A Pensarn fly tipper has been charged with eight counts of fly tipping.
- e) North Wales have not done well with the allocation of budget from Welsh Government, Conwy were 21st in the allocation, which will not cover salaries, care homes, Education, or support the NHS. There will be substantial changes and difficult decisions, including Council tax rises. Staff morale is low.
- f) The Abergelle Wheelers have been awarded £30k for a pump track
- g) The shared posterity fund is going well with a key fund of £250k for projects

402/23 **Minutes**

The following Minutes were RECEIVED:

- a) General Purpose and Planning Committee meeting held on the 9th November 2023
- b) Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on the 16th November 2023
- c) Events Sub Committee meeting held on the 5th June 2023



- d) Events Sub Committee meeting held on the 25th September 2023
- e) Marketing & Promotion Sub Committee meeting held on the 13th November 2023
- f) Marketing & Promotion Sub Committee meeting held on the 19th June 2023

Meeting Closed at 8:25pm

Signed
(Chairman)

DRAFT