

Cyngor Tref Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

Cyfarfod Pwllgor AMCANION CYFFREDINIOL a CHYNLLUNIO i'w gynnal ar Dydd Iau, 14 Ebrill 2022 am 6.45 y.h gyda presenoldeb o bell. A meeting of the GENERAL PURPOSES and PLANNING COMMITTEE, were held by remote attendance at 6:45pm on Thursday, 14 April 2022.

589/21 Cofrestr Presenoldeb - Attendance Register

The Mayor: Cllr. A Hunter

Cllrs: D Fetherstonhaugh; D.Green; P Heap-Williams; S. Jones-Roberts; D A MacRae (Chair); C. McCoubrey; B. C. Roberts; N. Williams; A. Wood; Officers: Ms. R. Parker (Deputy Clerk), Mr N. Acott (Acting Deputy Clerk), Mr J. Lock (Place Plan Facilitator)

590/21 Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb – Apologies for Absence

Cllrs: Dr M. Baker, T. Brennan, G. Frost, S. Rowlands and R. Waters.

591/21 Yn absennol heb ymddiheuriad- Absence without Apology

Cllr: N. Eden

592/21 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 P Heap-Williams declared a personal interest (Minute no. 597/21d) as she is a trustee for Gwrych Castle.

593/21 Cofnodion - Minutes

It was RESOLVED to RECEIVE, APPROVE and SIGN as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes and Planning Committee held 10 Mawrth / March 2022

594/21 Gohebiaeth - Correspondence

The following items of correspondence was RECEIVED, CONSIDERED and NOTED:-

- a) Agenda for the North Coast Transport Liaison Committee and report from Abergele Town council representative, Cllr Wood.

Cllr Wood reported that that two direct trains from Rhyl to London introduced. Lack of available staff causing problems on some rail networks. Disabled passenger assistance being reviewed with aim of improving service. Coordination of train and bus network links still needs attention.

- b) Temporary Traffic Orders from CCBC Streetworks that were emailed to members during the last month.

595/21 Confidential matters

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: 596/21a)

596/21 Grounds Maintenance

- a) A report from the contractor regarding the Mount was RECEIVED and CONSIDERED.

Item recorded on the Confidential General Purpose and Planning Minutes under Minute Number 604/21

RESOLVED:

- i. **It was RESOLVED that the Officers be authorized to further investigate both matters raised in the report and action as per discussions and report back accordingly.**
- ii. **It was FURTHER RESOLVED that the appointed contractor be requested to action proposed ground maintenance safety works subject to confirmation of costs not exceeding £750.**
- iii. **It was FURTHER RESOLVED that the Deputy Clerk contacts a Tree Surveyors with regard to request for a crown lift on the trees to enable access for grounds maintenance and litter picking.**

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

- £750 to be contained within existing budget provisions 2022/23
- s. 14, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Anti-social Behavior & Policing Act 2014
- Environmental Protection Act 1991
- s. 101, Local Government Act 1972

- b) Updates from the Acting Deputy Clerk on grounds maintenance contracts and issues were RECEIVED.

The Acting Deputy Clerk explained that he had contacted previous contractors (for the footpaths, bus shelters, planters and mowing) and sought other quotes, however, responses have been few to date.

The Deputy Clerk explained that she had contacted 3 companies who provide the refilling of hanging baskets services and only one had provided her with a quote. Due to the time constraints in regards to hanging basket preparations, members decided to accept the quote. Members have received services from that particular contractor in the past and were happy with the service, price and community engagement it provides.

RESOLVED:

- i. It was RESOLVED by members to DEFER decisions on other ground maintenance work until all quotes are in and if possible to put this item on the agenda of the next meeting.**
- ii. It was RESOLVED that the present contract with Conwy County Borough Council for hanging baskets be extended for a further twelve months subject to agreement.**

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

- £485 Conwy County Borough Council Hanging baskets refill
 - s. 144, Local Government Act
 - s. 4, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1953
 - ss. 43, 50, 96, Highways Act 1980
- c) A report from Mr Jesse Lock, Place Plan Facilitator was RECEIVED and CONSIDERED.

Details of all planters maintained by Town Council had been circulated with agenda papers. The Place Plan Facilitator explained that planters can be considered as a shop window and were often the first visual impact visitors will see when entering town. Both he and Acting Deputy Town Clerk had expressed concerns about the poor condition of majority of wood planters due to rot, and felt it was opportune to consider future sustainable planting regimes.

The Place Plan Facilitator explained that bedding plants, although they provide a lot of colour for a year, are not sustainable or environmentally friendly. He recommended that the Council should move away from annual bedding, improving colour coordination, look to planting bulbs, perennials and shrubs for the long term (over the next 3-5 years).

Committee discussed future plans, highlighted problems caused by grass cutting on abutting land (service undertaken by Conwy CBC), and need for colour coordination of all street furnishings. In response to a member's question, about maintenance of the town centre's black lampposts and highway railings, the committee was informed that Conwy County Borough Council was responsible for upkeep of these items.

During discussion it was noted that the lowest tender did not always provide the best result and a more detailed scope should be considered. It was also highlighted that as Abergele was a Market Town that a sculpture or feature should be considered to emphasize this historic theme.

It was explained that a short, medium and long term plan for planters was required and that funds would need to be secured from existing budgets, external grants, and Section 106 funds. The project could also form part of a Place Plan community based transitional work and members requested a planting strategy moving forward.

Members felt that due time restraints it may be necessary to continue with annual bedding plants this year. The use of planter that incorporates seating

(colour coordinated) should be also be considered.

RESOLVED:

- i. **Members RESOLVED to accept recommendations from the Place Plan Facilitator's report**
- ii. **It was FURTHER RESOLVED that a costed programme and timescale for removal/repair and staining/replacement of wood planters as required be prepared. New plastic planters also to be considered to replace older style/smaller planters.**

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

- s. 144, Local Government Act
- s. 40, Well-Being Future Generations Act 2015

597/21 Project updates - Diweddariadau prosiect

Updates from the Deputy Clerk and Acting Deputy Clerk with regard to various ongoing projects were RECEIVED and CONSIDERED as follows:

- a) Defibrillator, Llanfair Road PM 490/21
The Acting Deputy Clerk reported that the refurbishment of the former telephone box has been completed and are currently awaiting delivery and installation of the cabinet and defibrillator. The formal opening and associated community training programme on use of defibrillators is being prepared with Welsh Ambulance Service and Abergele Community First Responders.
- b) Litter bins PM 491/21
The Committee was informed that Conwy County Borough Council had advised that land at Bron Y Castell had not been adopted and therefore litter bin would not be provided.

However, Conwy CBC had agreed to provide a litter bin at Canolfan Dewi Saint but Ward Councillors advised that whilst litter bin had been provided it has recently been removed without explanation.

RESOLVED:

- i. **It was RESOLVED that Cllr C Mc Coubrey to review matter with Conwy CBC officers as he understood land had already been adopted.**
 - ii. **It FURTHER RESOLVED to chase ERF at Conwy County Borough Council for an update with regard the bin at Canolfan Dewi Sant.**
- c) Blue plaques
The Deputy Clerk prepared a detailed report informing the Committee of the extensive research and feasibility undertaken to date which was necessary to enable a blue plaque initiative to progress. The Deputy Clerk provided the Committee with information taken from the [English Heritage Guidance on commemorative plaques and plaque schemes \(part 1\)](#):

Step	Description	Cost	Timescale
1	Scoping and consultation	£10-£150	2-6 months
2	Fundraising	£10-£50	1-2 months+
3	Project Initiation & encouraging nominations	£50-£2,000	1-8months
4	Administration of nominations & selection process	£1-£5 (per plaque)	5 hours-2 days (per plaque)
5	Historical Research	£10-£1,500 (per plaque)	2-10 days (per plaque)
6	Consents	£5-£25 (per plaque)	1-12 months (per plaque)
7	Design & positioning	£30-£250 (per plaque)	2 days-2 weeks (per plaque)
8	Manufacture	£200-£1,500 (per plaque)	1-2 months (per plaque)
9	Installation & unveiling	£150-£2,500 (per plaque)	6 weeks-6 months (per plaque)
10	Plaque Maintenance & Monitoring	£1-150 (per plaque, per annum)	3 hours-3 days (per plaque, per annum)
11	Publicity, promotion & outreach	£50-£500 (per annum)	1-6 months (for a limited initiative) or ongoing.
12	Enquiries	£1-£10 (per annum)	1-10 days (per annum)

The Deputy Clerk highlighted the complex nature of this proposal which included requirement for planning permission, compliance with building control regulations, identification and consent of property owner, installation and arrangement of future maintenance, insurances, historical context, of each site and if linked with individual whether they were alive or dead, and complex legislative requirements in order to meet costs of such works.

The Deputy Clerk informed the members that legally, they have to comply with s.144(1). It could be argued that the council would need to demonstrate value for money, consequently, the installation of a single plaque may be challenged. However, blue plaques linked to a historical trail would have a wider attraction and therefore comply with the legislation. Alternatively, members could seek grant funding to implement a blue plaque scheme or create a grant scheme for organisations (s.144(2), LGA 1972), such as historical societies, could apply and participate in.

The Deputy Clerk further informed members that she had been in contact with both the Planning Officer and Conservation Officer at Conwy County Borough Council who confirmed that there would be a £25 planning application fee. There is no charge for listed building consent but if there are other permissions required, there could be associated planning or conservation fees.

Members identified that Abergele potentially had 20-25 sites/people of interest. Several Councillors enquired about historical trail for town and the Place Plan Facilitator confirmed that such a trail formed part of his ongoing work programme and

therefore suggested that a three phased programme be adopted. Phase 1 would involve identification of historical sites. Phase 2 would include a programme of education and informative measures e.g. QR codes. Phase 3 would be to implement the features for the historic trail.

The Place Plan Facilitator confirmed that part of this work would include establishing a community historical group and/or use of existing working groups to undertake background research and compilation of information on places of historical/special interest.

RESOLVED

It was RESOLVED that the Town historical trail be REFERRED to Place Plan and be progressed with three phases as discussed.

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- s. 144(1), Local Government Act 1972 – Power to encourage visitors

d) Jubilee Event PM 531/21

The information regarding the Queen's Platinum Jubilee beacon was first brought to the committee at the GP&P meeting held on 13 January 2022 (PM 426/21a) when COVID restrictions were high.

Gwrych Castle requested a donation of £200 and this was discussed by members at the Ordinary meeting that took place on 7 April 2022. Members instructed the Clerk to contact Gwrych Castle to waiver the fee.

The Deputy Clerk informed the members that Gwrych Castle's reply was that the £200 was to cover the cost of security and for a member of staff to be available on the night. In order to waiver the fee, Gwrych Castle would need to move the event from the main terrace to the car park area to avoid the opening of the gates.

Cllr. Frost, although not at the meeting had provided the Deputy Clerk information in regards to live streaming the event at Gwrych Castle (Resolution passed, PM: 531/21a). Cllr Frost would require the following information in advance:

- Choice of platform (e.g. Facebook, YouTube etc.);
- Actual location to determine shots (e.g. close ups, distant)
- Sound (e.g. wireless or wired mics)
- Signal type and strength (e.g. mobile or wired Broadband).

If the signal is weak then Cllr Frost suggested that video recording the event might be more suitable than live streaming. Testing would need to be carried out in advance to confirm if live streaming is possible.

Members indicated due to the relaxation of restrictions at the end of March that the Jubilee beacon lighting should be an open event. Reference was made to other alternative venues that could accomodate large numbers of public, such as Pensarn Promenade and Pentre Mawr Park. Cllr A Wood offered his site by Manorafon farm as another possible location.

The Deputy Clerk stated that members would need to consider the following when making a resolution:

- A resolution had been passed (minute no 531/21a) and if this required amending then a Notice of Motion would be required. The procedure for this is contained under the Standing Orders number 7 and 9.
- The Town Council's Insurance currently only covers up to 500 people.
- The Guidance from Welsh Government under 'Events: potential reasonable measures action card (alert level 0)' last updated on 29 March 2022 recommends: limiting numbers or controlling movement of people where customers can safely distance themselves and control entry and exit points to prevent people coming together.
- The Town Councils Risk Assessor has been contacted to provide observations for the following venues: Gwrych Castle, Pentre Mawr Park and the Pensarn Promenade.
- The limited time to facilitate a change at this stage of the project and the impact it will have on other ongoing projects.

The matter was debated and Cllr A. Wood apologised to Staff and Committee following his outburst caused by frustrations of legislative and procedural processes.

RESOLVED:

It was RESOLVED to contact Gwrych Castle and request an open event and for the costs involved. If Gwrych Castle are unable to facilitate then the event should be relocated.

- e) Footway lighting, Pentre Mawr Park
Following a communication from Mr R Cochran, Head of Street Lighting, Conwy CBC it was reported that County had recently identified funds to enable completion of perimeter lighting between Sea Road and Dundonald Avenue. Further work on flooding of sections of this footpath, and widening of footpath in this area is continuing to be investigated.

The Acting Deputy Clerk advised that whilst the exercise of investigating solar lighting solution to this problem had been very positive this work was no longer necessary. However, the research undertaken to date would be of considerable benefit to other locations within Town moving forward.

598/21 Planning Matters

- a) Planning Applications: The applications, as detailed below were considered and concluded as detailed on the Schedule A thereon.
- b) Planning Decisions: To NOTE the planning decisions issued by Planning Authority, Conwy County Borough Council for the Abergele area as detailed below:

21/02/2022-03/04/2022

Application No: 0/49302

Location: 34 Sunningdale Abergele LL22 7UB

Proposal: Single Storey Rear Extension and small additional Sunroom to Residential Dwelling. The Proposal includes for an Oak Porch to the Front of the property.

Decision Type: Approved With Conditions

Application No: 0/49323

Location: 40 Lon Y Cyll Pensarn Abergele LL22 7RW

Proposal: Ground Floor - New front porch containing WC. New side extension containing galley kitchen/ circulation space. Existing rear porch/conservatory demolished, footprint extended, rebuilt in traditional masonry to enlarge bedroom from single to double. First Floor - New staircase installed leading to master bedroom with ensuite. 2 No. new skylights. Solar panels installed to south facing pitched roof.

Decision Type: Approved With Conditions

Application No: 0/49334

Location: Bryn Derw St George Road Abergele LL22 9AR

Proposal: Demolition of Existing Dwelling & Outbuildings and the Erection of a Replacement Dwelling, and the Erection 2 no. Detached dwellings, and Associated Development.

Decision Type: Refused

Application No: 0/49367

Location: 14 Dalar Las Glan Conwy LL28 5LJ

Proposal: Proposed extension to front, new window openings & new external finishes.

Decision Type: Approved With Conditions

Application No: 0/49372

Location: 37 Heol Conwy Abergele Conwy LL22 7UT

Proposal: Approval of condition no 3 (Noise Mitigation Measures) of planning approval 0/49123 (Extension to dwelling)

Decision Type: Approved

Application No: 0/49419

Location: 64 Bryn Twr Abergele LL22 8DD

Proposal: Single storey rear extension to provide a dining space and large kitchen for the family

Decision Type: Approved With Conditions

Meeting Closed at 20:57

Signed

.....
(Chairman)

SCHEDULE A: Planning Applications (Min No. 598/21b)

Ref	Description	Applicant	Location	Observation
0/49439	Utility room and shower extension, with bedroom over the extension and part of the existing garage	L. Walchester & R Hughes	32 Eldon Drive, Abergele LL22 7DA	No objection
0/49450	Extension onto the side of the property	Mr L Davies	2 Troon Way Abergele ULL22 7T	No objection
0/49457	Proposal Rear Extension, balcony & garden access steps	Mr M Pendlebury	Betws Tan Y Fron Road Abergele LL22 9AY	No objection
0/49458	Continued use of land for siting of storage containers	Mr S Bowker	Lloyds Caravan Sales Co Ltd Pensarn Industrial Est Pensarn Abergele LL22 7PW	No objection
0/49459	Renovation of external facade and erection of canopy	Mr S Costello	56 Marine Road Pensarn Abergele LL22 7PR	No objection
0/49528	Demolition of garage and porch – proposed replacement porch & garage, proposed single storey rear extension.	Mr L & Mrs & M Jones	44 Kinmel Avenue, Abergele, LL22 7LR	No objection
0/49542	Display of 1 no externally illuminated hanging sign to be circular with diameter of 0.7 and 1 no externally illuminated fascia sign to extend out from face of building by 3m.	Mr S Costello	56 Marine Road, Pensarn, Abergele, LL22 7PR	No objection