

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the Placeplan Committee was held on Thursday 23rd Ionawr/January 2020 at 6:30pm in the Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

562/19 Attendance Register

The Mayor, Cllr. S Jones-Roberts,
Cllrs: D M Armstrong (18:40); J M Bird; G. Frost; P Heap-Williams; C. McCoubrey;
D A MacRae; R.M. Medlicott; M. Richards; B. C. Roberts; S Rowlands (18:45);
R.G. Waters (arrived at 6:35pm); Linda Tavernor (ITACA); Shane Wetton (CCBC);
Wil Arrowsmith (Local Businessman)
Mrs M. J. Evans (Clerk)
Mrs L Whalley (Deputy-Clerk)

In attendance: 3 Members of the public

563/19 Apologies

Cllrs: M Baker; M Bond; A. Hunter; A. Wood.
Vicki Pulo (ITACA);

564/19 Absence with no apologies

None

565/19 Declaration of Interest

Members were reminded that they must declare the **existence** and **nature** of any personal and/or prejudicial interests (using the form provided for this purpose).
Cllr. M. Richards Min No: 576/19

566/19 New Member

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Will Arrowsmith, as a new lay member to the meeting.

567/19 Minutes

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE and SIGN the Minutes of the last Placeplan Committee meeting, held on 28th Tachwedd/November 2019.

568/19 Chris Jones Regeneration

- i) An update from Chris Jones (via telephone link) regarding A55 Signage was RECEIVED. Welsh Government have instructed MWTRA on the design of the signs, funding has been secured and it is expected that the signs will be in place before the summer season. The final proof will be sent out in the near future.
- ii) An update from Chris Jones regarding the TfW development with a £2m plan and Pensarn Train Station as a Community Hub was RECEIVED. The Place Plan can bring the Community together and recommended that a workshop with local businesses be hosted at Canolfan Dewi Sant before the next Placeplan meeting in March, to provide observations into choosing which activities are best suited to the train station community hub project, whilst being mindful of the current activities that already take place at CDSC. It is likely that refurbishment of the old ticket office will start in April. Mr Jones will provide dates to the Clerk.
- iii) An update from Chris Jones on Pentre Mawr and Gele Parks was RECEIVED. A meeting of the Community, Well-Being and Culture Working group in June identified

a need for a consultation with local community groups to establish a co-ordinated plan across the two parks. A consultation meeting with members of the community has been proposed for February. Active Travel will link together. The consultation will take the form of a “walk and talk open day” followed by a plenary meeting. The Rugby Club have offered meeting space for the event. Mr Jones will then prepare a project report. Mr Jones has a meeting with ITACA on Monday and will then take forward with the Community, Wellbeing and Culture Working group to progress. He explained that his contract will end in March and that Capital grants and match funding to move forward will be required in the 2020/21 budget.

- iv) An update on the Walk your Town scheme was RECEIVED. CJR stated that a project involving QR codes and waymarkers had been received and will liaise with Cllr Frost to consider the benefits of the scheme.
- v) Members were reminded to submit their observations to CJR regarding the Pensarn Beach Masterplan Report.

Standing order were suspended

569/19 Guest Speaker to the Committee

Meirion Davies and Shiwan of Menter Iaith were welcomed to the meeting to provide information on the Welsh Language Project which is seeking grant funding from S106. Menter Iaith promotes the use of the Welsh Language across the county in a variety of ways and is not confined to teaching. The company offer translation services in addition to helping people into training and enterprise and to promote the use of the Welsh language outside of school. In conjunction with WG they would be able to facilitate workshops, employ a specialist, link with the secondary school and produce a handbook on how to develop and respond to community needs. Community includes everyone from the local school system to the local business profile.

Funding of £5500 would be needed to fund Menter Iaith staff to conduct the initial engagement with community groups and an event to identify gaps in local provision. The remaining of the £11053.60 would be used to commission freelance work to bring projects into fruition.

Meirion and Shiwan were thanked for their time.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

It was confirmed that Menter Iaith will require the full amount of £11053.60, which was APPROVED at the Place Plan meeting last September under Min no: 324/19 (b).

- 570/19 An e-mail from a member of the public regarding the Llanfair Road development, and an update from Shane Wetton on Section 106 funding, including the Roundabout field was RECEIVED. Mr Wetton clarified the position regarding the allocation of s106 funds. He stressed that S106 expenditure was a legal agreement between the developer and the County and the detail is very often specific and rigid about the exact application of funds. S106 monies generated by the Llanfair Road development will be allocated for traffic calming and traffic management but other improvements in the Llanfair Road area may also be considered. The Placeplan can be utilised to influence these projects. Mr. Wetton gave an assurance that funding allocated to Abergele will be spent in the Abergele area and it is not possible for it to be diverted to other projects in the County. Projects identifying a local need or benefit such as the need for improved sporting facilities, toilets and refreshments at the Roundabout field can be considered as part

of projects moving forward, together with the needs identified by the LDP such as a site for a new school. Mr Wetton emphasised that the use of land for smaller projects/activities must consider the bigger plan to avoid potential damage to the town centre and the town's infrastructure. A report to Scrutiny Committee on S106 spending will be published later this month. The Place Plan Committee will need to identify which request for funding will be the priority.

Standing orders were suspended for a member of the public to speak.

A member of the public thanked Mr Wetton for the information and looks forward to the publication of the report. His own research into the Placeplan to date itemised the s106 income and expenditure account and noted that to date the projects have been small. He queried when the more significant results would be realised.

Mr Wetton assured the resident that projects take time to come to fruition and that there is a time span of 10 years on s106 expenditure.

Standing Orders were reinstated

It was confirmed that the spending on the Traffic Calming measures for Llanfair Road development cannot be carried out until the housing development project has been completed. Pensarn will have a separate agreement for its own development.

571/19 An email from a local resident regarding the following was RECEIVED and CONSIDERED as follows:

- i) An email requesting the Council considers setting up a Trust Fund for Community projects. Members considered that the idea was to be commended and if a number of individuals wish to set up a trust fund, they should not be prevented from doing so, but the Town Council would not be able to lead or administer the proposal.
- ii) In consideration of the resident's request for the need for football facilities, a member informed the committee of the difficulties associated with bringing groups together. Without groups coming together it is difficult to access funding. Recent attempts to have been unsuccessful.

It was RECOMMENDED to APPROVE the resident's request to hold a Public Meeting in the Town Hall free of charge.

572/19 Website

- i) An update with regard to the translation of the new website was RECEIVED. An order has been placed with Menter Iaith to translate the new website and work will commence in February.
- ii) A scope of work for the Placeplan launch was RECEIVED. Members considered that the website launch had lost sight of what was originally proposed. The scope of work was NOT APPROVED. Members RECOMMENDED that the Council utilise other opportunities to raise low key awareness such as the planned open day in Canolfan Dewi Sant for the Transport for Wales consultation to included and to promote what has been achieved to date. A BBC news reporter was noted for future opportunities to raise awareness. It was RECOMMENDED that the Clerk and the Mayor arrange a meeting with the reporter.
- iii) A quote for the Placeplan launch event was RECEIVED. As it was resolved not to approve the Placeplan launch, the quote was NOT APPROVED.
- iv) An e-mail requesting reimbursement to Cllr Wood in respect of the renewal fee for domain names was RECEIVED, CONSIDERED and APPROVED. Members considered that it was important that the domain name is under the control of the

Council and that the Clerk requests that the reimbursement was subject to the transfer of ownership being made to the Town Council.

573/19 An update from Shane Wetton on the process for requesting new projects for consideration by the Placeplan Committee was RECEIVED. Mr Wetton highlighted the importance of following a prescribed protocol to enable projects to be realised in an efficient and timely manner and to ensure equal opportunity. Members were reminded that a protocol was received previously on receiving projects outside of the priority list. The new website will have an area dedicated to the Placeplan to enable users to offer their ideas and observations. The review of the priority list was DEFERRED to the next meeting.

574/19 The following project requests were RECEIVED and CONSIDERED:

- i) & ii) An e-mail from Cllr Frost regarding a request to consider a waymarker project and an e-mail from Cllr Armstrong with a request to consider a town trail project were RECEIVED.

Cllr Frost felt that more could be done to signpost residents and visitors to the network of footpaths around Abergele and was proposing a series of waymarkers using the branding. Members felt that this idea should be considered in conjunction with the idea for a town trail to encourage more walking activity around the town. Even though a town trail already exists it was felt that there would be benefits to modernising and incorporating the use of technology.

It was RECOMMENDED to DEFER to the Community, Well-Being and Culture Working Group.

- iii) An e-mail from Cllr Wood with a request to consider match funding the installation of a link path from the rear garden of Hafod-y-Parc to Pentre Mawr Park, and information from Shane Wetton regarding the possibility of s106 funding were RECEIVED. Mr Wetton reported that Wales & West have agreed to fund a third at £1700 and Abergele Round Table have also confirmed the same. A review of the original paperwork from the original Hafod-y-Parc development was being reviewed as the path had been previously approved by CCBC but not installed. The S106 funding for open Spaces could be utilised for the final third but the locking of the gate could be an obstacle.

The Clerk updated members with reference to a query regarding the allocation of previous monies from the Hafod y Parc development, stating that the funding was to be allocated to the provision of a toilet in the park of around £43,000, which was the charge for the developer for a licence fee to CCBC but as the toilet block did not come to fruition the licence fee was paid. Mr. Wetton is to investigate the unanswered questions.

Item DEFERRED to the next meeting.

575/19 An e-mail update regarding '2-minute beach clean boards' was NOTED

Cllr Richards retired at this juncture

576/19 A letter from 'Incredible Edible' regarding the installation of planters outside the Library was RECEIVED. It was reported that the Men's Shed have been approached to construct the planters. Members had no objections to the proposed location outside the Library subject to Incredible Edible ensuring compliance with CCBC Planning if applicable.

Cllr Richards returned at this juncture

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.

Chris Jones joined the meeting via mobile phone link.

577/19 An update from the Clerk following the recent Staffing Committee regarding the job description for a website administrator was RECEIVED.

CJR provided an overview of the appointment and funding of a Project Manager to take the Place Plan forward as his contract was due to expire. CJR recommended a three-year term to deal with the Western Gateway plans and the Placeplan going forward. This would depend on the County submitting a business case to WG based on the need for capital investment in the Western Gateway. CCBC would host this post and report to the Committee.

At 9pm it was RESOLVED to continue the meeting

The need for the Placeplan project to employ a Co-ordinator for capacity building and to become project ready. This post would be eligible for funding, but match funding would also be required. For a September appointment an application would need to be submitted by March. CJR happy to assist by preparing a business case and taking it forward. This post would have a local presence and incorporate the website and social media, employed by the Town Council and report to the Committee.

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE both posts. It was FURTHER RESOLVED TO DEFER the Project Manager post to CCBC and the Co-ordinator to the Staffing Committee.

578/19 There were no updates from the Theme Leads of the Working Groups.

- a) Community Wellbeing and Culture
- b) Access & Infrastructure
- c) Business Tourism & Jobs

Meeting Closed at: 21:20

Signed

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(Chairman)