

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ABERAERON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 9th APRIL 2024 at 7:00pm
AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, ABERAERON

PRESENT: Councillor Rhodri Jones (Chairman); Councillors Tim Archer, Aled Davies, Phill Davies, Darryl Evans, Elizabeth Evans, Lloyd Garvey, Diana Mace, Sian Stewart and Huw Thomas.
Denfer Morgan – Town Clerk

358. APOLOGIES

Councillors Rhys Davies and Agnieszka Kalinowska apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.

359. PERSONAL

The Chairman referred to the passing of Ms Rhiannon Davies and it was **RESOLVED** to record the Council's appreciation for her contribution to the community over the years, including her period as a teacher at the secondary school and with the Memorial Hall and other local organisations.

360. DYFED-POWYS POLICE

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Charlotte Carter to the meeting who proceeded to provide the following information.

The recent incidents of anti-social by young people including vandalism, criminal damage and arson at various locations including the riverside shelter, the Quay Parade toilets and the Alban Square bus shelters were being investigated and three suspects identified. She was now actively building a case against them and requested Members to refer persons to her who may have evidence of such activities. She would provide a reference number for this purpose. People could also email 101@dyfed-powys.police.uk in addition to phoning.

Councillor Elizabeth Evans stated she would be arranging to meet the neighbourhood Sergeant and Inspector to discuss the current situation in the town and the need to take preventative action. She would also email charlotte with details of the damage made to the electronic information board at the bus stop.

There had been two incidents of assault in two licensed premises.

Councillor Evans stated that she had reported instance of anti-social behaviour outside one of the kebab/pizza businesses in town to Ceredigion County Council, as the Local Licensing Authority with a request that it takes appropriate action.

361. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12th MARCH 2024

It was **RESOLVED** to approve, as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 12th March 2024.

362. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- to remind the Clerk that a meeting needed to be arranged with the organiser of the Garden Festival with regard to providing better 'no dogs' signage
- to record that Councillor Elizabeth Evans needed to raise with Alan Haird the possibility of locating the photo point on the north pier
- Minute 343 - it was reported that, following discussion with the West Wales Rivers Trust with regard to their suggestion of removing the weirs, the Aberaeron Town Angling Club had strongly opposed such a proposal for the reason that they did not believe that the weirs prevented salmon from migrating up-river.

363. FINANCE MATTERS

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:-

Invoice Details	Sum
One Voice Wales Membership 2024-25	£325
Ceredigion County Council – Town wifi installation contribution	£500
Aberaeron Memorial Hall (Meetings Jan-Feb-March)	£90

364. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Consideration was given to the following two planning applications and the decisions as noted were taken.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- i) to defer the application received in respect of Aeron Arts until the next meeting in order to enable Members to obtain further information on the initiative and its financing; and
- ii) not to contribute to Bois y Gilfach as it fell outside the Council policy.

365. PLANNING MATTERS

Consideration was given to the undermentioned applications and the decisions as noted were taken.

- a) A240133(LBC) - Dolaeron South Road, Aberaeron. Retention of rooflights and associated roof works.

Decision: To record the Council's disappointment that the development had been completed prior to receiving planning permission and listed building consent and that it will support the comments of Cadw once received.

- b) A240180 - Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa Council Offices Access Road, Aberaeron. Construction of a compound to include temporary staff accommodation.

Decision: No objection.

366. COUNCIL LAND MATTERS

It was noted as follows:

Square Field: the replacement parts had been ordered to repair the swing.

Parc-y-fro: the work of installing the new playground equipment was scheduled to start later that week.

Alt-y-graig: further clearing work was scheduled for May

Banc Bach: the Chairman would be discussing their proposals with the Primary School.

367. CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET 2024-25

The Chairman stated that Councillor Darryl Evans and the Clerk had met Mr Richard Davies, the contractor currently undertaking work for both Cardigan and New Quay Town Councils and that he had submitted the undermentioned quotations for undertaking street cleaning and ground maintenance work:

Street cleaning: £45 per visit

Grass Cutting:

Group 1 (two cuts) - £700

Group 2 (1 cut every five weeks) - £3,500

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotations received from Mr Richard Davies for Street Cleaning and Ground Maintenance for 2024 and that the Clerk arrange for the work to be commenced immediately.

368. FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE

Consideration was given to the quotation received from Mr Paul Hughes for the cutting of growth along footpaths in the town for 2024 and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation in the sum of £956.

369. CYNNAL Y CARDI PROJECT

The Clerk stated that an application had been made for the funding of a temporary part-time 'Town Ranger' for 2024 and that a decision was awaited.

370. DIGITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

The current position with regard to the app, the wifi points and the webcam was noted; including the distribution of advertising material around the town. With regard to the siting of the proposed photopoint, it was agreed to commence discussions as to the possibility of its location on the proposed reconfigured north pier breakwater.

371. WORKING GROUPS

Consideration was given to the Report of the Clerk on suggested working groups for the Council.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** as follows:

i) to establish the following:

Group	Remit	Members
Service Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review current business plan and develop a new one • To put in place and review an annual action plan. 	
Civic Pride Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of flower beds • Monitoring of green areas and liaison with grass cutter • Identification of woodland developments. • Liaise with volunteers • Organisation of town litter picks. • Lead area picks • Liaise with Contractor 	Tim Archer Elizabeth Evans Lloyd Garvey Diana mace
Playground Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake H and S inspections • Carryout basic maintenance • Organise larger maintenance work. • Oversee playground development 	Darryl Evans Rhodri Jones Huw Thomas
Christmas Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee the Community Christmas event. • Put in place a development plan for new Christmas lights • Oversee installation and removal of lights. • Organise Christmas Tree 	All Members
Digital Services Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Town app and Council 	Aled Davies Lloyd Garvey Rhodri Jones

	website is kept up to date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee town webcam • Liaise with Aberaeron Info and Town Brochure 	
--	--	--

- ii) to give an opportunity to those Members not present at the meeting to be given the opportunity to serve on a working group; and
- iii) report on the process of preparing, up-dating and monitoring the Council's Business Plan and Annual Action Plans at the next meeting.

372. TRAINING POLICY UP-DATE

Consideration was given to the Report of the Clerk up-dating Members on the Training Policy approved by the Council at the May 2022 meeting and the need to ensure that Members undertook training in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that Members undertake the One Voice Wales Basic On-line Training and advise the Clerk when this had been done and to review the situation at the appropriate time.

373. CEREDIGION COMMUNITY REVIEW DRAFT PROPOSALS

Consideration was given to the Ceredigion Community Review Draft Proposals and the recommendations for this Community namely:

- there are no boundary changes proposed (other than very minor ones to tidy up two small areas) and the Town will retain the name Aberaeron
- however, in accordance with the Council Size Policy approved by the County Council for the Review, namely "The ratio of Town Councillors to electors in each urban community should be a minimum of 1:600 and be represented by a minimum of 7 councillors ", it is being proposed that the Town Council has seven Members.

Members objected strongly to the recommendations as the Members were of the view was that they did not improve the existing democratic arrangements and that they undermined "effective and convenient local government" for the electors in the Community.

Aberaeron, as one of the County's six designated towns, provides services such as shops, health and social services, schools, play and leisure facilities and entertainment for its residents, residents of neighbouring communities and holidaying visitors. A large percentage of residents are elderly and its population increases greatly during the summer season with a large influx of visitors. The Town Council is being asked by Ceredigion County Council, due to budgetary pressures, to provide more and more services and facilities which underpin this provision. To that effect, it is being relied upon to provide an increased number of services which requires greater commitment by its Members in terms of time and resources.

It was **RESOLVED** to inform the Commission that the Town Council is strongly of the opinion that a reduction in the number of Members to seven would result in:-

- less democratic representation for the Town's electors and residents generally
- with a quorum of a third, a Council meeting would be quorate with only three Members in attendance which is much too small a number to produce a healthy democratic forum for determining local matters and providing services
- undermining the feasibility and practicality of the Council's proposals for increasing its effectiveness by establishing working groups to specialise in specific areas
- a greater workload for Councillors in providing and managing the services being transferred by the County Council to the Town Council

It would also not produce any financial savings as all Members decide to forgo their basic allowance.

374. REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH EVANS

Councillor Evans reported as follows.

- work was underway to re-open the coastal footpath
- clarification was being sought as to the County Council's intention for the Rhydeinon household waste disposal site was unclear at present
- the need for repairs to the surface of the junctions at the south-eastern corner of Alban Square and lower Regent Street was still being pursued

375. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

A discussion took place in respect of the effect the increase in mooring fees may have on the number of boats being moored in the Harbour.

It was agreed to write to BAM Nuttall thanking their staff for their prompt action in dealing with the breach of the temporary harbour wall the previous morning.

The meeting ended at 9:45pm