

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF ABERAERON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024 at 7:00pm**  
**BY WAY OF REMOTE ATTENDANCE**

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

**400. APOLOGIES**

Councillors Rhys Davies, Darryl Evans, Agnieszka Kalinowska, Diana Mace and Huw Thomas apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.

**401. ABERAERON LIBRARY CONSULTATION**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that it had been convened to give initial consideration to the County Council Aberaeron Library Consultation and invited Councillor Elizabeth Evans to provide information on the current situation.

Councillor Evans stated that the consultation exercise had commenced on 23<sup>rd</sup> May which had coincided with the announcement of the Prime Minister to call an election on 4<sup>th</sup> July and outlined the County Council proposal which was the subject of the consultation.

Representations had been made by Councillor Evans to the County Council asking for the consultation exercise to be postponed as part of the consultation period coincided with the pre-election period of 4<sup>th</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> July which placed certain restrictions on the activities of local authorities. There were concerns that these restrictions would affect the ability of this Council to hold a public meeting. The County Council had not agreed to this but had extended the consultation period to 9<sup>th</sup> July which, in their view, would enable this Council to hold a public meeting before the 4<sup>th</sup> June and between 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July.

The Clerk stated that he was still of the opinion that the consultation exercise should be postponed until after the election as it was an activity which could lead to this Council breaching these restrictions.

The consultation at present was on-line only with details and a response form provided on the County Council website. However Councillor Evans had arranged for paper copies of the response form to be provided at the library / local office desk at the County Hall for those people without access to a computer.

Several Members commented on the proposal, including concerns about whether the consultation was being undertaken in line with statutory requirements and also the limited nature of the consultation whereby specific groups / users had not been contacted directly, including older people.

The Council agreed that, in addition to responding as a Council and due to the level of concern already being expressed in the community, arrangements should be made to convene a public meeting.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED:**

- i) to again formally request the County Council to postpone the consultation until after the general election as, in the Council's view, the consultation was affected by the restrictions imposed by the pre-election period guidance, asking them to ensure that comments received to date be safeguarded;
- ii) to ascertain the appropriate statutory requirements for the consultation; and
- iii) to refer concerns about the limited consultation to the Older People's Commissioner asking whether she would wish to comment on the proposal.

The meeting ended at 7:30pm