

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ABERAERON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 14th JANUARY 2025 at 7:00pm
AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, ABERAERON

PRESENT: Councillor Aled Davies (Chairman); Councillors Phill Davies, Elizabeth Evans, Lloyd Garvey, Rhodri Jones, Agnieszka Kalinowska and Diana Mace.
Denfer Morgan – Town Clerk

502. APOLOGIES

Councillor Tim Archer and Darryl Evans apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.

503. DYFED-POWYS POLICE

PCSO Charlotte Carter was welcomed to the meeting and the following information was provided by her.

There had been several instances of anti-social behaviour in licensed premises over the Christmas period, including instances of assault. Action had been taken under the BOBB scheme with three individuals already having been given lifetime bans from accessing licensed premises. Investigations with the aim of prosecutions were also proceeding against individuals involved in these incidents.

It was noted that all licensed premises other than the Rugby Club had signed up to the Pubwatch scheme.

Young people were being monitored with regard to under-age drinking which appeared to have become more of a problem than vaping and drugs use. There had also been less instances of criminal damage during this period.

An individual had been arrested in connection with the break-in to the Fire Station and associated damage.

PCSO Carter advised that she would be leaving her role in September to be trained as a Police Constable and that she would ensure that there was continuity with her successor. She agreed to request the current PC stationed in the town, PC Christopher Tipper, to attend the next meeting of the Council.

504. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 10th DECEMBER 2024

It was **RESOLVED** to approve, as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 12th November 2024, subject to the following:

- a) When issuing the licence, it had been emphasised to the organisers of the Garden Festival the need to take sufficient steps, including providing adequate signage and supervision, to ensure that no dogs entered the Field
- b) To note that the minutes should have reflected the Council's discussion of the current position with regard to the bollards placed on private land adjoining the

highway at Bryn Road and to instruct the Clerk to seek an update from the County Council on the action being taken in this regard.

505. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Relocation of the Library and the use of County Hall

Councillor Elizabeth Evans reported that, together with Councillor Marc Davies and the Town Clerk, she had discussed with a Barrister the possibility of using a 'straw man' who had been identified to lead with any judicial review but they had not met the required criteria and the matter had not been progressed.

The Town Clerk reported that the County Council had twice deferred responding to the corporate complaint made in respect of this matter and that their target was now to formally respond by 24th January.

It was agreed to investigate the response given to the Older People's Commissioner to their representations by the County Council.

With regard to the County Hall, it was noted that the plan was to move the library and the service counter to Penmorfa in June. The intention then was to undertake refurbishments in order to attract new users, with grant aid being sought to assist with these costs. Councillor Evans stated that she was taking steps to ensure that the premises were kept open to safeguard the possibility of the Library returning there in future. It was already understood that the two front rooms were being let to a local business in the first instance.

506. FINANCE MATTERS

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

Invoice Details	Sum
4 Travail Invoices @ £777.02 (street cleaner) dated: 06/12, 13/12, 20/12, 27/12	£2,331.06
Dragon wifi (webcam provision 24/12/24-31/03/2) (subject to the Clerk clarifying whether it was duplication of the previous invoice)	£234.58

507. 2025-26 BUDGET

Consideration was given to the Draft Budget for 2025-26 and, in particular, the sums suggested for inclusion to meet the cost of providing devolved County Council services, namely:

South Beach toilets summer opening - £5,400
Ground Maintenance - £2,400
Street Cleaning - £16,000

Consideration was also given to the need to increase the Council Tax and it was agreed that it be increased by 5% to meet the additional expenditure and limit the use of reserves which were currently at an accepted level.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- i) to approve a budget of £59,174
- ii) to approve a Precept of £50,708
- iii) to set a council tax of £61.15 for Band D properties.

508. CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL DEVOLVED SERVICES

The Clerk stated that the street cleaning service contract had been advertised and one expression of interest had been received – from the current operative – who was requesting further information before submitting a formal quotation.

It was agreed to clarify the following matters;

- a) the contact would be the Town Clerk
- b) the weeding of roads and pavements was not included in the contract and that any weeding of other areas would be the subject of discussion with the Clerk.

509. PLANNING MATTERS

Further consideration was given to planning application A240458 5 Newfoundland Terrace, Aberaeron. *Proposed alterations to existing building to include demolition of existing garage, proposed residential dwelling and alterations to existing parking facilities.*

It was noted that confirmation had now been received that this dwelling is within the Conservation Area and the Heritage Impact Assessment, submitted with the application, had been circulated to Members.

Councillor Evans stated that she was following up with the case officer the possibility that the increased parking provision - which formed part of the application - would lead to increased vehicular use in this area and would have an adverse effect on the use of the Penmorfa entrance located opposite the application site and the safety of people using the bus stop located in front of the property when the Library was housed at Penmorfa.

510. COUNCIL LAND MATTERS

It was **RESOLVED** as follows:

- a) **Square Field:** the contractor had indicated that the rat problem had been dealt with.
- b) **Parc-y-fro:** to arrange for the section of fence damaged during Storm Darragh to be repaired

511. DIGITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

It was noted that no response had been received in respect of the temporary storage of the photo-point.

Work on the app was being given priority by the Town Clerk.

512. ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Report for 2023-24.

513. PLACE PLAN UPDATE

It was **RESOLVED** to note that the Consultants had provided the County Council with a completed version of the Place Plan which could now be progressed by this Council to reflect developments in the Town. To that effect, it was agreed to arrange a public consultation event in September to commence this process.

514. LISTING OF CHALYBEATE WELL AND WEIRS

Consideration was given to the suggestion to List these structures and the Town Clerk had circulated details of the legal process to be followed.

It was **RESOLVED** in the first instance to discuss with the County Council Conservation Officer assistance with progressing the Council's initiative.

515. MEMBERS TRAINING

Consideration was given to an opportunity for Members to receive training on the Code of Conduct by the Ceredigion Ethics and Standards Committee. It was noted that a link to the on-line session would be forwarded shortly.

516. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLORS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR FILLING THE VACANCIES

Consideration was given to the Report of the Clerk on the procedure to follow to fill the two vacancies on the Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to commence the process for filling the Council vacancies in accordance with the statutory procedure by way of requesting the Ceredigion Returning Officer to publish a notice inviting ten electors to request an election.

517. REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH EVANS

Councillor Evans reported as follows:

- All the public toilets were now open
- A session had been heard earlier that day where information had been received indicating that the correct statutory procedure had been followed during the process for closing the four primary schools
- An investigation had been commenced with regard to fly-tipping at Penial Lane
- The 2025-26 budget preparation was continuing.

518. ANY OTHER BUSINES

Councillor Phill Davies raised the following:

- The need to clear the drains in town which Councillor Evans agreed to follow up
- The need to remove the damaged trees from the Belle Vue Terrace bank and the harbour area under the bridge.

The meeting ended at 8:35pm