MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ABERAERON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2025 at 7:00pm AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, ABERAERON

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

617. APOLOGIES

Councillors Rhys Davies and Lloyd Garvey apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.

618. <u>DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST</u>

Councillor Elizabeth Evans did not take part in the discussion or voting on planning applications A250619/62 referred to in minute 622b) below in accordance with predetermination requirements.

Councillor Elizabeth Evans disclosed a personal interest in the matter referred to in Minute 630b) below – the discussion on the financial position of the Aberaeron and District Swimming Pool.

619. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 8th JULY 2025

It was **RESOLVED** to approve, as a correct record, the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 8th July 2025.

620. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) Consultation on the Review of Household Waste Sites: to note that the Council's response had been sent to the County Council. Councillor Evans said that the decision of the County council would be announced imminently.
- b) **Friends of Ceredigion Museum:** to agree that Sian Stewart represent the Council as an observer at its meetings.

621. FINANCE MATTERS

It was **RESOLVED**

a) to approve the following payments:

Invoice Details	Sum
SSE (Belle Vue Terrace Electricity Supply)	£288.40
SSE	£160.23
Teresa Tanahill (Street Cleaning Contract July 2025 -	
93.25 hours @ £16 per hour)	£1,492
One Voice Wales (Annual Subscription)	£343
Clerk's Salary (July-Aug-Sept - includes one month's	
back pay)	
Denfer Morgan	£1,565.20
HMRC (PAYE)	£391.30

b) to note receipt of the 2nd precept payment in the sum of £16,902.67

622. PLANNING MATTERS

It was **RESOLVED**

a) to note the comments sent to the Local Planning Authority in respect of the undermentioned planning applications during the August recess period under delegated powers by the Clerk and following consultation with Members by way of emails:-

A250509 - The Pightle, Darkgate Avenue, Aberaeron - No objection

A250526 - Aberaeron Comprehensive School South Road, Aberaeron - Support

A250528 - Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion Penmorfa Council Offices Access Road, Aberaeron – **No objection**

A250541 - Memorial Hall, South Road, Aberaeron - Support

A250570 - Delfan, 4 Oxford Street, Aberaeron. Proposed Home Office & Garage – **No objection**

A250584 - Peniel Chapel Water Street, Aberaeron. Remove defective cement pointing, replace with lime morter – **No objection**

A250585 - 8 Alban Square, Aberaeron. Removal & replacement of defective cement render to the north and east elevations Installation of 3no Box sash windows Repairs to ceilings Installation of doorway Decoration – **No objection**

b) to offer no objection to planning applications A250619 (Full) / A250620 (LBC)
 - Ambassadors, 3 Alban Square, Aberaeron. Proposed extension and reconfiguration of commercial premises at 3 Alban Square.

623. COUNCIL LAND MATTERS

It was **RESOLVED** as follows:

Square Field:

- the draft licence had been returned by Aberaeron FC with their comments
 and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk circulate it to Members for their
 comments and that the Council's response be prepared by the Clerk and
 Councillors Darryl Evans and Rhodri Jones for consideration at the next
 meeting. In the meantime, the Clerk be requested to obtain a copy of the
 Club's public liability insurance policy and that they undertake a risk
 assessment in respect of their use of the land and provide a copy to the
 Council.
- To note that the hedge would be cut the following Sunday morning
- The Deputy Mayor and the Clerk meet with Russell Horsey in order to discuss the contents of his email with regard to trees
- To request the contractor to trim two large trees

 To make further enquiries in respect of the request to site a youth mobile in the Field.

Parc-y-fro:

 it was RESOLVED to attend to damaged safety surfacing at both Parc-yfro and Square Field.

624. HARBOUR MATTERS

A SEA DEFENCE SCHEME / HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

The following was noted in connection with the completion of the scheme.

- resin surfacing to be installed In the area at the rear of the New Celtic restaurant, similar to that at Pwllcam
- discussions were underway with regard to painting the re-placed benches
- the silting at the harbour mouth would be monitored
- the Pwllcam floodgates would be opened and closed in accordance with 'standard operating procedures'.

B HARBOUR MANAGEMENT

Councillor Tim Archer reported on the information he had received in respect of the level of fees collected by the County Council following the numerous increases over recent years. It was noted that the number of boats moored at the Harbour had almost halved and income was down. However, there was still a waiting list for moorings at New Quay Harbour which meant that, over all the harbours, income had increased for the County Council. Councillor Elizabeth Evans confirmed that a quarterly report had been made to the Cabinet showing reduced usage and income with the Harbour being subsidised by the other harbours.

An FOI request had also been made in resect of car ark usage in the context of increased charges. It was agreed to request Councillor Archer to collate the information received and report back.

C HARBOUR FESTOON LIGHTS

The Clerk was requested to arrange for the festoon lights to be re-installed as soon as possible.

625. STREET CLEANING

Councillor Elizabeth Evans stated that the recent problems with the County Council bin emptying service had been due to permanent and casual staff being off work with illness and with them taking leave; and that management was addressing this.

626. TOILETS

The Clerk referred to the email received from the County Council asking this Council to reconsider its earlier decision and to the reply sent by him following an exchange of emails with Members.

It was **RESOLVED** to formally advise the County Council that this Council had not changed its position and was not prepared to take responsibility for providing toilets in the town under any form of arrangement as it was not in a financial position to do so.

627. DIGITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

The Clerk reported that the app was currently inoperative and that he was in contact with the provider to ensure its re-launching.

628. GRANT SCHEMES

Consideration was given to the current position with regard to the undermentioned Grant Schemes:

- UK Government Transforming Towns
- Provision of Christmas Lights
- Market Street Development
 - Welsh Government Community Development and Support
 - Ceredigion Nature Partnership's Local Places for Nature Small Grants Scheme

With regard to the Christmas lights proposal, the Chairman referred to a meeting he had arranged with representatives of the Town Improvements Committee which had led to a draft application being presented to Cynnal y Cardi. Notification had then been received from them stating that Welsh Government had advised that the proposal did not meet the criteria and would not eligible for grant aid.

Councillor Elizabeth Evans stated that she had requested a meeting with the relevant officers of the County Council's Economy and Regeneration Service in respect of this Council's proposals and was awaiting confirmation of dates.

629. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULATION

It was **RESOLVED** to note the Welsh Government Consultation document on Revisions to the Separate Collection of Waste Materials for Recycling: A Code of Practice for Wales

630. REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH EVANS

- a) Various matters
 - action was being taken to require a review of car parking charges

- a new surface was being installed at the Leisure Centre
- the library was due to move to Penmorfa in October
- the possibility of placing portaloos at South Beach was being followed up.

b) Aberaeron and District Swimming Pool

Councillor Evans reported on the parlous financial situation of the Swimming Pool which was obviously a matter of local concern. Recent developments such as the introduction of the inflatable equipment had helped but the Pool needed both a short-term contribution in order to meet the current year's projected deficit and also long-term funding commitments. The situation was complicated by the uncertainty about the sharing of the electricity cost with the comprehensive school. In particular it did not appear that the Pool was benefitting from recent energy-saving measures.

Members considered the matter in detail and the Chairman summarised the position. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED**:

- i) to agree unanimously to take immediate steps to secure the future of the Pool;
- ii) to agree to consider at the appropriate time annual funding of the Pool and
- iii) to request further information from the Swimming Pool Management Committee to enable the Council to make an informed decision on this year's funding.

The meeting ended at 9:30pm