**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Tuesday 9th December 2014.

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: Carol Heycocks (Mayor), Brian Lloyd, Chris Bithell, Bryan Grew, Phil Thomas, Anthony Parry, Karen Hodgkinson, Andrea Mearns, Haydn Bateman, Geoff Collett and Gareth Williams, The Clerk and Finance Officer and Support Officer.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ian Bankcroft, Chief Officer Organisational Change and one members of the press (Leader).

**APOLOGIES**: Councillors: Robin Guest, Bob Gaffey, Ray Dodd, Geoff Matthias and Richard Brookes

**111. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Chris Bithell, Geoff Collett and Karen Hodgkinson expressed an interest in agenda item 3 and 5, Daniel Owen Centre.

Councillors Andrea Mearns and Chris Bithell expressed an interest in agenda item 3, Community Asset Transfer regarding Bailey Hill bowling green.

**112. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS**

**112.1** The Mayor welcomed Ian Bankcroft, Chief Officer Organisational Change from Flintshire County Council and invited Ian to talk to members about the asset transfer list which was previously circulated.

Ian advised members that Flintshire County Council would be facing a challenging 12 months as they were looking at implementing a £50 million budget cut over the next 4 years.

The Asset Transfer list is not implicated in next year’s budget but may be affected in future years, Ian was looking forward to working with community and town councils to look at alternatives over the next 12 months.

First stage would be to look at which asset would be considered a priority and for the Town Council to put in an expression of interest straight away. An expression of interest enables Flintshire County Council to provide all relevant information, where relevant there could also be discussions with staff employed within the service on the transfer list.

Second stage, a business model would be provided, including finances to review and discuss. Business model meeting would take place every 3 months, from January onwards.

Third stage would be completion of legal and asset agreements.

Timescale from expression of interest to completion would take between 6 to 12 months.

Ian asked all members to look at the asset transfer list and report back to the Town Clerk any assets which they believe should be included and not currently on the list.

Councillor Geoff Collett pointed out the Town Hall building was not on the list.

Ian Bankcroft informed members he would be looking at working with the Town Council on assets with the town centre, this would include the Town Hall building, Spring 2015.

Councillor Gareth Williams said members should look at the current building compared with other assets as priorities may now be different.

Ian confirmed the current categories for asset transfer as follows:-

a) Community based – long term, peppercorn rent

b) Commercial assets – community value

c) Assets important long term for strategic purposes, but short term lease negotiable

Questions were asked by members about whether consideration would be given to the transfer of services that provide an income to off set services that do not provide an income. Ian confirmed they would consider any proposals and this would be open for discussion as part of the transfer package.

Councillor Gareth Williams asked whether play areas on the transfer list would be covered by section 106 agreement to cover cost of maintenance. Ian confirmed this would be part of the discussions; initiatives would be looked at to help community groups to take on non profit assets.

Ian confirmed Flintshire County Council would be open to discussions of a care package and they were looking at how to facilitate this, but no figures or agreement had been given.

Question was raised by Councillor Andrea Mearns whether an asset would close if not taken on by a group or organisation. Ian confirmed this would need to be addressed year on year.

Ian confirmed, where relevant a condition survey would take place before transfer and this would be discussed in the business model stage.

Ian Bancroft left the meeting at 5.50pm

**112.2** Members were asked to consider the previously circulated list of current assets within Mold.

Councillor Chris Bithell commented that it would be beneficial if they knew what was actually under threat of closure before they considered as this would help members prioritise. It was confirmed this list was unavailable as no decisions had been made.

It was agreed a subcommittee group would be set up and a meeting held early January to go through the assets on the list. It was agreed that the sub committee would consist of two councillors from each ward and Councillors Bithell, Mearns, Collett, Parry, Grew, Williams and Heycocks agreed to participate, with one further member from the West Ward to join. The Town Clerk would contact Councillors from the West Ward to ask for a volunteer to join. Councillor Mearns suggested Ann Woods from FLVC join the sub committee group.

All members were asked to email the Town Clerk anything they would like to put forward to the subgroup and also to forward any assets not on the list which should be considered for the sub committee meeting early January.

**Resolved:** It was resolved a subcommittee would be set up to work with other groups and communities on the asset transfer list and present report to full council.

The Town Clerk would contact Councillors from the West Ward to ask for a volunteer to join the subgroup and extend an invite to Ann Woods to join.

**113. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**Resolved:** It was resolved to exclude the public and press from the meeting in order to discuss a confidential matter

**114. Daniel Owen Centre**

Councillor Geoff Collett announced he was now chair of the Daniel Owen Centre Committee and expressed his desire to work with other committee members to improve the centre.

Councillor Collett asked for another volunteer from Mold Town Council to join the Daniel Owen Committee.

**Resolved** This would be considered in the AGM review in May.

**The Meeting ended at 6.30pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH MOLD TOWN COUNCIL’S**

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 9TH December 2014** |

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| **MEMBER** | **ITEM** | **MINUTE NO. REFERS** |
| Councillors Bithell, Collett and Hodgkinson  Councillors Bithell and Mearns | 3 & 5, Daniel Owen Centre  3, Bailey Hill | 112  112 |

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