**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 27th January 2016.

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: Brian Lloyd (Mayor), Anthony Parry, Geoff Collett, Phil Thomas, Haydn Bateman, Gareth Williams, Bob Gaffey, Ray Dodd, Chris Bithell, Robin Guest, Richard Brookes, Andrea Mearns, Carol Heycocks, Bryan Grew, Karen Hodgkinson, the Town Manager, the Clerk and Finance Officer and the Support Officer.

Also present: One member of the press.

**APOLOGIES**: Councillor Geoff Matthias.

**123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Andrea Mearns and Karen Hodgkinson expressed an interest in agenda item 7 / Budget 2016/17 relating to Parkfields.

Councillors Geoff Collett, Karen Hodgkinson, Chris Bithell, Bob Gaffey and Robin Guest expressed an interest in agenda item 7 / Budget 2016/17 relating to Daniel Owen Centre.

Councillor Bryan Grew expressed an interest in agenda item 7 / Budget 2016/17 relating Citizen Advice.

**124. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members noted the previously circulated diary of the Mayor’s recent activities since the last meeting of the town council.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to all who had attended his Christmas Concert at St Mary’s Church and also informed members about the positive feedback which had been received for the Town Council’s first Santa Dash and also how much he had enjoyed Mold Carnival Committee’s pantomime which was held at St Mary’s Church Hall, both of which are set to become annual events.

**125. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 25th November 2015 be received and approved.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Audit Sub Committee held on the 11th January 2016 be received and approved.
3. The minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council Committee held on the 10th December 2015 be received and approved.

**126. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**Mold Town Council 25th November 2015**

Minute 108 – Councillor Chris Bithell asked if there had been any update received from Inspector Bowcott regarding reinstating ward meetings with the PCSO’s. The Town Manager informed members that Mold had previously had 4 PCSO’s - one for each ward, but there is currently only 3 in Mold and he would speak to Sergeant Evans regarding the current structure of the community policing team and report back to members.

Minute 113.1 – Councillor Bob Gaffey asked if the Town Clerk had received a response regarding the councils query about the auditor being based in England and not Wales. The Town Clerk informed members that the auditor was chosen following a tender process and providing a bi-lingual service had been part of the tender requirement.

Minute 113.3 - Councillor Chris Bithell asked if the Town Clerk had received an update regarding training carried out at County Hall by members who are also County Councillors, whether this training could be recorded on Mold Town Council training records, the Town Clerk confirmed that it could be.

Minute 115 – Councillor Robin Guest asked if an update had been received from Andrew Farrow, Flintshire County Council’s Chief Planning Officer regarding the flood alleviation scheme. The Town Clerk confirmed an update had been received from Sandy Mewies AM with a copy of a letter from Carl Sargeant, which informs that further discussions are needed on the matter. Councillor Guest asked the Town Clerk to take forward with Flintshire County Council.

Minute 116 – Councillor Andrea Mearns informed members the two play schemes in Mold are open access play schemes, where children are free to come and go and if as suggested by members, there was to be only scheme in a central location, this may be an issue as children will have further to travel unsupervised.

Minute 117 – Councillor Robin Guest asked for an update regarding the provision of CCTV in Mold. The Town Clerk informed members she had received information that the current contractor had agreed to extend the existing contract until March 2017 and waivered the 5% increase, which will give Flintshire County Council time to complete the review.

**Youth Council Committee 10th December 2015.**

Councillor Chris Bithell expressed the importance of the views of the Youth Council when discussing the town plan and community assets transfer.

**127. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER**

Members noted the previously circulated report from the Town Manager.

The Town Manager gave a brief update on his report and informed members that the “Town Investment fund” which is £142,000 (generated from parking revenue) is held by the County Council and is not within the Town Council Budget. Projects identified have to have at least commenced by 31st March 2016 to ensure the expenditure is allocated, otherwise the funding may be lost.

In preparation for this year’s Spring Clean which will take place Friday 18th to Monday 21st March, the Town Manager asked members to let him know about grot spots around the town and projects which could be undertaken during the 3 day Spring clean.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Ewloe has agreed to undertake maintenance of the benches around the town, including the benches in the cemetery. An agreement of understanding has been drawn up between the Church, Mold Town Council and Flintshire County Council and the Town Manager asked members to review the draft copy provided.

Roy March, Proprietor of Fact not Fiction on Earl Road ceased trading today but will continue to trade on the street markets.

The Mayor’s Charity Dinner is taking place on February 19th and offers of auction or raffle prizes would be appreciated.

On Thursday 18th February the Principal Valuer for Wales will be coming to talk to businesses and traders at the Town Hall regarding business rates. Members are welcome to attend.

Councillor Chris Bithell, referring to the information regarding WiFi in the Town Manager’s report, informed members he had received a telephone call from a business on the Industrial Estate who reported having issues with their WiFi and asked if there were plans to improve the service in the area. The Town Manager informed members the project regarding free community WiFi would be for the town centre but was still being developed.

Councillor Chris Bithell informed members he had recently spoke with a market trader who said there was a feeling of “being left out” with regards to information and also expressed a concerned about the attendance numbers for the street market. The Town Manager informed members that the markets team had held a couple of consultation meetings for street traders but they had been very poorly attended but they were working on the situation.

Councillor Chris Bithell asked if there had been any further information regarding the recent spate of tyre slashing in the town. The Town Manager confirmed he would speak to the Police Sergeant to find out where the investigation was up to.

Councillor Robin Guest raised concern regarding the revenue from “Town Investment Fund” projects which had to be agreed and have to be at least commenced by 31st March 2016, he thought it was unacceptable that the revenue may be lost if the Town Council had not committed to the projects by 31st March. As the money was Flintshire County Council “ear marked” reserves it would be an abuse of public spending if the Council was not given sufficient time to decide on the projects. Councillor Guest asked the Town Manager to write to Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council and Steve Jones Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) to remind them of the background regarding the revenue.

Councillor Gareth Williams asked if the projects listed on the Town Managers report had been costed, the Town Manager confirmed they had all been costed and he intended to deliver all 8 of the projects and any monies over would be used to repair the footpaths regarding the different colour tarmac which had been used for repairs.

Councillor Geoff Collett said it was wrong to expect the Town Council to pay for repairs to the footpaths when the work had originally been carried out by Flintshire County Council or was carried out by a contractor under County Council supervision and the Council should get an undertaking from Flintshire County Council that it will not happen again.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the report

**The Town Manager left the meeting at 7.30pm**

**128. BUDGET 2016/17**

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing the estimates for the current year, the probable expenditure for the year together with estimates for the next financial year 2016/17. The Council noted that the report included the third quarterly review of the current year’s accounts with details of the petty cash expenditure, income and the bank / cash reconciliation as at 31st December 2015.

The Clerk reminded the Council that the Budget Sub-Group has monitored the expenditure and carefully considered the detail of the proposed budget.

Members debated the grant funding request from Councillor Mearns regarding the request for £5,000 to match fund the Heritage Lottery Funding application for stage one of the Bailey Hill development. Members supported the request for the £5,000 which would be taken out of Town Council reserves and therefore not added to the budget 2016/17. Councillor Mearns confirmed for stage 2 funding, capital grants would be applied for and Council would not be requested to provide further funding for stage 2.

**Press left at 8.10pm**

Members approved Councillor Phil Thomas’ request for £1,000 towards funding wildflowers and footpaths, to strengthen the Mold Green band. It was agreed the £1,000 would be taken out of Town Council reserves and therefore not added to the budget 2016/17.

**Councillor Gareth Williams left at 8.40pm**

Members agreed to increase the hire costs of the Jubilee room by £1.00 per hour, making the new hire charges from 1st April 2016 to £11.00 per hour for charities and non profit organisations and £16.00 per hour for all others.

Members approved the Budget Sub Group recommendations to increase the precept income by 5%.

Councillor Mearns queried the £360.00 grant the Council give to the Fire Service towards funding the annual bonfire. Following the bonfire last year, the Fire Service donated £2,000 to charity. The Financial Assistance criteria has been amended in the last 12 months to address this issue and should also be considered for larger grants. Members agreed with the Town Clerk’s suggestion that the Policy and Audit Committee review as part of the grant and financial assistance policy.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) The quarterly reviews of general expenditure, petty cash expenditure, income and the bank reconciliation as at 31st December 2015 be noted and approved;

b) The charges for use of the Jubilee Room increase from April 2016 to £11.00 and £16.00 per hour for Charities/Voluntary Groups and Non Charities respectively;

c) The budget for 2016/2017 as proposed be approved; and

d) A precept of £244,419.00 be approved for the year 2016/2017 which reflects an increase of 5%;

e) £5,000 to be taken from reserves for matching funding the Heritage Lottery Funding application for stage one of the Bailey Hill development be be approved;

f) £1,000 to be taken from reserves to be used towards funding wildflowers and footpaths be approved;

e) The revised Cemetery Fees be approved and introduced from 1st April 2016;

**129. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The Council considered the report detailing the applications and recommendations from the panel for financial assistance. It was agreed to make contributions as follows:

1) Tandem Cymru £200.00

2) Flintshire Disability Forum £200.00

3) DAFFODILS £200.00

4) Hafan Cymru £100.00

5) Mold & District Choral Society £100.00

6) North Wales Deaf Association £100.00

7) Eye2Eye £100.00

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the grants detailed above be approved.

**Councillors Hodgkinson, Bateman, Dodd and Brookes left the meeting at 9.00pm**

## **130. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULATION – DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) BILL**

The objective of the Draft Bill is to complete the programme of the Local Authority mergers and set out a new and reformed legislative framework for Local Authority democracy, accountability, performance and elements of finance. The closing date for responses is 15th February 2016.

Councillor Grew and the Town Clerk will be attending a Draft Local Government Wales workshop on Thursday 4th February and will be able to provide further information after they have attended. Members approved a sub group of Councillors Mearns, Grew, Bithell and Guest and for the sub group to have delegated power to respond on the Councils behalf. The Town Clerk will arrange to meet with the sub group after the 4th February to discuss and submit response.

**Resolved:** It was resolved a sub group be set up and have delegated power to respond on behalf of the Council.

## **131. ROAD SAFETY REVIEW – TRUNK ROADS IN WALES**

Correspondence has been received from the Welsh Government providing details of the findings of the Road Safety Review and the link had been previously circulated to members for information.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the information.

## **132. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION – FORMAL SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE NOTES**

The Council have reviewed and updated the majority of the existing Local Planning Guidance Notes (SPGN) to support the continued use of the adopted Flintshire UDP. The new SPGN’s will replace the existing informal Local Planning Guidance Notes. Comments on the notes are now welcomed and available for public consultation until 12th February 2016. The link for further information had been previously circulated to members.

Councillor Guest suggested the Planning Committee meet to review and comment on behalf of the Council. The Town Clerk was requested to arrange a planning meeting before the 12th February to go through.

**Resolved:** It was resolved the Planning Committee review and respond on behalf of the Council.

## **133. TOWN PLAN CONSULATION – COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS**

Members considered the previously circulated report providing an update following the recent Town Plan consultation.

The Town Clerk had made contact with Flintshire County Council seeking clarity on a number of areas and advised that a meeting with the working group and Anthony Benson (Independent Consultant) to work through the action plan is to be arranged and provided the following recommendations to members for consideration:-

a) note the information within the report;

b) make use of the information when considering the budget for 2016/17;

c) instruct the Town Clerk on current views for Community Asset Transfer of the play areas, public conveniences and the Town Hall;

d) approve for the Town Clerk to make an application for LEADER funding for a review of the public conveniences in the town, with match funding should the application be successful;

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the report and approve the Town Clerk to make an application for LEADER funding with the assistance of Cadwyn Clwyd.

## **134. BUBBLEGUM REPORT**

Members considered the previously circulated report providing information on the activities of the Bubblegum Club for 2015.

## Councillor Bithell asked the Town Clerk to request attendance levels for the club which were not included in the report.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the report and for the Town Clerk to request attendance figures.

## **135. CITIZENS ADVICE FLINTSHIRE**

Members considered the previously circulated correspondence from the Citizens Advice and a hard copy of their Annual Report 2014-15 was available from the Town Clerk for members to view.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the report.

## **136. URDD GOBAITH CYMRU – PATAGONIA 2016**

Members considered the previously circulated correspondence from a student of Ysgol Maes Garmon requesting financial support to enable her to visit Patagonia, Argentina as part of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru. The request for financial assistance falls outside the normal criteria set by the council.

Although the request falls outside the normal criteria members were happy to note that the student intended to visit the primary schools in Mold upon her return to share her experiences and promote the Welsh language and culture to young children. Members agreed this will benefit the young children of the community and strengthen the welsh identity of Mold.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to support the request with £100 donation.

## **137. CYNNAL CYMRU**

Members discussed the previously circulated information regarding membership of Cynnal Cymru. Members voted against the membership.

**Resolved:** It was resolved not to become a member of Cynnal Cymru.

**138. NOTIFICIATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the report and approve the recommendations.

**139. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Members noted the information from Councillor Mearns’ meeting with Cadwyn Clwyd regarding Mold projects which could attract LEADER and Rural Community Development Funding which had previously been circulated to members.

**Resolved**: It was resolved to note the information.

**140. ACCOUNTS / PAYMENTS**

The Council considered the schedule previously circulated and noted that expenditure complied with the statutory powers available to local councils.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the schedule of payments be approved.

**The Meeting ended at 9.35pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 27th January 2016** |

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| **MEMBER** | **ITEM** | **MINUTE NO. REFERS** |
| Cllrs. Mearns and Hodgkinson  Cllrs. Collett, Hodgkinson, Bithell, Gaffey and Guest  Cllr. Grew | Item 7 / Budget 2016/167 regarding Parkfields.  Item 7 / Budget 2016/167 regarding Daniel Owen Centre.  Item 7 / Budget 2016/167 regarding Citizen Advice | 128  128  128 |

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