

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held virtually on-line over video conferencing 6pm Wednesday 31st March 2021.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Teresa Carberry (Mayor), Sarah Taylor (Deputy Mayor), Trevor Arnold, Haydn Bateman, Chris Bithell, Geoff Collett, Bryan Grew, Robin Guest, Karen Hodgkinson, Haydn Jones, Brian Lloyd, Andrea Mearns, Anthony Parry and Gareth Williams.

Officers: Ian Jones Town Clerk and Finance Officer, Jane Evans Events and Community Engagement Officer, Jo Douglass Business and Regeneration Officer.

Also Present: one member of the public.

119. APOLOGIES: None

ABSENT: Councillor Geoff Matthias and Tim Maunders

120. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

121. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave Members an update on her official engagements attended since the last meeting and informed Members that she was delighted with the Community Awards and thanked the Events and Community Engagement Officer for the organising of the on-line event.

The Mayor also reported that she had attended the Alun School Council on-line meeting and the Flintshire City of Sanctuary meeting whereby she was asked to become a Trustee and has accepted the position.

The Mayor also expressed thanks to all the volunteers in the Mold Community Shop and all those involved in obtaining Easter Egg and Easter donations.

122. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That:

- a) The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th February 2021 be received and formally approved;
- b) The Minutes of the Cemetery Committee held on 9th March 2021 be received and noted;
- c) The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 15th March 2021 be received and noted; and
- d) The Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Audit Committee held on 17th March 2021 be received and formally approved.

123. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT – COMMENCEMENT, IMPLEMENTATION SUMMARY AND GUIDANCE.

Members considered the previously circulated report on the key provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for the Community and Town Council Sector.

The Town Clerk provided a summary and highlighted some of the areas which would change in the Town and Community Sector as a result of the Act. these included:

- Elections, voting and 5 year terms
- General Power of Competence replacing the Power of Well-Being
- Public participation in meetings
- Remote access to meetings
- electronic publication of documents
- Annual Reports
- Conduct of Members
- Training plans and training for Members and Staff

Members discussed salient points of the report and expressed some concern and observations regarding some of the new requirements which could be time consuming and costly especially for the smaller Community Councils.

Members noted that the changes contained within the Act had been fully consulted and had received Royal Consent.

RESOLVED: that the report be received and noted.

124. JOINT REPORT OF THE BUSINESS & REGENERATION OFFICER AND EVENTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

Members considered the previously circulated report from the Business & Regeneration Officer and Events & Community Engagement Officer.

The Events & Community Engagement Officer updated Members that the Town Council had received £1,400 cash donations from various Businesses for Easter eggs and donations of Easter Eggs and asked for Members to approve a payment of over £500 on the debit card to purchase Easter eggs with the donations received. Members supported the request.

A Member asked about the 'Best places in Wales to live' nominations and as Mold was doing so well, could this be considered. The Business and Regeneration Officer reported that such nominations were based on several factors, such as surveys, schooling, culture, transportation as well as the health of the Highstreet. Given that Mold was shortlisted for the Great British Highstreet in 2019 once entries are open again a submission would be made in recognition of the new businesses and expanding businesses in Mold together with the initiatives implemented to assist in the recovery of the High Street due to the pandemic.

Councillor Andrea Mearns provided an update on the Naked Takeaway pilot project in that the Mold Plastic Reduction group had distributed 250 x 2-Tier Tiffin Tins, 250 x 3-Tier Tiffin Tins and 180 Pizza Boxes to a total of 6 businesses participating. The businesses would be completing a weekly tally form to record take-up so that the

amount of single-use plastic save could be calculated. There has been a great promotion of the pilot project from businesses on social media.

Members also asked when the one-way system was system would be removed and the Business and Regeneration Officer would follow this up with Flintshire County Council Streetscene and Transportation.

RESOLVED: That;

- a) the use of the debit card for a purchase of over £500 to for Easter eggs from the donations received from businesses be approved; and
- b) the report be received and noted.

125. TOTALLY MOLD VOUCHERS

Members considered the previously circulated report on the TotallyMold Vouchers.

It was noted that the TotallyMold Vouchers were extremely successful and the scheme had received local and national recognition.

A Member asked about the cost of updating the TotallyMold Voucher website which now forms part of the new Town Website. The Business and Regeneration officer explained that the Mold Voucher website was produced in-house by the Officers and could be updated with no additional cost only that of renewing the domain name and hosting. The Voucher website is only linked through to the new Town website. The Town website www.totallyMold.org.uk had been fully funded to replace the previous paper version of the Town Guide and would be further developed and updated when restrictions allow for events and would incorporate a what's on guide. The Mold Town Council website would remain in situ with information about meetings, Members and policies.

RESOLVED: that;

- a) an extension of the current Totally Mold Voucher scheme to 31st August 2021 be approved;
- b) a re-run of the scheme launching for 2021/2022 be approved (subject to audit satisfaction); and
- c) the report be received and noted.

Councillor Gareth Williams and Karen Hodgkinson left meeting at 6.50pm

126. GREEN RECOVERY CIRCULAR ECONOMY FUND

Members considered the previously circulated report on the Green Recovery Circular Economy Fund.

The Business and Regeneration Officer updated members that an on-line meeting was held with Niall Waller, Service Manager - Enterprise and Regeneration at Flintshire County Council together with the Town Clerk.

Mr. Waller provided an update at the meeting on the various funds coming on stream, although the exact details were unknown at present. There would be a focus on technology and the creation of SMART towns together with bringing long term empty units into use.

Flintshire County Council were currently recruiting an additional Regeneration Officer support officer and once in post they would be undertaking a short and concise action plan for all the towns in Flintshire. This action plan would take into account the Mold Sense of Place study, the Town Plan and up to date aspirations.

The Business and Regeneration Officer asked to be involved in with the action plan and it was understood that the Council would be consulted as part of the process.

Members considered the limited options at present but felt it would be a good idea to have some plans in place should there be an opportunity to attract some funding to a resource

RESOLVED: that;

- a) an item be placed on the next Town Council agenda to review possible suggestions to the action plan and;
- b) the report be received and noted.

127. FINAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES 2021

Members considered the previously circulated final report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

The Town Clerk provided a summary of the report and confirmed that Mold Town Council was in Group A – with an ‘Income or Expenditure of £200,000 and above’.

The Town Clerk referred Members to Table 9 within the report which addressed the decisions required to be made by the Council.

Determination 48 stated that Community and Town Councils were mandated to make available £150 for every Member.

Determination 48: stated that Community and Town Councils could provide a payment to the Mayor or Chair of the Council up to a maximum of £1,500.

Determination 43: stated that Community and Town Councils in Group A must make available an annual payment of £500 each to a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 5 Members in recognition of specific responsibilities.

Members discussed the payment to the Mayor and Members (in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses) in line with the determination of the Remuneration Panel. They considered that the current £500 made available for Committee Chairs were not required, but recognised that at least one £500 payment was required under the determinations within the Annual Report of Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

RESOLVED; that;

- a) the Civic fund, as currently operated in relation to the expenses of the Mayor be continued;
- b) An annual payment of £500 to be made to the Mayor only in recognition of the additional duties carried out as Civic Head and ambassador of the Town Council;
- c) No further payments of £500 for special responsibilities be made for the time being; and

- d) Determinations 45, 46 and 47 in table 9 be approved with respect to travel costs, overnight subsistence and financial loss allowance.

128. MOLD BUS STATION AND NEW STREET TOILETS

The Town Clerk provided an update to the refurbishment of the Bus Station Toilets, and the costs provided by Flintshire County Council Streetscene. It was reported that the overall costs of the works were in the region of £200,000 and a contribution of £40,000 was requested from the Mold Town Council Car Park revenue fund, which is held by Flintshire County Council.

Members discussed the request, and disappointment was noted that the exact costings were not provided. It was also noted that a defibrillator was located on the New Street Toilets and a new location would need to be sought for this.

Councillor Andrea Mearns requested that it be noted that the removal of New Street Toilets was a retrograde step.

RESOLVED: to support the contribution of approximately £40,000 for the refurbishment of the Bus Station Toilets and request a new location for the Defibrillator on the New Street Toilets prior to demolishing.

129. MOLD TO RHYDYMWYN RAILWAY LINE

Councillor Chris Bithell provided an update on the progress with regards to a potential public right of way order to use the Mold to Rhydymwyn line for cycling and walking and where this might be located through Mold Town centre together with the potential links to Saltney and Chester.

RESOLVED: To hold a special meeting of the Council and invite appropriate officers of FCC to update Members on the proposals and specific sections of the line so a timely decision can be taken to enable the order to be passed.

130. "SLOW WAYS" – NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR TREVOR ARNOLD

Councillor Trevor Arnold requested that the Town Council supports this scheme, including its aims in its future plans for the town as the scheme promotes safe walking and cycling routes in and around Mold as well as possibly linking up with villages in the surrounding areas.

Members were in support of the motion and it was noted that this had been brought up at a recent community meeting and suggested that relevant departments in FCC should also be involved.

RESOLVED: to support the motion and involve relevant departments of FCC.

Councillor Robin Guest left the meeting at 7.50pm

131. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Members considered the previously circulated information regarding Planning decisions.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

132. CITTASLOW UK – APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

Councillor Andrea Mearns updated Members that Cittaslow UK was a Community Interest Company (CIC) and there was a requirement to appoint two new Members as Directors.

RESOLVED: that Councillors Teresa Carberry, Sarah Taylor would be appointed as the two new directors.

133. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Councillor Andrea Mearns reported that great progress was being made with the Bailey Hill and this would be handed over soon. The Town Clerk updated Members that a report on the Bailey Hill would be provided at the next meeting.

The Town Clerk also advised that he has attended a meeting with Councillor Bryan Grew with regards to the impact of the McCloud judgement on public sector pensions and the requirement of the employer to provide information on employees in work or who had left up to 2014. The information would need to be submitted by the end of April if possible.

RESOLVED: The information to be received and noted.

134. ACCOUNTS / PAYMENTS

The Council considered the schedules previously circulated.

Month 11 Community Bank account CB1 £31,356.15

RESOLVED: that the schedule of payments be approved.

The Meeting closed at 8.00pm

SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH MOLD TOWN COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL		DATE: 31 March 2021
MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS

Mayor's signature: Date:
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