

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held virtually on-line over video conferencing 6pm Wednesday 30th June 2021.

PRESENT:

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

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

Also Present: None

24. APOLOGIES: Councillor Andrea Mearns and Jo Douglass Business and Regeneration Officer

ABSENT: Councillors Geoff Matthias, Karen Hodgkinson.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

26. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor provided an update to the engagements listed, and reported that she had officially opened four new businesses since the last meeting and further business openings were planned in the near future. The Mayor reported that to date she had visited one hundred and twenty-eight businesses in the town in person and had presented them with a card to thank them for their support and also their commitment to the town whilst operating under such difficult circumstances.

The Mayor had also met with Mr. Andrew Lightfoot, Streetscene Supervisor for Mold for a walk around the town to assess improvements to the streetscene, including the bus station. Since the meeting the Mayor was pleased to say that the planters in the bus station had now been filled and a lot of the bird faeces had been cleaned from the bus shelters and ground.

The Mayor together with the Town Clerk and the Business Regeneration Officer had a meeting planned with Katie Wilby, Streetscene Chief Officer, Flintshire County Council on 13th July, 2021, to discuss further improvements. At that meeting was requested that a cover be suggested above the benches under the trees in the bus station, as they are always covered in bird faeces and that all the benches in the bus station be repainted. The refurbishment works at the public conveniences in the bus station were due to be completed within two weeks.

The Mayor would be holding an online meeting with businesses and traders in Mold on 6th July, 2021.

6.07pm Councillor Williams joined the meeting

27. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That:

- a) The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 26th May 2021 be received and formally approved as correct records;
- b) The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 7th June 2021 be received and noted.
- c) The Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Audit Committee held on 14th June 2021 be received and formally approved.
- d) The Minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 21st June 2021 be received and formally approved.

28. 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.

It was requested that the short stay parking duration could be considered within the SMART Towns action plan, as the aim of the plan was to increase visitors dwell-time in the town and increasing the length of time for parking in the short stay car parks would assist.

The Mayor would add car parking would be added to the meeting with Streetscene

RESOLVED: That

- (i) car parking be added to the next Council agenda so further discussion could take place; and
- (ii) the report be received and noted.

29. FINANCIAL REPORTS

29.1 POLICY AUDIT COMMITTEE

Members considered the recommendations from the Policy & Audit Committee held on the 14th June 2021 relating to the report of the Internal Auditor, the Annual Return and the additional governance assertions with supporting information.

Members noted that the Annual Return was supplemented by additional questions in the Annual Governance Statement to test the assertions. The complete set of papers, annual return, various requested documents and additional questions form the whole of the information to Wales Audit who were now responsible for the external audit.

The report of the Internal Auditor was considered and noted that the actions recommended had been responded to, implemented or would be attended to as soon as practicable.

RESOLVED: That

- (i) The report of the Internal Auditor for the financial year 2020/2021 be formally received and approved;
- (ii) The draft annual return and additional questions to test assertions be received and approved and the Mayor to sign;
- (iii) The observations of the Internal Auditor be received and approved; and
- (iv) The Internal Auditor, JDH Business Services be re-appointed and be reviewed thereafter.

29.2 FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2020/21

Members considered the previously circulated final Financial accounts 2020/21 and asked a number of questions about the report and its appendices. The Town Clerk gave a brief summary of the financial position at the year-end, referring to the documentation to succinctly illustrate the Town Councils financial performance.

RESOLVED: That the Financial accounts for 2020/21 be accepted and approved. Members considered the previously circulated recommendations from the meeting of the Policy & Audit Committee held on the 14th June 2021 relating to the Internal Auditor, the Annual Return and the additional governance assertions.

Members expressed their thanks to the Town Clerk and Finance Officer for his stewardship of the accounts.

6.27pm Councillor Williams left the meeting

30. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS – AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

Members considered the previously circulated recommendations from the meeting of the Policy & Audit Committee held on the 14th June 2021 relating to amendments to Standing Order No. 4d (vi). It was noted that if approved the amendment would come into effect from 1st May 2022.

RESOLVED: That the following amendments be made to the Town Council's Standing Orders No. 4d (vi): -

- a) Council shall appoint the members of the standing committee
- b) That individual Committees have delegation to appoint their own Chairs at the first meeting of the Committee, with effect 1 May 2022.

31. DEBIT CARD TRANSACTION LIMIT – AMENDMENT TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Members considered the previously circulated recommendations from the meeting of the Policy & Audit Committee held on the 14th June 2021 relating to amendments Financial Regulation No. 618 to be amended to raise the limit of expenditure on the debit card allowed without Council approval to £1,000.00. Any debit card issued for use to be specifically restricted to the Clerk (and the RFO) and will also be restricted to a single transaction maximum of (£1,000) unless authorised by the Council or Finance Committee in writing before any order is placed.

RESOLVED: That Financial Regulation No. 618 be amended to raise the limit of expenditure allowed without Council approval to £1,000.00 when using the debit card as follows: -

‘Any Debit Card issued for use will be specifically restricted to the Clerk [and the RFO] and will also be restricted to a single transaction maximum value of [£1,000] unless authorised by Council or finance committee in writing before any order is placed.’

32. COVID-19 TOWN HALL RISK ASSESSMENT AND OPERATIONAL OPTIONS

Members considered the previously circulated recommendations from the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on the 21st June 2021 relating to preparations and requirements needed prior to reopening the Town Hall.

The Town Clerk advised that the Councils present Health & Safety risk provider was able to carry out a Covid-19 risk assessment at an additional cost of £395.00

Councillor Bithell proposed that in the first instance Flintshire County Council (FCC) Health & Safety Officers be asked if they would be able to carry out the required risk assessment, although it was noted that FCC Health & Safety Officers were currently extremely busy with all the FCC Offices and external sites such as schools.

RESOLVED: That

- (i) the Town Clerk contact FCC Health & Safety Officers in the first instance; and
- (ii) should Flintshire County Council Officers be unable to carry this out, then the Independent Company should be engaged.

33. COMMUNITY, DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members considered the previously circulated recommendations from the meeting of the Sub-Group appointed by Council at its April 2021 meeting to review the Community, Development and Regeneration Committee make-up and its Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations and amendments to the make-up and to the Terms of Reference of the Community, Development and Regeneration Committee be approved.

34. CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING SUPPORT GRANT TO THE BLUES AND SOUL FESTIVAL

Members considered the request from the Blues and Soul Festival organisers to allocate the unspent £2,000 budget from 2020 which had gone into cash reserves 2021. There exists a budget of £2,000 for 2021/22 so this would be an additional payment for this year only.

RESOLVED: That the request to grant the extra £2,000 to the Blues and Soul Festival organisers to be allocated from cash reserves.

34. RED LION, WREXHAM ROAD – ACCESS WAY

The Mayor provided members with a verbal update regarding discussions that had taken place in relation to the access way behind the Red Lion. During her meeting with Andrew Lightfoot, FCC Streetscene, he confirmed that the proposed access

way had been measured and was 5cm short of Streetscene requirements to be considered for adopted. It is also unclear as to who owned the land as it was not the Red Lion's property.

Investigations and discussions were ongoing and Members noted the situation.

35. CITTASLOW INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES AWARD 2021

At the Cittaslow International Best Practice Awards, Mold's Naked Takeaway project gained international recognition and achieved 5 out of 5 and was the winner of the 'Chiocciola Orange' award 2021. The Naked Takeaway project has also received recognition on the BBC and local media.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mearns be thanked for all her hard work taking the project forward.

36. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Members considered the previously circulated information regarding Planning decisions.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

37. MEETINGS ATTENDED

No meetings attend

38. ACCOUNTS / PAYMENTS

The Council considered the schedules previously circulated.

Month 2 Community Bank account CB1 £25,986.50

RESOLVED: That that the schedule of payments be approved.

The Meeting closed at 7.25pm

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

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL		DATE: 30 June 2021	
MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS	

Mayor's signature: Date:
SHAREDDRIVE//MINUTES/MTC/MIN210630JE/IDJ