

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held virtually on-line over video conferencing 6pm Wednesday 29th September 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, Andrea Mearns, Gareth Williams, Tim Maunder, Anthony Parry and Karen Hodgkinson.

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

Also Present: One member of the public.

55. APOLOGIES: None

ABSENT: Councillor Geoff Matthias

56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

57 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor provided an update to the engagements listed within the agenda.

58. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That:

- a) The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 28th July 2021 be received and formally approved as a correct record;
- b) The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 31st August 2021 be received and noted.

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

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

In response to recent correspondence, the Business and Regeneration Officer informed Members that Flintshire County Council already had a local toilets scheme in place. The web link was attached for information.

<https://committeemeetings.flintshire.gov.uk/documents/s54046/Appendix%201%20-%20Local%20Toilet%20Strategy.pdf?LLL=0>

The Business and Regeneration Officer asked Members for approval to submit an application to nominate Mold Businesses for a St David's award in recognition of all their recent hard work and effort. Members were supportive of this request.

Councillor Arnold offered to donate a laptop to North Wales Police to enable the installation of CCTV camera software thus enabling Mold PCSO's direct access to the images and recordings from the cameras at Maes Bodlonfa Park and Kendricks Field.

Councillor Mearns thanked the Town Clerk and Business and Regeneration Officer for their presentation at the recent One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Conference on the Totally Mold voucher scheme and Naked Takeaway project. This was very well received and she said it was a 5-star presentation. Officers also had received very positive feedback following the presentation, which itself would be circulated to all Councils who were members of One Voice Wales.

The Mayor advised Members that she had been in contact with Barry Wilkinson Flintshire County Council Highway Network Manager regarding the traffic problems due to queues at the drive through at McDonalds and asked what could be done to alleviate traffic congestion that was occurring on King Street roundabout and Chester Street. Councillor Taylor said she would feedback to members following discussions.

RESOLVED: That :

- (i) application to nominate Mold Businesses for a St David's award be approved; and
- (ii) the report be received and noted.

60. ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Members considered the previously circulated draft Annual Report 2020/21. The Town Clerk informed Members that although the Town Council had produced an Annual Report for a number of years, this was now a statutory requirement for all of the Town and Community Council sector.

RESOLVED: that the Annual report be received and approved

61. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT TO 20MPH ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS

Members were asked to consider whether to respond to the consultation and asked to note that the timescale to respond was short, the deadline was 1st October 2021.

Members raised concerns that speeding motorists where unlikely to take notice of a reduction in the speed limit without proper enforcement or a change in road appearance or structure.

Due to the short timescale it was agreed that the Town Clerk would draft a response and circulate to Members for an email consultation to ensure that the deadline for a response could be met.

RESOLVED: That consultation would be carried out via email to Members and the Town Clerk to submit this once agreed on behalf of Council.

18:43 Councillor Hodgkinson joined the meeting.

62. FUTURE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS AND HYBRID MEETING REQUIRMENTS

Members were asked to consider: -

- (i) when it would be safe and just to hold face to face meetings (subject to guidance);
- (ii) the new requirement to make meetings accessible to those who cannot or chose not to attend meeting in person; and
- (iii) what budget could be allocated for the acquisition of the relevant IT equipment in order to carry out the new requirements set within the new law.

The Town Clerk informed Members of the changes to Section 47 (subject to Consequential Amendments) of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 which would require Town and Community Councils to provide for multi-location attendance at meetings and be accessible to all.

Following some discussion, Members agreed that the Town Hall was not easily accessible to those with mobility issues and an alternative location such as a ground level meeting place should be considered for future meetings. Until a suitable location could be found, Members agreed to continue with online meetings to ensure accessible to all. The Town Clerk was asked to make enquiries about IT systems required to deliver hybrid meetings.

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) the Town Clerk liaise with Members to source alternative meeting location;
- (ii) suitable IT equipment be considered for prior approval; and
- (iii) online meetings should continue until alternative option was approved.

63. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL STREETSCENE MEETING UPDATE

The Mayor updated Members upon her and the Town Clerk's correspondence and meetings with Katie Wilby Flintshire County Council Head of Streetscene regarding a number of issues effecting the town including car parks, public conveniences, weeds, litter, hedge cutting, coach parking, the bus station and other issues. There had been some public concern about the lack of toilets in the town.

Concern was expressed about the weeds growing out of walls, in particular around the car parks and appeared not to have been subject to weed spray in recent years. It was confirmed that the weed spraying has only recently been carried out and was late due to a contractor issue within Flintshire County Council. The Mayor said that she understood that the tree feathering in the town was due to be undertaken shortly.

Councillor Williams asked Councillor Bateman to take forward request within his capacity as County Councillor for the drains to be unblocked in Brook Street as the area had recently been subject to flooding caused by heavy rain and blocked drains.

The Mayor confirmed she would update Members once she had received a reply from Katie Wilby, Head of Streetscene and it was suggested that it might be best to invite her to a meeting of the Town Council.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk write again to Katie Wilby, inviting her to attend the Town Council meeting in October to present an updated report on the matters already raised by the Mayor and the Town Clerk.

19:15 Councillor Bateman left the meeting

64. RED LION ACCESSWAY

The Mayor provided Members with a verbal update on her enquiries regarding the blocked access way through the Red Lion beer garden through to New Street car park. The owners of the Ambrose Lloyd Centre have confirmed they would not provide permission for the wall at the back of the Red Lion garage to be removed to allow a walkway. The Mayor confirmed that even if the wall came down it is 5cm width too short to comply with walkway / access regulations and therefore could not be adopted for maintenance by FCC Streetscene.

Members generally agreed to support a claim for an established Public Right of Way through the Red Lion beer garden and it was suggested that members of the Ramblers Society could be invited to share their experience and assisting with this process.

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) a working group be set up to formulate a claim for an established Public Right of Way through the Red Lion beer garden;
- (ii) the Town Clerk write to Members asking for volunteers on the working group; and
- (iii) the Ramblers Society be invited to share their experience and assisting with this process.

65. MOLD SCHOOL UNIFORM RECYCLING SCHEME

Councillor Carberry provided Members with an update on the uniform recycling scheme that she had been operating since May 2020 and that there were now five school uniform recycling schemes across Flintshire as this was very much in demand and she would like to extend the scheme further.

Councillor Carberry had requested assistance to load and unload the uniforms and also assistance on the market stall. She also sought Members for support in finding a suitable storage location for the uniforms as it was impossible to store these at home due to the sheer volume of clothes that had been donated.

Councillor Hodgkinson asked if Council would be able to fund a storage unit as they have a duty of care to help support and promote these schemes and to help residents who require this service.

RESOLVED: To note the report.

66. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Members considered the previously circulated information regarding Planning decisions.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

67. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Councillor Mearns confirmed she had attended One Voice Wales training from Nature Officer who gave examples of other towns in Wales using growing spaces and harvesting fruit from private gardens to be reused.

Parkfields Community Centre had received funding of £4,500 from the Hubbub Foundation UK and ten households in Mold were now taking part in the Parkfields Community Centre Growing Food project which had been a huge success.

The Community Fridge project was receiving surplus items from local supermarkets but it wasn't enough to meet demand. Parkfields were currently undertaking fundraising to purchase food.

19:48 Councillor Guest left the meeting

68 ACCOUNTS / PAYMENTS

The Council considered the schedules previously circulated.

Month 4, Community Bank account CB1 £38,400.24

Month 5, Community Bank account CB1 £24,845.15

RESOLVED: That that the schedule of payments be approved.

69. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

20:01 Councillor Parry left the meeting

RESOLVED: That members of the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting due the confidential nature of the business.

70. BAILEY HILL CENTRE – NEW LEASE WITH FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Members considered the previously circulated report on the lease following refurbishment of the Bailey Hill Centre and proposals from Flintshire County Council. Members reviewed the report which included a recommendation for a 3-year rent free lease period.

The position of the Silent Solider was considered and 3 locations identified. The flagpole was also considered as it was due for maintenance or replacement as its position now within the site was not helpful for raising and lowering flags.

RESOLVED: That

(i) a 3-year rent free lease period for the Bailey Hill Centre period be approved;

(ii) the Silent Solider remain in its current location for this year's Remembrance Sunday service and to review locations after this event in consultation with the Bailey Hill Steering Group.

(iii) the flagpole remain in its current location for this year's Remembrance Sunday service and to review locations after this event in consultation with the Bailey Hill Steering Group.

71. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING EQUIPMENT - PURCHASE

Members considered the previously circulated report and recommendations from the Christmas lighting sub group. Following receipt of four quotations from the specialist festive lighting companies, the Christmas lighting Sub-Group met on 31 August, 2021.

Of the company submissions for supplier of Christmas lighting, Lumalite were the most economical and suitable of the quotations received.

Several options were considered for purchase and option 2 with replacement rope lights with cool white or warm white LED light icicle lights, with one *Merry Christmas from Mold Nadolig Llawn o'r Wyddgrug* double sided across street, with two drop down stars and illuminated wraps,

RESOLVED: That Lumilite be the appointed supplier of Christmas lighting and Option 2 with added costs be approved.

72. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Members considered the previously circulated report in response to the tender documentation as advertised on Sell2Wales for the provision of a maintenance contract for 3-5 year period.

Following discussion and consideration of the submissions for the Christmas lighting maintenance contract, Members were content that the existing supplier, Mega Electric NW Ltd had the best and most economical tender document and had performed well in the past for the town.

RESOLVED: That the contract be awarded to Mega Electric NW Ltd for a 5-year period.

73. PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR 'TOTALLY MOLD'

Members considered the previously circulated report in response to the tender documentation to appoint a PR Company for the promotion campaign of 'Totally Mold' following budget approval at the Community, Development and Regeneration Committee. Several companies' submissions were reported to the meeting.

The Business and Regeneration Officer informed Members that Flintshire County Council Tourism department had confirmed that they would contribute £1500 towards the campaign cost, more than first envisaged and that some of this additional money would be used for professional marketing.

RESOLVED: That the contract be awarded to Radar PR & Be Social.

The Meeting closed at 20:45pm

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

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL		DATE: 29th September
MEMBER none	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS

Mayor's signature: Date:

SHARED DRIVE//MINUTES/MTC/MIN210929 V2