

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall, Earl Road, Mold at 6pm Wednesday 27th July 2022. (also, by Video conferencing).

PRESENT:

Councillors: Haydn Jones, (Mayor), Teresa Carberry (Deputy Mayor), Paul Beacher, Tina Claydon, Geoff Collett, Joanne Edwards, Robin Guest, Brian Lloyd, and Sarah Taylor.

Officers: Ian Jones, Town Clerk and Finance Officer and Jo Douglass, Business and Regeneration Officer.

Attending via Zoom: Councillors Haydn Bateman, Chris Bithell and Bryan Grew.

Also Present: One member of the public.

46. APOLOGIES: Councillor Catherine Hill, Jane Evans, Events and Community Engagement Officer and Jo Lane Bailey Hill Officer.

ABSENT: Councillors Geoff Matthias and Tim Maunders.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

48. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

49. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That:

- a) The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th June 2022 be received and formally approved as a correct record;
- b) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 30th June 2022 be received and noted;
- c) The Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on the 13th July 2022 be received and formally approved as a correct record;
- d) The Minutes of the Special Personnel Committee meeting held on 22nd July 2022 be received and formally approved;
- e) The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 25th July 2022 be received and noted.

50. MEMBER RESIGNATION

The Town Clerk informed Members of the resignation of Councillor Darren Norman and had publicised the necessary Notice of Vacancy accordingly. The requisite vacancy had been circulated and displayed within the Ward and the closing date for an election request was the 9th August 2022.

The Town Clerk requested Council to consider advertising a co-option notice immediately thereafter should there be no request for an election.

Members agreed that should there be no request for an election then the process to co-opt should be progressed as soon as possible to avoid a prolonged period running with a vacancy.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted and should there be no request for an election, the process of co-opting should be progressed as soon as practicable.

51. JOINT REPORT OF THE BUSINESS & REGENERATION/EVENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICERS

The Town Council received the previously circulated report from the Business and Regeneration Officer and the Events and Community Engagement Officer.

Members thanked the Events and Community Engagement Officer for organising an excellent and very well attended Carnival. A big thank you as well was expressed to all the volunteers for their assistance.

Members noted that this would be the last meeting for Jo Douglass who was leaving shortly for a new position at Denbighshire CC. The Mayor, who was joined by other Members praised the work that Jo had carried out during her three years at the Town Council, particularly throughout the lockdowns and the recovery of the economy following the pandemic. Her work was highly regarded by local traders and she had helped maintain the vibrancy of the town.

Members commented on Jo's professional, dedicated and helpful approach and wished her the very best wishes in the rest of her career.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

52. ACCOUNTS REPORT – 2022-23 FIRST QUARTER

Members considered the previously circulated report on the first Quarter accounts relating to the income and expenditure for the Town Council as at 30th June 2022. The Town Clerk explained that the review represents good financial management and practice within the sector.

RESOLVED: that the report be received and endorsed.

53. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PANEL

Members considered the previously circulated report of the Financial Assistance Panel, which had recently met to consider applications and make recommendations for financial contributions to local groups. The information in the report was noted in respect of the grant recommendation award to each of the groups.

Members queried the legal advice on not being able to fund any religious organisation with public funds. The Clerk advised Members that this was National legislation in relation to Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, he also quoted a legal Topic note issued by NALC which confirmed the same advice.

RESOLVED: That

- i) the recommended grants approved as follows:
World Scout Jamboree £50 each, Total £200
Suitcase Theatre £250
Friends of Bailey Hill £300 now (consider a further £200 in January)
Mold & District Choral Society £150
Outside Lives £250
- ii) the £350 contained within the 'Eisteddfod' budget code be vired to the 'Financial Contributions to Local Groups code for this and future financial years; and
- iii) the legal advice on funding to religious organisations to be emailed to Members.

54. STREETSCENE MEETING

The Mayor provided an update following on from the recent meeting with the Head of Streetscene at Flintshire County Council, Katie Wilby. The issue of Coach drop-off and parking was noted and a temporary solution was proposed by Katie to allow coach parking on the tired car park at County Hall until a more permanent solution could be found in New Street Car Park. Additionally, Katie was investigating the drop-off/pick up facility at the taxi rank/layby opposite BUPA Dental on Chester Street as it was in close proximity to the Bus Station.

Some Members expressed their disappointment in Flintshire County Council in not providing a solution to coach parking and drop-off/pick up when the toilets in New Street Car Park were demolished as was promised. Members did however agree that the temporary solution proposed would alleviate the situation in the short term until a permanent solution.

RESEOLVED: That

- i) confirmation would be sent to Katie Wilby to progress the temporary arrangements for coach parking on tired car park at County Hall and the use of the taxi rank/layby on Chester street as drop off/Pick up point.
- ii) a communication be sent to the Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council to express the Town Council's disappointment in the delay in providing suitable coach parking and drop off/pick up arrangements.

55. BAILEY HILL UPDATE

Members considered the previously circulated report by the Bailey Hill Project Officer outlining the recent events and updates relating to the centre.

Members expressed thanks to the Bailey Hill Officer for all their work at Bailey Hill and in creating a visitor destination for the town.

RESOLVED: that the information in the report be received and noted.

56. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Members considered the previously circulated information regarding Planning decisions.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

57. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Councillor Teresa Carberry reported that she had attended a 'Carbon Capture' presentation which was very informative.

Members were reminded that updates on meetings attended should be submitted in writing to the Town Clerk ahead of the meeting.

58. ACCOUNTS / PAYMENTS.

The Council considered the schedules previously circulated.

Month 3 Community Bank account CB1 £40,463.93

Month 3 Events Bank account £5,291.97

Month 3 Petty Cash account £30.90

RESOLVED: That that the schedules of payments be approved.

59. VACANCIES

Members noted the situation regarding representatives on outside bodies, Council Committees and Panels. It was noted that further vacancies had occurred due to the resignation of Darren Norman.

RESOLVED: that

Councillors Teresa Carberry and Catherine Hill be appointed to Mold Fairtrade.

60. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: that members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting.

7.00pm Jo Douglass left the meeting.

61. STAFFING MATTERS AND FUTURE PLANNING

It was reported that the new Town Clerk and Finance Officer would be sent a contract of employment and hopefully that position would be settled, which just left the vacancy of Business and Regeneration Officer post vacant. It was also noted that the Bailey Hill Project Officer, as funded by HLF would come to an end on 31 March 2023.

Members considered options for the future, hours of work and the likely cost scenario, including National Insurance, Pensions etc.

RESOLVED: that a Special Personnel Committee meet on 1st September to consider the staff structure and options and report back either to a Special Council on 14th September or to the scheduled Council on 28th September, 2022.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Mayor's signature: Date:

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

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL		DATE: 27th July 2022
MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS

WORD/MINUTES/MTC/MIN220727JD