

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 22nd February 2006.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Ray Dodd (Mayor), Chris Bithell, Tony Cattermoul, Geoff Collett, Geoff Darkins, Bryan Grew, Robin Guest, Carol Heycocks, Stephanie Hulley, Joyce Jones, Jack Laing, Andrea Mearns and Ken Williams with the Clerk and Finance Officer and Town Centre Manager.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors: Carolyn Cattermoul and Phill Lloyd.

130. MAYOR' ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor expressed his apologies for being unable to attend the last meeting of the Council. He advised of his earlier attendance at the carol concerts for the W.I., Mold & District Choral Society and the Llwynegrin Singers. He also advised of the presentation evening organized by the Llwynegrin Singers at which the money raised at the carol concert was given to the British Heart Foundation.

The Mayor congratulated those who had been involved in the organisation of the launch for the Food Town initiative which he felt had been particularly impressive.

131. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Clerk and Finance Officer declared an interest in the item headed "Planning Applications" and recorded in the Minutes as 139.4.

132. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th January 2006 be received and approved as a correct record.

133. MATTERS ARISING

133.1 Item 115 - Vacancy for a Councillor - West Ward

The Clerk and Finance Officer advised that the notices seeking nominations for the election would be posted the following day.

133.2 Item 117.1 - Disposal of Household Waste

It was agreed that the clarification regarding the recycling of trade refuse be sought for the next meeting.

133.3 Item 120 – Financial Assistance

The Clerk and Finance Officer advised that a response had been received from Bobaith Children's Therapy Centre giving further details on its service and that this would be considered at the next meeting.

133.4 Item 122 – Police Reform in Wales

It was noted that a reply was yet to be received from the Home Office and it was agreed to pursue this for the next meeting of the Town Council.

134. POLICING IN MOLD

The Mayor welcomed PC Colin Coulbourn to the meeting and advised the Council that unfortunately Inspector Mark Pierce had expressed his apologies due to revised operational arrangements. The Mayor advised that PC Coulbourn had been in post as Community Beat Manager for Mold since the start of the year and that he was happy to respond to any questions from Members.

Reference was made to the noise nuisance experienced by residents near to the Aldi Store resulting from the use of the car park by young people who are racing their cars and which is also giving rise to issues of safety. PC Coulbourn advised that attempts had been made to increase patrols and further plans were being prepared to address this matter with positive action. He also indicated that PC Janette Stott had been in contact with Aldi to discuss the provision of speed humps within the car park.

In response to the question of penalising those who deposit chewing gum on the pavements, PC Coulbourn believed that action could be taken, within the litter laws, if the offence were seen.

Members raised concerns about indiscriminate and illegal parking on roads and pavements within the Town. In particular, reference was made to the need to keep Wrexham Road clear of obstructions during the period whilst Chester Road is closed due to roadworks. PC Coulbourn advised that action has been taken against drivers who park illegally and would continue to be taken subject to priorities at the time. He advised that a number of notices had been issued the previous Saturday. He indicated that with the assistance of the Police and Community Support Officers he would hope to see an improvement in the situation.

The Mayor thanked PC Coulbourn for his attendance.

135. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence, including seven additional items, were considered:

135.1 The Council noted receipt of the notes of the meeting of the Flintshire Fairtrade Coalition held on 9th January and the subsequent receipt of those for that held on 6th February.

135.2 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council's Head of Traffic and Highway Services regarding the sponsorship of roundabouts. It is known that such arrangements exist elsewhere within Wales and adjoining Counties and it was felt that contributions could assist the County Council particularly at times when there are budget restraints. It was therefore agreed that the matter should be pursued and be taken up jointly by the four County Councillors.

135.3 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council's Chief Planning Services Officer regarding the matter of roller shutters on shops within the Town. Councillor Robin Guest advised that an Enforcement Team Leader had been appointed recently. It was agreed to ask that this be urgently addressed by the new Team Leader and to review the matter in six months.

135.4 The Council noted the correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate advising that the appeal, against the refusal of planning permission for a gable end extension to a previously approved conversion at 30 Wrexham Street, had been dismissed.

135.5 The Council noted the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising of an appeal against the refusal of planning permission for a conservatory at The Haven, Upper Bryn Coch Lane.

135.6 The Council noted receipt of the agenda for the meeting of the Local Health Board to be held on 22nd February 2006 and the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th January 2006.

135.7 The Council considered the correspondence from Communities First Bryn Gwalia advising that its Annual General Meeting to be held on 8th March 2006. It was agreed to nominate Councillor Geoff Darkins for election to membership of the Partnership Board.

135.8 The Council considered the correspondence from Communities First Bryn Gwalia seeking financial support for the provision of improved lighting within Ivy Crescent. Members noted that provision had been made within the 2006/07 budget for the installation of additional lighting at Bro Alun and agreed that, whilst it wished to support the request from Communities First, it would need to review the matter following receipt of quotations for Bro Alun.

135.9 The Council considered the correspondence regarding the National Assembly for Wales' North Wales Regional Committee meeting on 24th March 2006 and agreed that Councillor Ken Williams should attend.

135.10 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council in response to the request to review and revise the times for the parking restrictions currently applicable to Grosvenor Street (Minute 124.2 2005/06 refers). It was agreed that a copy of the letter should be forwarded to "Mold 2000" and that the County Council be asked to include this revision on its list for future consideration.

135.11 The Council noted the correspondence regarding Police Reform in Wales.

135.12 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council regarding the request for “White on Brown” road signs on the A55 advertising the Mold market and Clwyd Theatr Cymru. It was noted that the matter has also been raised with the Welsh Assembly Government by Sandy Mewies AM. It was agreed to ask the County Council to pursue the request with the National Assembly for signs on the main carriageway, not the off-slip roads, and that the matter of funding be addressed once a decision has been reached.

Resolved: That the actions set out above be approved.

136. LITTER PICK-UP

The Council noted the previously circulated report advising that Mold Rotary Club had again offered to lead a litter pick-up focusing on the Bryn Gwalia area. It was noted that arrangements had been made for this to be undertaken on Sunday 7th May 2006 and that further details would be made available in due course.

Resolved: It was resolved to acknowledge appreciation of the offer from Mold Rotary Club and to advise that the Town Council will participate.

137. REPORT OF THE TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Council considered a verbal report from the Town Centre Manager.

The Town Centre Manager advised that grant aid for the development of the “visitmold” website had been approved and reminded Members of its previous commitment to supporting the project with £1,000 and the management of the account. He advised that arrangements have been made to receive presentations from the three companies who will tender for the project on 13th March 2006 and it was agreed that Councillors Tony Cattermoul and Andrea Mearns should represent the Council on the selection panel.

The Town Centre Manager referred to the excellent representation from the business community at the Food Town launch held recently at the Beaufort Park Hotel. He advised of the formation of the Mold Hotel and Restaurant Association led by Greg Shankar of the Bryn Awel Hotel and that they are now busy planning a Mold Food Festival which will be sponsored by a local Brewery. The Town Centre Manager also advised that a strategy was being formulated to take the initiative further. He indicated that funds might be found to support the initiative and possibly the employment of a part-time coordinator and that this would be pursued with officers from the Regeneration Department of the County Council.

Reference was also made to the several meetings the Town Centre Manager had held with organisers of the Flintshire National Eisteddfod 2007 to discuss ways of linking the business communities with the event and the field. The Town Centre Manager advised that the impact of the National Eisteddfod in Llanelli 2000 had been previously analysed and the results contained in the “Carmarthenshire County Council Final Report - The Economic and Cultural Impact” a copy of which is available in the Town Hall office. The gross economic impact was £6.4 million, with

the majority of this impact concentrated upon the town of Llanelli. The potential for Mold was, therefore, substantial.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report be received and the Town Council wholeheartedly support the projects identified.

138. NOTICES OF MOTION

138.1 On the proposal of Councillor Stephanie Hulley it was agreed to ask Flintshire County Council and North Wales Police to investigate the imposition of “on the spot fines” to those who deposit chewing gum on the pavements. It was also agreed to ask David Hanson MP to ensure that the appropriate laws are available to local authorities and the Police and that the imposition of taxes on manufacturers to assist with the cleansing are pursued by central government.

Resolved: It was resolved that the above actions be agreed.

139. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Town Council considered those applications previously circulated and six new applications:

139.1 LAB/040269 – Resubmission of design details for the proposed Homebase Retail Development, former Arriva Bus and County Council depots, Chester Road – the Council considered the revised design for the development with differing views expressed. It was however, agreed that the Town Council should object to the application on the grounds that the design is not acceptable for such a prominent site on the entry to the Town and does not comply with the design brief previously agreed for the site.

Note: Councillor Chris Bithell abstained from voting on this application due to his membership of the County Council’s Planning Committee.

139.2 CZR/040728 – Retrospective erection of a dormer window to front, 95 Parc Hendy – no objections.

139.3 SXJ/040929 – Erection of a two storey extension, 60 Hafod Park – no objections.

139.4 CZR/040828 – Drop kerb to front driveway, 9 Maes Owen – no objections.

139.5 KCS/040910 – Change of use from Class B1 (office) to Class D1 (dental surgery), Dynea UK Ltd, Alyn Works, Denbigh Road – whilst the application was supported, concern was expressed about the adequacy and safety of the existing access which will be shared by a large number of vehicle borne visitors to this proposed development and the existing users.

Note: Councillor Chris Bithell abstained from voting on this application due to his membership of the County Council’s Planning Committee.

139.6 BMK/040892 – Extension to front and side of petrol filling station, Roundabout Service Station / Costcutter, King Street – whilst no objections were raised on the detail of the proposals, the Council asked that the Highways Department consider concerns about the Denbigh Road access to the site which appears to be being used by vehicles approaching from the traffic roundabout causing delays and safety issues to arise.

139.7 KYT/040925 – Raising a portion of the roof area to create a small tower within existing building footprint, Dynea UK Ltd Alyn Works, Denbigh Road – no objections.

139.8 LEJ/040805 – Installation of 1 no. CCTV camera 6.0 metre high, Tesco Roundabout, Chester Road – the Council agreed to object to this application considering that it would be more appropriate and less obtrusive for the CCTV camera to be installed on the car park of the proposed Homebase development.

139.9 DGJ/040966 – Erection of a dwelling, Bromfield, Wrexham Road – no objections.

139.10 DCT/040962 – Change of use of retail area to residential, 1 Conway Street – no objections.

139.11 KYT/040683 – Erection of an illuminated shop sign, 6 Wrexham Street – no objections subject to compliance with the policies relating to the conservation area.

139.12 DCT/040913 – Erection of 2 and 3 storey apartment blocks, Bromfield Timber & Joinery, Queens Lane – the Council agreed to object to this application considering the proposal, which is 3 & 4 storey not 2 & 3 storey, to be an over-development of the site, not in-keeping with the existing properties and likely to present an intrusion of privacy and likely to cause significant highway difficulties with access onto Bromfield Lane.

139.13 DCT/041018 – Amendment to house type to include garage (plot 3), Former Autodrome, Nercwys Road – the Council agreed to object to this application. It felt that the proposal provides for a development in front of the building line and which is totally incongruous with the other immediately surrounding houses.

Resolved: It was resolved that the observations set out above be forwarded to Flintshire County Council.

140. MEETINGS ATTENDED

140.1 Councillor Andrea Mearns reported on the launch of the Food Town initiative and the establishment of the Mold Hotel and Restaurant Association. Councillor Mearns also made reference to the requirements of the Cittaslow movement and it was agreed to seek details of the assessment criteria in order that an application to join can be considered.

140.2 Councillor Andrea Mearns advised of her attendance and that of Councillor Joyce Jones at a recent meeting of Parkfields and indicated that the centre would be reopening by the end of the month.

141. 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.

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

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL	DATE: 22nd February 2006
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
Clerk & Finance Officer	Planning Applications	139.4

FB/MINUTES/MTC/MTCMINS060222