

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 30th November 2005.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors Stephanie Hulley, Phill Lloyd.

93. MAYOR' ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised the Town Council of his attendance at the presentation evening of the North West Cancer Research Mold Branch when a substantial cheque was presented to the Charity and at the annual meeting of the Flintshire Fairtrade Coalition.

The Mayor referred to the night of 22nd November when the Town's Christmas lights were turned on and indicated that everyone appeared to have enjoyed the event. He expressed thanks to those involved.

The Mayor also referred to the good turnout for the Remembrance Day Service and Parade. He thanked Councillor Carol Heycocks for leading the two minutes silence on 11th November and for deputising for him at the Scottish Power / Chronicle Community Awards presentation.

94. DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE

The Mayor welcomed Messrs Andy McBeth and Harvey Mitchell from Flintshire County Council's Community and Housing Directorate to the meeting to advise on the new arrangements for the disposal of waste by residents with vans.

Mr. Mitchell set out the background to the waste operations within the County and the arrangements for recycling that will result in a reduction in the need for landfill. He also outlined the reasons for the introduction of the ban on vans in July 2005, due mainly to an abuse of the facility by traders who are by law required to make arrangements for the disposal of their waste. Mr. Mitchell stressed the arrangements for the use of vans by Flintshire residents that allows, with a permit, a total of 18 visits to the Nercwys Road site each year. He advised that some 100 permits had been issued to residents of Mold. He also advised that hire vans could be used for one-off disposals of waste at the Buckley site.

Mr. Mitchell indicated that there had not been an increase in fly tipping since the introduction of the van ban although there had been a fear that this could result. He

advised that there had been a reduction in the County Council's cost for waste disposal, as a result of the van ban, of some £80,000 within the first four months. He indicated that these savings could be used to increase the facilities within the County for recycling.

In response to questions from Members, Messrs McBeth and Mitchell advised that the limitation on the number of visits allowed by private van drivers to 18, had been introduced following an assessment of the likely need for visits to the site. It had been considered that 18 visits per year was an ample number to allow for the disposal of household and garden waste when used in conjunction with the County's other recycling facilities.

Mr. Mitchell highlighted the County Council's bulky refuse collection service, available to many at no cost, and indicated that whilst the revised arrangements would not suit all residents, substantial savings can be made on the costs of waste disposal.

Reference was made to the collection of trade refuse within the Town and the lack of subsequent recycling. Mr. McBeth indicated that the County Council would hopefully be addressing that issue.

The Mayor thanked the County Council's Officers for their attendance. He noted that whilst Members may not have been satisfied with the answers to their questions, the hoped that Messrs McBeth and Mitchell would reflect upon the comments made and give some thought to refining the operation in the light of those comments.

95. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Robin Guest declared an interest as detailed in the schedule shown at the end of these minutes.

96. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19th October 2005 be received and approved as a correct record; and
- b) The minutes of the special meeting of the Council held on 9th November 2005 be received and approved as a correct record.

97. MATTERS ARISING

Town Council - 19th October 2005

97.1 There were no matters arising.

Town Council - 9th November 2005

97.2 Item 91 – Planning Application for Broughton Shopping Park

Councillor Chris Bithell asked that the reason for his not voting on this application be stated and that it was due to his membership of the County Council's Planning Committee.

98. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence, including one additional item, were considered:

98.1 The Town Council noted that a copy of the Annual Report 2004/05 of the Commissioner for Local Government in Wales, the Welsh Administration Ombudsman and the Health Service Commissioner for Wales has been received.

98.2 The Town Council noted that a copy of the notes of the meeting of the Flintshire Fairtrade Coalition meeting held on 10th October 2005 has been received.

98.3 The Town Council considered the correspondence from the Board of Community Health Councils in Wales and from the Chief Officer of the Clwyd Community Health Council. The Council supported the view of the Chief Officer of the Clwyd Community Health Council that the review does not relate to the Clwyd CHC Federation because its area of coverage is coterminous with the three local authorities and health boards and that the status quo should remain. It was agreed to respond accordingly.

98.4 The Town Council noted the correspondence from InnCourt Licensing Consultants advising of a change of licence at the Leeswood Arms into the name of Debbie Mary Gittins.

98.5 The Town Council considered the correspondence from Connahs Quay Town Council asking if this Council will write to Flintshire County Council in support of the provision of a crematorium in the County. In noting the many difficulties surrounding the development of a crematorium, the Council felt that it would be appropriate to support the request and ask the County Council to review such provision on an ongoing basis.

98.6 The Town Council noted the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising of an appeal against the refusal of planning permission for a gable end extension to the property at the rear of 30 Wrexham Street. It was also noted that the appeal will be decided on the basis of an exchange of written statements and that the comments of the Town Council would be forwarded to the Planning Inspector.

98.7 The Town Council noted the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising that Glyn Teg and Y Gilfach have been adopted for maintenance purposes.

98.8 The Town Council considered the correspondence from Mr Taylor, 6 Sunnyridge regarding the replacement of the tree that was felled at the entrance to the New Street car park. The Council agreed to write to Flintshire County Council reminding it of the commitment to replace the horse chestnut tree and whilst noting the sites identified by Mr Taylor, felt that it would be appropriate for the County Council to determine the location of the replacement. It was also felt that if a horse chestnut could not be provided alongside the entrance to the car park and had to be located elsewhere, other trees, such as rowans, could be considered for that site.

98.9 The Town Council noted receipt of a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Flintshire Local Health Board held on 26th October 2005.

98.10 The Town Council noted the correspondence from Flintshire County Council in response to the request for the provision of a footpath on Gwernaffield Road and the comments that the project would be considered as and when funding became available.

98.11 The Town Council noted the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising that a contract for the pruning of trees in High Street and Earl Road was about to be prepared.

98.12 The Town Council considered the correspondence has been received from the Secretary of the Tyddyn Street Church seeking the support of the Town Council in the restoration of the paths around the Church. The Council agreed that this application should be considered alongside other applications for grant aid at the January 2006 Council meeting.

98.13 The Town Council was pleased to note the correspondence advising that Heritage Lottery Funding has been approved for the Heather and Hillforts Project – Landscape Partnership Stage 1 application sponsored by Denbighshire County Council. It was agreed to write and congratulate Denbighshire County Council and to offer the support of the Town Council to the project which it is hoped will commence in early 2007.

98.14 The Town Council considered the correspondence from Gwernymynydd Community Council raising concerns about the lack of lighting on Ruthin Road and asking whether the Town Council would jointly fund the provision of two lighting columns. The Council felt that the provision of lighting on this highway should be the responsibility of the County Council, although Members questioned the need for such provision in this area adjacent to open countryside. It was agreed to take no action in this matter and advise Gwernymynydd Community Council accordingly.

98.15 The Town Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council and confirmed as appropriate, the site shown for the proposed “puffin” crossing at Wrexham Road.

Resolved: That the actions set out above be approved.

99. REVIEW OF PRINCIPAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY AREAS – COMMUNITY BOUNDARY ANOMALIES

The Town Council considered the previously circulated correspondence from the Chief Executive of the County Council.

In the light of the comments of the Chief Executive, the Town Council agreed not to pursue the reorganisation of the existing four Mold wards to provide for a total of five wards covering the Town. However, it was agreed to seek the previously approved amendment to the boundary between the Broncoed and South Wards with the dwellings in the Greenside and Llys Preswylfa area transferring to the South Ward. It was also noted that the Town Council was not seeking any change in the number of councillors per ward.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Chief Executive, Flintshire County Council be advised accordingly.

100. COMMUNITIES FIRST PROGRAMME DRAFT COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Town Council considered the previously circulated copy of the Draft Community Action Plan and felt that it would be appropriate for a sub group of the Council to review the plan in detail and have delegated powers to respond by 31st December 2005.

Resolved: It was resolved that a sub group including the three Members of the West Ward and Councillor Andrea Mearns be given delegated responsibility to respond to the Action Plan on behalf of the Town Council.

101. ANNUAL RETURN & INTERMEDIATE AUDIT 2004 / 05

The Town Council considered the previously circulated report and noted that the External Audit of the Town Council's accounts for the year 2004/05 had been completed and a clean report received. It was noted that the auditors had drawn attention to two items relating to the updating of the fixed asset and the annual review of the financial risk assessment.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report and the actions required be noted.

102. REVIEW OF LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY IN WALES

The Town Council considered the previously circulated correspondence from the Welsh Assembly Government setting out initial arrangements for a review of local service delivery in Wales. It was felt appropriate for a sub group of the Council to review the proposals in detail and prepare a response for consideration by the Town Council at its meeting in January 2006.

Resolved: It was resolved that a sub group comprising Councillors Chris Bithell, Tony Cattermoul, Robin Guest and Ken Williams consider the matter further and prepare a draft response for the deliberation of the Town Council.

103. POLICE REFORM IN WALES

The Town Council considered the previously circulated paper giving background details on the proposals for the restructuring of the Police Forces in Wales. It was also noted that the Police Authority had arranged to hold a focus group on 7th December 2005 to seek the views of interested persons and bodies and that Councillor Carolyn Cattermoul had requested a Notice of Motion asking that the Town Council supports the retention of the North Wales Police Force.

The Council felt that too short a period had been allowed for consultation on this extremely important proposal. Concern was also expressed that the Home Secretary appeared to have determined the outcome of the review prior to receiving feedback from the consultation process.

Members felt that there was no justification for any proposals that provided for the merger of the North Wales Police Force with other Forces in Wales. Indeed it appeared that there was universal opposition to such proposals. It was felt that the North Wales Police Force had made progress in recent years to develop a relationship with the public and local authorities and had responded accordingly to various consultation processes during that period. Members also noted that there appeared to be more of a relationship between the North Wales Force and those Forces in the North West of England than there was with those in Mid and South Wales.

It was agreed that the Town Council should respond accordingly to the North Wales Police Authority, the Home Secretary, Member of Parliament and Assembly Members. It was also agreed that the Mayor and Councillors Tony Cattermoul, Geoff Darkins and Ken Williams should represent the Town Council at the meeting with the Police Authority on 7th December 2005.

Resolved: It was resolved that written responses be made to the consultation paper as detailed above and that the previously identified Members represent the Town Council at the meeting with the Police Authority.

104. GUIDE TO COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Town Council considered the previously circulated guide to the Community Safety Partnership that has been produced for those involved in the Partnership. The Mayor welcomed the initiative and guide and hoped that it would be regularly revised to ensure that it is kept up-to-date. The Council felt that it would be appropriate at some time in the future to invite a representative of the Partnership to a meeting of the Council to advise on progress.

Resolved: It was resolved the Partnership be advised that the Town Council welcomes the publication of the Guide to Community Safety and that an invitation to address the Town Council will be sent to a representative of the Partnership in due course.

105. PARKING WARDEN

The Town Council considered the request of Inspector John Hanahoe, which followed the initial meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum, regarding the possibility of a financial contribution towards the employment of a traffic warden in the Town.

The Council was of the view that there are problems of indiscriminate parking within the Town but felt that the existing laws available for use were not being enforced. It was noted that Flintshire County Council were considering the matter of decriminalising parking but that a decision whether to take on responsibility had yet to be made. In recognising the problems, Members felt that it was not the responsibility of the Town Council to finance the appointment of a traffic warden.

Resolved: It was resolved that Inspector Hanahoe be advised the Town Council feels it inappropriate to finance the employment of a traffic warden.

106. REPORT OF THE TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

106.1 The Town Council considered the previously circulated report of the Town Centre Manager.

The Town Centre Manager highlighted the trading patterns in the Town which had followed the national trend in the third quarter of the year. He referred to the parking issues and the recent concerns of some motorists who had been clamped.

Reference was also made to the decline in the number of market traders who attended the Wednesday market and the Town Centre Manager advised that a report on the general markets operation, prepared by the Regeneration Department of the County Council, had been referred to the Director of Community and Housing.

Reference was also made to the lengthy timescale needed for the resolution of the planning application for the Taylor Tiles New Street site. The Council felt that this matter should be pursued with the County Council.

106.2 The Clerk and Finance Officer advised of the need for new business cards for the Town Centre Manager and indicated that it would be appropriate for cards to be also provided for Members and the Clerk and Finance Officer. The Clerk and Finance Officer indicated that provision is included within the budget for this printing and that the County Council's Design and Print Office could include for the printing of cards for others within the overall price. Reference was made to the possibility of Members contributing £5.00 each towards the cost of the cards.

Resolved: It was resolved that

a) The report of the Town Centre Manager be noted and that the County Council's Chief Planning Officer be asked to use his best endeavours to resolve the difficulties surrounding the planning application for the Taylor Tiles site in New Street;

b) Business cards be ordered from the County Council's Design and Print Office and that Members should individually contribute £5.00 towards the costs involved.

107. NOTICES OF MOTION

107.1 On the proposal of Councillor Andrea Mearns it was agreed to ask Flintshire County Council to consider the provision of "brown" road signs on the A55 advertising the Mold market and Clwyd Theatr Cymru.

107.2 On the proposal of Councillor Andrea Mearns it was agreed to ask Flintshire County Council to review its current stance and to allow sponsorship, by local businesses, of the maintenance of traffic roundabouts within the County which would assist in providing additional funding for this work.

107.3 On the proposal of Councillors Jack Laing and Ken Williams it was agreed to ask North Wales Police to take action against persistent offenders who park their vehicles on pavements in the Town. In addition, it was agreed to ask Flintshire County Council for information on the guidance given, because of the difficulties arising, regarding the width of roads in new developments.

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

108. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

108.1 DCT/040352 – Erection of a detached dwelling, land side of Brook House, Broncoed Lane – the Council felt that there were currently sufficient dwellings located off this unmade private road and that this application should be refused.

108.2 KYT/040504 – Erection of a rear extension and a replacement single garage, Oaklea, Bryn Coch Lane – no objections.

108.3 KCS/040532 – Erection of a two-storey side extension, Etonfield, Gwernaffield Road – no objections.

108.4 DCT/040551 – Erection of dwelling and garage with alterations to the existing access, Greenway, Upper Bryn Coch – no objections.

108.5 KYT/040415 – Replacement of existing conservatory to rear and single storey extension to front, September Cottage, 3 Brook Mount – no objections.

108.6 KYT/040613 – Erection of a two storey extension at the rear to create living room and study on ground floor and master bedroom with en-suite on first floor, Llwyn Onn, Rhydygaled – no objections subject to there being no adverse effects upon neighbouring properties.

108.7 JZB/040609 – Installation of steel storage container, Ysgol Maes Garmon – the Council agreed to object to this application for the permanent siting of the

container. It was however, felt that temporary permission for a period of two years would be acceptable.

108.8 DCT/040617 – Erection of a dwelling, land adjacent to 81 Bryn Awelon – no objections.

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

109. MEETINGS ATTENDED

109.1 Councillor Ken Williams advised of his attendance at the meeting of the National Assembly North Wales Regional Committee held to discuss dentistry in North Wales. He advised of the original consultation processes that had taken place prior to the introduction of new contracts for dentists and indicated that further information was to be sought in view of the difficulties facing patients.

109.2 Councillor Bryan Grew advised of his attendance at the annual meeting of One Voice Wales. He indicated that the constitution and standing orders were agreed but that the notice of motion relating to the council tax rebanding had not been considered.

109.3 The Clerk and Finance Officer advised of the attendance by Councillor Stephanie Hulley at the meeting of council representatives with Inspector John Hanahoe. Reference was made to the intention to recruit two Community Beat Managers for the Town.

109.4 Councillor Andrea Mearns advised of her attendance at a recent meeting at Delfryn House, the new development by Cambian Healthcare. Councillor Mearns circulated leaflets from the organisation.

110. 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.

111. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved: It was resolved to exclude the public and press to allow discussion on items relating to staffing.

112. STAFFING MATTERS

112.1 Town Centre Manager

The Town Council considered the previously circulated report regarding the employment of the Town Centre Manager. In considering the draft workplan, the Council felt that reference to the Town's markets should be included and, subject to

that addition, approved the workplan. The Council felt that it would be appropriate for a two year contract of employment to be offered to Keith Williams.

112.2 Clerk and Finance Officer

The Deputy Mayor advised the Town Council of his belief that the role of Clerk and Finance Officer should now be full-time and set out reasons for that view.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

a) The workplan for the Town Centre Manager be approved subject to the amendments detailed and that a two year contract of employment be offered to Keith Williams commencing 1st April 2006; and

b) The Town Council looks favourably upon an extension of the role of Clerk and Finance Officer to full time and that arrangements be made for this matter to be further discussed at a meeting of the Personnel Committee on 11th January 2006 to which all Members would be invited, when details of the work requirements and financial implications can be discussed.

Note: The Clerk and Finance Officer left the meeting prior to the discussion of the item recorded as Minute 112.2.

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

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL	DATE: 30th November 2005
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
Cllr. Robin Guest	Planning Applications	108.4