

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the special Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 7th September 2005.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors: Geoff Darkins, Stephanie Hulley, J.O. Jones, Phill Lloyd and Andrea Mearns.

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

56. CAR PARKING STRATEGY

The Council felt that it would be appropriate if the matter highlighted in the attached correspondence from Mrs. Annette LaFlamme, of Hermon, 2 Bailey Cottages (Item – 3(b) on the agenda) were to be considered prior to the discussion on the strategy itself. It was noted that this matter had been deferred from the Council on 20th July 2005.

Members recognised the difficulties experienced by Mrs LaFlamme and noted that, following the removal of the telephone box, there was now room for a vehicle to be parked on the wide pavement adjoining the entrance to Bailey Hill. Reference was also made to the unrestricted parking spaces in Pwll Glas which whilst available for use by local residents were quickly taken each day by visitors or people who work in the Town.

The Council felt that it would be appropriate to ask the County Council if permission could be given to Mrs LaFlamme to park on the pavement near the entrance to Bailey Hill where the telephone box used to be sited but in the event that this was not possible, that a residents parking zone be created in Pwll Glas opposite Kings Church.

Members then went on to discuss the car parking strategy papers using the questionnaire supplied by the County Council as a guide. It was felt that many of the responses could not be properly addressed in the questionnaire itself and it was therefore agreed to submit a general response as follows:

Parking General

1.01 The Town Council supports positive parking management in the Town, and particularly for on-street parking.

On-Street Parking

2.01 The Town Council agreed that it would be appropriate for the County Council to take on the responsibility for on-street parking enforcement and to ensure that enforcement is undertaken.

2.02 The Town Council did not consider that any shortfall in the costs of taking on the responsibility for on-street parking and its enforcement should be obtained from charges imposed for off-street parking. However, this view would be different if the County Council agreed a policy whereby there would be no cross subsidy between the income generating and non-income generating areas of Flintshire.

Off-Street Parking

3.01 In supporting positive parking management, the Town Council does not believe it is possible to determine that positive management should apply in only one of the locations identified in question 3.01. It is felt that positive parking management should be applied wherever parking problems have been identified and where there is a need to ensure better parking arrangements. It is then a matter to prioritise those problem areas.

3.02 The Town Council believes that there is a need to designate and control some parking in close proximity to shops / businesses to facilitate short stay parking.

3.03 The Town Council believes that off-street parking charges could be extended to include other business/ retail centres but only if those businesses/centres feel that it is appropriate and necessary and require the management of their car parks. In particular, it is felt that charges should be introduced for the workers who use the car parks serving County Hall. This would ensure some consistency with the approach adopted for other workers who park in Mold and who use car parks in the Town that are managed and maintained with public funding.

3.04 The Town Council believes that charging for car parking in other areas of the County is a matter for those areas themselves. However, it is also felt that if public monies are used to provide and maintain car parks then charging should apply.

3.05 The suggestion to charge a nominal fee for a period of up to half an hour is considered by the Town Council to be inappropriate. The sentiments behind the scheme are considered to be desirable but it is felt that it would be wholly impractical to introduce such a scheme.

3.06 The Town Council considers that the short stay fee of 20p per hour for up to three hours and £1.00 for the long stay fee, are appropriate for the pay and display car parks in Mold.

3.07 It is not considered that major improvements are required other than the removal of the roundabout in the access road to New Street car park. However, the Town Council feels that maintenance could be improved from its present level with spaces being kept free from vegetation. It is acknowledged that this will require additional expenditure.

3.08 It is felt that the lighting within the car parks could be improved from their existing levels.

Residents Parking Schemes

4.01 / 4.02 The Town Council understands that residents parking schemes are in operation elsewhere and work well. It is also acknowledged that in some cases residents are required to pay for the facility. The Town Council believes that it would be appropriate to consider residents parking schemes in Mold and that the County Council should investigate other schemes already in operation with a view to providing options for a detailed review.

4.03 The Town Council believes that the provision for residents parking on public car parks should be not be considered on a general basis but only in the context of specific problems in specific areas. If residents parking is required then it is felt appropriate for all day parking to be available.

Shopmobility

5.01 The Town Council supports consultation on the introduction of a shopmobility scheme in Mold.

Other Comments

6.01 The Town Council believed that the omission of a detailed review of on-street parking from the study report was disappointing because there are several locations in Mold where the de-regulation of on-street parking restrictions would have a positive effect on the provision of short-stay spaces. Grosvenor Street and Earl Road are two good examples where de-regulation could be introduced without adversely affecting the traffic flow.

Should areas be de-regulated then free short-stay provision for up to 30 minutes should be allowed. Disabled Blue Badge Holders would not be subjected to time restrictions. Spaces should be available on a first come, first served basis and not allocated to any particular type of users.

The introduction of decriminalised parking enforcement will help to stop any abuse of the short-stay only provision in such areas. It is also felt that the de-regulation of parking restrictions on suitable streets should be implemented to counter any negative aspects arising from the introduction of decriminalised parking enforcement by Flintshire County Council.

6.02 Whilst it has been highlighted above that the Town Council believes the lighting within car parks could be improved from existing levels, it is also felt that the introduction of contract / long stay parking for workers in the Town at the extremities of the car parks should require improvements to street lighting and closed circuit television provision within the Town centre. These improvements to the street and car park lighting and CCTV would give some degree of comfort for the safety of those workers who have to walk alone to their vehicles at the end of each day.

6.03 The Town Council noted that the management of the car parks was not addressed in the study and agreed to ask if the County Council would consider allowing Mold Town Council to take over the management and maintenance of the car parks within the Town. If the County Council agreed to the principle of this request, the matter could then be considered in detail. The Town Council is concerned that the questions raised in the car parking study are being considered on a countywide basis although there will inevitably be some degree of parochialism in the responses. This could result in there being an inequitable approach taken across the County which could then be addressed by allowing the Town Council to take over the management and maintenance of the car parks in the Town.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

a) The County Council be asked if permission can be given to Mrs. LaFlamme to park on the pavement near to the entrance to Bailey Hill where the telephone box used to be sited but in the event that this is not possible, that a residents parking zone be created in Pwll Glas opposite Kings Church; and

b) That the comments set out above be forwarded to Flintshire County Council as the response of the Town Council to the consultation on the car parking strategy study.

57. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications, including two new applications, were considered:

57.1. DCT/040064 – Alterations to form 1 no. self contained flat at first and second floor level over existing retail premises, Moss Pharmacy, 32 High Street – no objections.

57.2. LEJ/040138 – Replacement of flat roof with monopitch and erection of a single storey extension, 10 Ffordd Pentre – no objections.

57.3. KCS/040164 – Extensions to the front and rear, addition of pitched roof to existing flat dormer and repositioning of the garage, 7 Ffordd Argoed – no objections.

57.4. DCT/040170 – Erection of 5 no. detached dwellings, land to side of Cranfield, Rhydygaled – The Council agreed to object to this application. It is felt that the proposal represents a substantial over-development of the site that, whilst in the development boundary, adjoins open countryside. In addition, it is felt that the provision of a further five dwellings that will all be using the existing entrance to the site which is very close to the traffic lights, could cause problems for access and egress.

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

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

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL	DATE: 7th September 2005
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
	None	

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