

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 30th May 2007.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors: Carolyn Cattermoul and Carol Heycocks.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14. CAR PARKING

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Gareth Williams, Flintshire County Council's Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Environment and Regeneration to the meeting to talk about the decriminalisation of car parking.

Councillor Williams advised the Council that Flintshire and Wrexham County Councils were the last in North Wales to consider the introduction of decriminalised car parking. All other Councils in North Wales had now agreed to pursue this particular approach to parking enforcement. He advised that both Flintshire and Wrexham were aiming to take responsibility for enforcement by April / July 2008, subject to the approval of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Councillor Williams stressed that the other proposals included within the overall car parking strategy were still to be addressed although the many changes taking place within the County Council had resulted in the issue of decriminalisation being processed prior to the others. He advised that arrangements were being made for a partnership approach, in particular with Denbighshire County Council, so that the implementation and running costs involved with the decriminalisation of car parking would be more easily managed and less than envisaged.

Members indicated that they had no concerns about the principle of decriminalising car parking enforcement, it was more a matter of ensuring that a comprehensive and inclusive approach was adopted towards car parking countywide. They reiterated the view that there could be a detrimental effect upon Mold's town centre businesses if the town were to be targeted for parking infringements. Reference was made to the need for additional parking and to the possible future development of the King Street car park and Councillor Chris Bithell indicated that there might be a site that could be considered for extending one of the car parks. In relation to the existing parking arrangements, reference was made to the poor environmental aesthetics of

the car parks, specifically the location of recycling igloos in a prominent place on the New Street car park. In addition comments were made about the operation of the existing parking machines.

Councillor Williams indicated that he was of the view that this process of enforcing parking restrictions could help to ensure a free flow of traffic within the Town. He also acknowledged that the removal of some on-road traffic and parking restrictions may be helpful and agreed that these would be reconsidered. In respect of the recycling igloos, Councillor Williams advised that he would be able to arrange for them to be moved to an alternative location and asked if the Town Centre Manager would confirm the requirements in this matter.

In response to the comments from Councillor Bithell, Councillor Williams indicated that he was aware of the possible siting of additional parking but indicated that there was no budgetary provision for such a development. He also advised that he would ensure that the matter of programming the existing parking machines would be investigated.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Williams for his attendance and his responses to the matters raised.

15. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised of her attendance at the official opening of the new Homebase store and indicated that she was impressed with the building itself and the public artwork provided with the assistance of children from Bryn Coch and St. David's Primary schools.

16. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th April 2007 be received and approved;
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Cittàslow Mold Committee held on 30th April 2007 be received and noted;
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council Tourism Committee held on 2nd May 2007 be received and noted; and
- d) The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 16th May 2007 be received and approved.

17. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council - 25th April 2007

17.1 Minute 155.1: Public Telephone kiosk, Chester Road – The Clerk advised that there had been no response as yet from BT.

17.2 Minute 155.2: Provide of Litter Bin - The Clerk advised that there had been no definitive response as yet from Flintshire County Council.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

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

18.1 The Council considered the correspondence from The Planning Inspectorate and agreed to give evidence at the Unitary Development Plan Inquiry due to commence in the near future.

18.2 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council seeking financial support for the Optec Youth Exchange Trust but felt unable to assist on this occasion.

18.3 The Council noted receipt of the minutes of the meeting of Flintshire Local Health Board held on 25th April 2007 and the agenda for the meeting to be held on 23rd May 2007.

18.4 The Council considered the correspondence from the County Legal & Democratic Services Officer. The Council noted that the issue had been originally raised in a general context rather than specifically highlighting any planning decisions or County Councillors. The Council also noted that this was a matter of principle concern such that membership of a Masonic Lodge is considered to be incompatible with membership of the County Council's Planning Committee.

18.5 The Council noted receipt of the copy of the minutes of the Flintshire Fairtrade Coalition meeting held on 30th April 2007.

18.6 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire Fairtrade Coalition seeking a formal resolution of the Council to its support of Fairtrade. The Council noted the requirements for supporting Fairtrade status. It was formally agreed to support the aims and objectives of the Fairtrade campaign and the bid by Wales Fair Trade Forum for Wales to become the first Fairtrade country in the World.

18.7 The Council noted the correspondence from Flintshire County Council regarding the road resurfacing works that are due to take place in the Town Centre in the forthcoming weeks and the closures necessary to facilitate this.

18.8 The Council noted the details of the Bryn Gwalia Communities First Annual General Meeting to be held on 11th June 2007 and agreed to nominate Councillor Andrea Mearns for membership of the Partnership Board.

18.9 The Council noted receipt of the copy of the latest edition of 'The Voice' from One Voice Wales.

18.10 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council and noted the comments regarding planning enforcement. It was agreed to ask Team Leader - Enforcement to attend the meeting of the Council in October 2007.

18.11 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council regarding the waste accumulating on the High Street during the Wednesday and Saturday markets. The Council noted that the Markets Manager would closely monitor the situation.

Resolved: It was resolved that the actions set out above be approved.

19. FLINTSHIRE & DISTRICT EISTEDDFOD 2007

The Deputy Mayor advised of the Mold 2000 'Quiz Night' and sought the support and participation of Members.

The Clerk advised of the arrangements made for the erection of bunting within the Town and sought the approval of the Council to authorize the works. The Clerk also referred to the possible erection of a temporary flagpole at the Town Hall. Reference was made to the costs involved and the likely income, due from the County Council for Town Centre Manager activities that could cover the costs in the event that additional funding is not forthcoming.

The Council felt that it would be appropriate to provide bunting and a flagpole and agreed that these works should be undertaken.

Resolved: It was resolved to authorize the works detailed.

20. CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

The Council considered the previously circulated summary of the draft Climate Change Bill.

Whilst generally welcoming legislative proposals, Members queried whether the targets set were sufficient. It was felt that the issue of climate change was of such importance that more urgency should be attached to the targets and that Government should clearly identify the agencies to be involved. It was also felt that the appointment of a Government Minister to oversee this issue alone might give the appropriate priority to dealing with climate change.

Members commented upon the need for sufficient resources to be made available to those agencies involved in delivering the required changes.

It was suggested that planning permission fees should be abolished for proposals that help to reduce emissions and also that grants be made available to owners for the installation of new fuel-efficient boilers.

Resolved: It was resolved that the above comments be made in response to the consultation on the accounts be approved for audit.

21. FLINTSHIRE HOUSING STRATEGY 2007-2012

The Council considered the previously circulated first draft of Flintshire's Housing Strategy 2007-2012. The Clerk advised that the Interim Head of Customer & Housing had indicated that a response after the original date of 25th May 2007 would be considered.

The Council noted that there are a large number of sections missing from the draft strategy that make it difficult to comment fully. In particular, the Council found it impossible to comment on the future delivery and management of rented accommodation, clearly a very important aspect of the strategy, without the details to be provided by the stock options study. Members stated that the lack of comment about the provision of rented accommodation was also a major omission.

The Council acknowledged the need for affordable housing and felt that the County Council's planning policies needed to be sufficiently robust and enforced to ensure the provision in accordance with policy.

Whilst the Council acknowledged the need for the enforcement of regulations in the provision and management of private sector housing, it felt that a balanced approach was required to ensure that the sector continues to provide the much needed accommodation. In this respect, the Council expressed concern at the number of empty properties within the County and highlighted the benefits that would be achieved if these were returned to use. Similarly, the use of the accommodation above the shops within the town centres could also assist in the provision of affordable rented housing.

Resolved: It was resolved to respond making the comments highlighted above.

22. COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME – GYMINIS / SPORTSTART

The Council considered the report, circulated at the meeting, regarding the possible support for the Gyminis / Sportstart programme from September this year.

The Council noted that only a small number of town and community councils had been present at the meeting hosted by the County Council and that they had indicated an inability to make any financial contribution with budgets having been already agreed.

Members, in noting the estimated costs involved, felt that they could not support this activity programme when other local groups were not grant aided.

Resolved: It was resolved that the County Council be advised that the Town Council is unable to assist with financial aid.

23. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Town Centre Manager presented a verbal report to the Council outlining current progress on the visitmold.com website and the business survey recently undertaken. He referred to contact with the lettings agent for the former Curry's shop and indicated that the unit was currently under offer such that the cleanliness concerns should be dealt with shortly.

Reference was also made to an invitation to meet with the owners and managing agents of the Daniel Owen Shopping Centre in the near future.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report be noted.

24. NOTICES OF MOTION

24.1 On the proposal of Councillor Chris Bithell it was agreed that the Council should consider review the employment of a full-time litter picker / street cleaner when the budget for 2008/09 is being prepared.

24.2 In discussing the proposal of Councillor Stephanie Hulley, it was noted that the surface of the drive to the Town Hall car park had been repaired.

24.3 On the proposal of Councillor Stephanie Hulley it was agreed to ask Flintshire County Council to improve the arrangements for the cleaning of the windows at Mold Library.

24.4 On the proposal of Councillor Stephanie Hulley it was agreed that Somerfield Stores Ltd, or the new owner of the Kwiksave site, be asked to improve the maintenance of the landscaped areas around the site.

24.5 On the proposal of Councillor Carol Heycocks it was agreed that the Cheshire Building Society be asked to clean and close the passageway alongside its branch on High Street.

24.6 On the proposal of Councillor Carol Heycocks it was agreed that Flintshire County Council be asked to repaint the steps at the Town Hall to assist visually impaired persons.

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

25. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Town Council considered those applications previously circulated and one new application:

25.1 LEJ/043108 – Installation of covered trolley bay into existing car park, Somerfield Stores Ltd, Ambrose Lloyd Centre – the Council noted that the County Council had already approved this application.

25.2 KCS/043198 – Erection of internally illuminated flexbox signage, Homebase Ltd, Chester Road – no objection.

25.3 KYT/043096 – Amended application, conversion of house into 2 no. flats and replacement of attached garage with single storey structure to form lounge, 9 Gordon Terrace, King Street – the Council agreed to reiterate its previous objection to this application, believing that the end of terrace property is too small for conversion into two flats. It is considered that this type of property in its existing state provides an opportunity for first time buyers and should therefore, not be altered.

25.4 KYT/043036 – Erection of a rear single storey extension and rear dormer, 8 Greenside – no objection.

25.5 KYT/043177 – Erection of non-illuminated fascia and projecting signs, Lloyds TSB Bank plc, High Street – no objection subject to compliance with policies relating to the conservation area.

25.6 KYT/043174 – Listed building application - erection of non-illuminated fascia and projecting signs, Lloyds TSB Bank plc, High Street – no objection subject to compliance with policies relating to the conservation area.

25.7 KCS/043149 – Erection of a ground and first floor rear extension, Meadow House, 4 Cae Glas – no objection.

25.8 LEJ/043147 – Creation of additional car parking at rear side of building and creation of extended footpath to zebra crossing, Mold Community Hospital, Ash Grove – no objection.

25.9 KYT/042968 – Amended application, extension to rear of property with replacement garage at side, 38 Ffordd Pennant – no objection.

25.10 DGJ/043112 – Certificate of lawfulness, use of land as garden area, 21 Ffordd Argoed – no objection.

25.11 KYT/043260 – Amendment to planning permission (ref:040600) to incorporate revised office layout and provision of 1 no. additional parking space, Formerly BP Depot Cove Construction, Gas Lane – no objection.

25.12 KYT/043172 – Erection of a single storey side extension to form garage together with single and two storey rear extensions to form additional living accommodation, Gwynfa, Ruthin Road – no objection subject to there being no adverse impact upon the neighbouring property.

25.13 TGE/043318 – Erection of a single storey extension to rear, 11 Lon Cae Del – no objection subject to there being no adverse impact upon the neighbouring property.

25.14 KYT/043380 – Renewal of planning permission ref. 041675 to allow change of use to parking of 1 no. private hire vehicle, Brook Villa, Clayton Road – no objection.

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

26. MEETINGS ATTENDED

26.1 Councillor Geoff Darkins referred to his attendance at the Alyn Works Liaison Meeting and advised the Council of the comments relating to the productivity of the two companies and the charitable contributions made.

26.2 Councillor Chris Bithell referred to his and the attendance of other Members at the Neighbourhood Forum when parking and anti-social behaviour problems were highlighted.

27. 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: 30th May 2007
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
None		