

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 18th July 2007.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors: Carolyn Cattermoul, Geoff Darkins and Robin Guest.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were declared as detailed at the end of these minutes.

44. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised of her support for Mrs. Evans who walked to Llandudno in aid of Cancer Research and her attendance at the Alun School for the presentation of certificates to Year 7 pupils.

45. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 21st June 2007 be received and noted;
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27th June 2007 be received and approved;
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Cemetery Committee held on 4th July 2007 be received and noted; and
- d) The minutes of the meeting of the Audit Sub- Committee held on 11th July 2007 be received and noted.

46. MATTERS ARISING

Tourism Committee – 21st June 2007

46.1 Minute 2: Tourist Information Centre (TIC) – In response to a query from Councillor Chris Bithell, the Clerk advised that the local coach operators had their own arrangements for advertising and did not wish to involve the TIC.

Cemetery Committee – 4th July 2007

46.2 Minute 2: Cemetery Extension – The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Jack Laing advised that the costs of the further ground investigations needed for the land to the east of the Cemetery would be £975 (plus VAT) and he sought the Council's approval for the authorisation of the work. He confirmed that the costs would be met from the funds set aside for this work.

Resolved: It was resolved that authorisation be given for the further ground investigation works to proceed.

46.3 Minute 2: Cemetery Extension – In response to a question from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jack Laing advised that no consideration had yet been given to the question of staffing following the resolution of the extension to the Cemetery.

47. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were considered:

47.1 The Council noted receipt of the Annual Report 2006/07 of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

47.2 The Council considered the correspondence from Groundwork Wrexham & Flintshire regarding rights of way path routes within Mold and it was noted that Groundwork had acquired some funding that would allow access work to be undertaken. It was agreed to advise Groundwork that improvements could be made to the footpath alongside the River Alyn (Footpath No. 5) from King Street to Pentre Mill / Chester Road and to the verge alongside Gwernaffield Road to its junction with Factory Pool Lane. It was also agreed that Members should advise the Clerk of any other pathways in need of improvement.

47.3 The Council noted the contents of the correspondence from PC Colin Coulborn regarding parking offences and was pleased to also note that he would be keeping the matter under review.

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

48. FLINTSHIRE & DISTRICT EISTEDDFOD 2007

There were no reports.

49. AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council considered the recommendations from the Audit Sub Committee held on 11th July 2007 and agreed to approve:

49.1 The recommendations of the Audit Sub Committee relating to Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Annual Investment Strategy, Internal Financial Controls and Risk Assessments; and

49.2 The recommendations relating to the External and Intermediate Audit of the Town Council's accounts for the year 2006/07, called for 28th July 2007, and the statements of assurance within the Annual Return and the Intermediate Audit Supplementary Assurance and Information requests.

Resolved: It was resolved that the recommendations of the Audit Sub Committee Council be approved and that the Mayor signs the statement of assurance within the Annual Return.

50. ACCOUNTS 2007 / 08 – QUARTERLY REVIEW

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing the position, as at 30th June 2007, relating to the income and expenditure of the Town Council in the current year. The Council noted the revisions to the estimates as detailed in the report.

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

51. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – MOLD SUPER TROOPERS

The Council recalled the discussion at the last meeting on the application for financial assistance previously submitted from Mold Super Troopers Morris Dancing Group. It was reported that representatives of the Group had subsequently advised that grant aid towards the cost of new footwear and chairs for outside use would be appreciated.

Resolved: It was resolved that a grant of £250.00 be awarded to Mold Super Troopers.

52. ONE VOICE WALES ANNUAL MEETING

Following the invitation to submit up to two notices of motion to the Annual General Meeting of One Voice Wales, Councillor Ken Williams raised the matter of providing closed circuit television (CCTV) within primary schools.

Councillor Williams felt that One Voice Wales should be asked to press the Welsh Assembly Government to provide ring-fenced funds for the provision of CCTV within all primary schools in Wales. He referred to the problems of vandalism and the resultant effects on the schooling of younger children and indicated that CCTV has helped in those schools where it has been provided.

Resolved: It was resolved that One Voice Wales be asked to include as a notice of motion, at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, that it presses the Welsh Assembly Government to provide ring-fenced funds for the provision of CCTV within all primary schools in Wales.

53. REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

The Council considered the request from the Royal British Legion to alter the arrangements for the annual Remembrance Day Service with a view to holding the Act of Remembrance and the two minutes silence at the Cenotaph itself.

It was noted that discussions had been held with representatives of the Royal British Legion and Reverend Ian Day and that it was considered possible to achieve this if the Service within St. Mary's Parish Church were held at 10.00am.

The Council, whilst supporting the change, felt that starting the Service at 9.45am would be more appropriate and allow sufficient time at the end of the Service for the parade to re-assemble and to be at the Cenotaph for the Act of Remembrance at 11.00am.

Resolved: It was resolved that the suggested alteration be approved but that the Service in St. Mary's Parish Church should commence at 9.45am.

54. MOLD GOING CARBON NEUTRAL

The Council noted the report reminding Members of the minutes of Cittaslow Mold and the consideration currently being given to the possibility of Mold going carbon neutral.

The Deputy Mayor stressed that the support of residents, businesses and the Town Council was required if the project were to be successful. She advised that the first stages involved an audit of all residents.

Members supported the project 'Mold Going Carbon Neutral' and felt that whatever contributions could be made by residents would be advantageous to the concerns of climate change.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Town Council supports the approach adopted by Cittaslow Mold in pursuing Mold Going Carbon Neutral.

55. WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME

The Clerk reminded the Council that it had agreed to pursue the adoption of a Welsh Language Scheme and advised that the Welsh Language Board had assisted in providing draft schemes and a template scheme that could be adapted to suit the operation of the Town Council

These schemes had subsequently been considered, as agreed, by Councillors Chris Bithell, Bryan Grew and Sheila Powell and a copy of the proposed scheme was circulated at the meeting for the Council to consider. Councillor Grew advised Members that whilst the scheme looked daunting it was both an achievable and realistic target for the Council.

The Clerk stated that the Welsh Language Board had supported the scheme prepared by the Council although concern had been expressed over the timescale suggested for the implementation of a fully bilingual website. He advised that allowing for the appropriate budgetary provision next year (2008/09) it would be possible to consider a timescale of 31st March 2009, for the implementation of a bilingual website, and indicated that this would be acceptable to the Welsh Language Board.

Resolved: It was resolved to adopt the Welsh Language Scheme as prepared but with the alteration identified above and to submit this to the Welsh Language Board for approval.

56. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

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

In commenting upon his report, the Town Centre Manager advised that little progress was being made with the development of the former Taylor Tiles site and that replies were not being made to enquiries. He also referred to the response of the Federation of Small Businesses (North Wales and Chester) to the introduction of decriminalised car parking management in Conwy where it would appear to be having a detrimental effect upon trade.

The Town Centre Manager also referred to his discussions with retailers about the delivery of goods to their shops. He advised that small retailers do not have the 'weight' to dictate the delivery times and the occasional, albeit regular, disruption to traffic caused by delivery vehicles is something that a small market town like Mold has to accept.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report be noted.

57. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

57.1 ECH/043459 – Outline, erection of 2 no. dwellings, land adjacent to Llwyn y Gan, Alyn Street – no objections in principle to the development. However, the Council expressed concern about building within the flood plain but also felt that, if the development were to proceed, it would be more appropriate that it should be for bungalows only.

57.2 KYT/043519 – Extension to the car park at the north of the Mold Law Courts Building, Law Courts, County Civic Centre – no objections in principle to the provision of additional car parking in this area. The Council however, felt that the trees and shrubbery should be retained with parking provided in amongst them. The Council also felt the proposed egress was not needed and that the wall along the boundary with Raikes Lane should be retained.

57.3 ECH/043570 – Outline, erection of a detached dwelling, Elwy, 103 Chester Road – the Council agreed to object to this proposal believing there to be insufficient space for an additional building at this site.

57.4 JZB/043585 – Installation of telecommunication equipment including three pole mounted antennas and a radio equipment housing at roof level, BT (Mold ATE), Chester Street – the Council agreed to object to this application. The Council

believed that the cumulative effect of the number of antennae on this building could have an adverse effect upon the health of neighbouring residents and workers.

57.5 ECH/043628 – Change of use from A1 retail to A2 financial / professional office, Unit 25, Daniel Owen Precinct – the Council agreed to object to this application. The property is within one of the prime retail sites of the Town, figures supporting this were provided by the Town Centre Manager, and the Council felt strongly that it would be wrong to allow a change of use away from retail.

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

58. MEETINGS ATTENDED

58.1 Councillor Bryan Grew referred to his attendance at the One Voice Wales Regional Meeting. He advised that Planning Aid would be offering training that could prove to be beneficial to Members.

58.2 Councillor Stephanie Hulley referred to her attendance at the Abbeyfield Strawberry Tea and Annual Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Darby and Joan Club.

58.3 Councillor Sheila Powell referred to her attendance at a recent meeting of the Flintshire Local Health Board's Project Steering Group. Councillor Powell reminded the Council that Pendre Surgery had withdrawn its support but that three surgeries remained committed to the provision of a new primary health care facility. Councillor Powell advised the Council of the three sites being considered. A number of Members expressed their concern that the proposals would not benefit the public of Mold but it was also felt that more information should be forthcoming from the Local Health Board if the support of the Town Council were to be given to the overall project. It was agreed to write to the Local Health Board to highlight the concerns of the Council and to invite representatives to a special meeting of the Council to explain in detail the current position in relation to the revised proposals.

58.4 Councillor Carol Heycocks advised of her attendance at a Royal Garden Party.

58.5 The Deputy Mayor referred to her attendance at a meeting held to discuss possible financial support for rural initiatives that could benefit Mold.

59. 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: 18th July 2007
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
Councillor Chris Bithell	Planning Applications	57.3
Councillor Geoff Collett	Planning Applications	57.2