

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 26th September 2007.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Joyce Jones (Mayor), Chris Bithell, Tony Cattermoul, Geoff Collett, Geoff Darkins, 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, Ray Dodd, Bryan Grew and Robin Guest.

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

64. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised of her attendance at the start of the Mold Carnival parade and subsequently at the Cenotaph for the Remembrance of the Falklands Conflict.

The Mayor further advised of a number of functions attended since the last meeting and referred specifically to the Eisteddfod, during which the Town Council's Welsh Language Policy was launched, and the Mold Food and Drink Festival both of which had been extremely impressive and wonderful events for the Town.

The Mayor indicated that she had attended County Hall to receive an award for Mold coming equal first in the "Best Kept Town in Flintshire" environmental awards. She also indicated that she was due to attend Parliament Square for the unveiling of a statue to Lloyd George.

Reference was made to the recent passing away of John James, Musical Director of the Llwynegrin Singers with whom the Town Council has had a close relationship over the years. The Mayor indicated that she had written to Mr. James' daughter to express the sympathy of the Town Council and had attended the funeral.

65. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18th July 2007 be received and approved;
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Council's Personnel Committee held on 5th September 2007 be received and approved; and

c) The minutes of the meeting of the special meeting of the Council held on 12th September 2007 be received and approved.

66. MATTERS ARISING

66.1 Mold Town Council – 18th July 2007.

66.1.1 Minute 54: Mold Going Carbon Neutral – The Deputy Mayor advised that the next stage in the process was to be a letter to all Mold residents seeking base line data regarding energy usage. All householders that respond will be provided with an analysis of potential savings from the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre.

66.2 Personnel Committee – 5th September 2007.

There were no matters arising.

66.3 Mold Town Council – 12th September 2007.

There were no matters arising.

67. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were considered:

67.1 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council's Legal and Democratic Services Officer identifying the proposed areas for designation as alcohol free zones. The Council agreed to support the proposals. The Council also expressed concerns about the behaviour of individuals in Daniel Owen Square and the image created and felt that the Police should address this issue.

67.2 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council's Legal and Democratic Services Officer advising of a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places. The Council considered that the Daniel Owen Centre provided the best location for the polling station for the Mold South Ward and supported its continued use.

67.3 The Council considered the correspondence from the Development Office of the University of Wales, Bangor, regarding financial support for the restoration of the Memorial Arch. The Council felt that it would be appropriate to make a contribution and agreed that the amount should be considered at the time the Council makes its grant awards in January 2008.

67.4 The Council noted the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising of the appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the erection of a dwelling on land adjacent to 16 Beechwood Close.

67.5 The Council noted the correspondence from Mr. Derek Ralph in which he advised he would be submitting an application for temporary planning permission for the use of 6 The Mall, Ambrose Lloyd Centre.

67.6 The Council noted the correspondence from the County Council's Legal and Democratic Services Officer and the Standards Committee.

67.7 The Council noted receipt of the annual report 2006-07 of the Clwyd Community Health Council.

67.8 The Council noted the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising of the adoption of the widened section of Meadow Place to the entrance of Llys y Ddol.

67.9 The Council noted the correspondence from One Voice Wales detailing the motions to be debated at its annual meeting. It was agreed that the motion suggested by the Town Council should be further considered at the next meeting.

67.10 The Council noted the correspondence from Aled Lloyd Davies thanking the Council and Members for their support in the lead up to and during the Flintshire and District Eisteddfod 2007.

67.11 The Council noted receipt of the notes of the meeting of the Flintshire Fair Trade Coalition held on 12th July 2007.

67.12 The Council noted receipt of the information from Flintshire County Council relating to its "Business Week" to be held on 2nd – 5th October. Members noted that booking is required for attendance at the events.

67.13 The Council noted receipt of the notes of the meeting of the Flintshire Fair Trade Coalition held on 20th September 2007.

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

68. RESPONSES TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved: The Council noted the report detailing the responses to planning applications submitted over the summer period.

69. WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME

Resolved: The Council noted the approval and adoption of the Welsh Language Scheme.

70. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPETITIONS 2007

The Council noted that Mold had achieved equal first prize with Holywell in this years competition in the category of "towns with a population of over 5,000". Members expressed their delight in the award and agreed that their thanks should be given to Tony and Nannette Davies, for watering the hanging baskets and flower towers, and to Mr. Mike Wright of Gwernaffield Road, for his assistance in planting the barrier baskets in King Street.

Resolved: That the action identified be taken.

71. DRAFT ALLOCATIONS POLICY

The Council considered the previously circulated draft policy submitted by Flintshire County Council and noted that the period by which responses were requested had been extended to 12th October 2007.

Members made specific reference to the appropriateness of the points given for social needs and those deducted as penalty points particularly with regard to local authority tenant applicants for transfer.

It was felt that issues giving rise to the consideration of awarding points for council tenant transfer applicants under the heading 'social needs' (Points Scheme Policy - Page 6), should be addressed in a different way. Rather than awarding points to applicants wanting to move away, it is felt that those tenants causing the problems of harassment, racial incidents or domestic violence etc., should be penalised as a result of failing to honour their conditions of tenancy. It is considered that if the problems are not addressed in this way, they are likely to continue and with the potential to affect future neighbouring occupiers who will then similarly wish to move away.

In addition it was felt that the level of penalty points deducted from tenant transfer applicants (Points Scheme Policy - Pages 6&7) should be higher than stated within the draft document and in any case, that tenant applicants should be penalised, if necessary evicted, as a result of failing to honour their conditions of tenancy.

Resolved: It was agreed that the above comments be submitted to the County Council in response to the draft Allocations Policy document.

72. LOCAL VISION – PREPARING COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

The Council considered the previously circulated consultation document and felt that it would be more appropriate for a smaller group of Members to consider the matter in detail and respond on behalf of the Council.

Resolved: That the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Geoff Collett, Ray Dodd and Brian Grew meet to consider the consultation paper and prepare a response for submission on behalf of the Council.

73. A SHARED COMMUNITY – RELATIONSHIP BUILDING AND CHARTERS FOR UNITARY AUTHORITIES AND COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS

The Council considered the previously circulated consultation document and felt that it would be more appropriate for a smaller group of Members to consider the matter in detail and respond on behalf of the Council.

Resolved: That the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Geoff Collett, Ray Dodd and Brian Grew meet to consider the consultation paper and prepare a response for submission on behalf of the Council.

74. REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Resolved: It was resolved that the arrangements for the Service of Remembrance be approved.

75. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Town Centre Manager presented a verbal report to the Council.

The Town Centre Manager advised that the visitmold.com website was now attracting some 1100 hits each month with 300 businesses registered. The target for the marketing exercise was to place 800 businesses on the website.

Reference was made to the Flintshire and District Eisteddfod and the Food and Drink Festival both of which attracted substantial numbers of visitors to the Town. The Town Centre Manager felt that retailers had not benefited as they would have hoped from the Eisteddfod although some of the public houses had been very busy.

The Town Centre Manager referred to the number of empty shops in the Town and indicated that three were currently under offer. He advised that discussions had been held with officers from the County Council to look at what could be done to ensure that the empty shops are reoccupied at the earliest opportunity.

Concern was expressed that the smaller retailers were experiencing difficulties with the high level of National Non Domestic Rates payable (NNDR). Reference was made to the NNDR relief that had been available to smaller businesses and made available following the foot and mouth outbreak some years ago. The NNDR relief had since been withdrawn but it was noted that the County Council's Tourism Strategy had indicated that the area was still recovering from the impact of that outbreak. It was agreed to write to the Member of Parliament, Assembly Member and the list Assembly Members expressing the concerns.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report be noted and the action identified be taken.

76. NOTICES OF MOTION

76.1 The Council considered the proposition of the Mayor regarding the provision of yellow bus bay markings at Elm Drive and agreed to defer the matter for a period of six months.

76.2 The Council considered the proposition of Councillor Stephanie Hulley and agreed to ask the County Council to investigate the possibility of providing a pedestrian crossing on Chester Road, midway between the entrance to Wood Green and the junction of Woodlands Road.

76.3 The Council considered the proposition of Councillor Chris Bithell and agreed to ask the County Council to provide a dog litterbin near to the passageway between Lon Cae Del and the roadway leading to Parc Plas Aney.

76.4 The Council considered the proposition of Councillor Carol Heycocks regarding the provision of a crossing on Gas Lane. In the light of the possible developments of Gas Lane, the Council agreed to ask if the County Council would consider options to slow the traffic down, whether it be by way of signage or other means in order to reduce the likelihood of accidents.

76.5 The Council considered the proposition of Councillor Carol Heycocks and agreed to ask the County Council to take enforcement action in respect of the large number of "A" boards in the town centre and to remind shop owners not to place them where they can cause an obstruction.

Resolved: It was resolved that the action identified be taken.

77. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

77.1 LEJ/043878 – Erection of a two-storey side extension, 2 Moel Ganol – no objections.

77.2 RMH/043902 – Change of use to showcasing and display of sustainably sourced timber products including the temporary accommodation of low level summerhouses and pergolas, Truwood Furniture Ltd, Queens Lane – no objections.

77.3 ECH/043474 – Erection of five No. three bedroom dwellings, land side of Pied Bull Cottage, Chester Road – no objections in principle although concern was expressed that the area identified for parking has been the subject of flooding in the past.

77.4 RMH/043895 – Further land to be included in the curtilage of plot 9's private garden, land at Plot 9, Rhyd Galed – no objections although planners are requested to advise the applicant of the three tree preservation orders applying to trees on the site.

77.5 LEJ/043812 – Erection of two-storey side extension, Derwen Cottage, Wrexham Road – no objections.

77.6 KYT/043930 – Erection of a single storey extension to rear to form bedroom and lounge, 16 West View – no objections.

77.7 KYT/043555 – Erection of smoking and outside drinking area to the rear of the club with timber decking base (part retrospective), Ex-Servicemen's Club, 77 Wrexham Street (This application has an amended description) – no objections.

77.8 LEJ/043923 – Temporary siting of a steel container, Pendre Surgery, Clayton Road – the Council noted that the applicant was seeking permission for a minimum period of five years. It was agreed to object to this application believing that a more

appropriate method of storage should be sought and as such, a more appropriate site found. The Council also believed that the provision of a steel container would be detrimental to the environmental aspects of the site.

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

78. MEETINGS ATTENDED

78.1 Councillor Ken Williams advised of his attendance at the recent police and community meeting when the new police inspector was introduced to those present.

78.2 Councillor Ken Williams also advised of his attendance, and that of the Deputy Mayor, at the meeting held to consider the Regional Transport Plan. He advised of the recognition for an integrated plan covering the six counties within North Wales. The Deputy Mayor indicated that the meeting had been well organised although no mention had been made of the need to reduce carbon emissions.

78.3 Councillor Chris Bithell referred to his attendance and that of other members at the Neighbourhood Forum when the issues of speeding and anti social behaviour were raised. He indicated that once again parking concerns were also high on the agenda.

78.4 Councillor Stephanie Hulley reported on her attendance, and that of Councillor Tony Cattermoul at the recent meeting of Abbeyfield Mold.

78.5 The Deputy Mayor referred to her attendance at a garden party hosted by the High Sheriff and also to her attendance, and that of others at the Eisteddfod and the Food and Drink Festival when the Town Council / Cittaslow Mold had stands. The Deputy Mayor offered her thanks to all those who had been involved. Councillor Ken Williams, supported by the Council, thanked the Deputy Mayor for her efforts in ensuring the Town Council had a high profile at both of the events.

79. 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: 26th September 2007
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
	None	