

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 27th February 2008.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors: Geoff Darkins, Stephanie Hulley and Phill Lloyd.

124. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

125. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reminded Members of the Healthcheck meeting due to take place on 12th March and asked those who had yet to respond to consider attending.

The Mayor offered her condolences to Councillor Chris Bithell following the loss of his brother in law.

The Mayor advised that she would be presenting cups to Mold Super Troopers and Mold Town Concert Band for their ambassadorial work. She confirmed that she had presented one that day to Bryn Gwalia School for winning the pancake races.

126. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30th January 2008 be received and approved.

127. MATTERS ARISING

127.1 Minute 113.1.1 Recycling Packaging Material – The Clerk apologised that the issue had not been raised with Assembly Members as required. He advised that this had since been rectified.

127.2 Minute 114.3 Glass Recycling – The Clerk advised that Mr. Andy Macbeth, the County Council's Environmental Services Manager had agreed to attend the next meeting of the Town Council.

127.3 Minute 114.7 Bromfield Group Planning Inquiry – The Clerk advised that the inquiry had been halted following the withdrawal of the planning application for the development of 157 dwellings at the former Bromfield Timbers site.

128. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence, including three new items, were considered:

128.1 The Council considered the correspondence from The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Ltd seeking financial support for this year's show and agreed to seek details of the sponsorship packages before reaching a decision.

128.2 The Council noted the correspondence from Flintshire County Council regarding the forthcoming Community / Town Council Elections.

128.3 The Council noted receipt of the copy of the Notes of the Flintshire Fairtrade Coalition Meeting held on 17th January 2008.

128.4 The Council considered the correspondence from Inspector Alun Oldfield seeking support in providing information on areas where vulnerable people live and in delivering leaflets during the forthcoming year. It was agreed that Members would respond individually to Inspector Oldfield.

128.5 The Council considered the correspondence from David Hanson MP regarding recycling and agreed to reconsider the matter at the next meeting when the County Council's Environmental Services Manager is attending.

128.6 The Council noted the correspondence from Mr. Peter Taylor, 6 Sunnyridge and also that the County Council had provided a number of metal ashtrays around the Town Centre for the deposit of cigarette ends. The Council also noted the information on the projects for developing water supplies in Zambia with which he has been involved.

128.7 The Council considered the correspondence from Mr. A. Johnson, 50 Gosmore Road, New Brighton regarding the installation of small recycling bins within the Town Centre. Concern was expressed as to the possible location for such recycling bins but agreed to raise the matter with the County Council's Environmental Services Manager when he attends the next meeting.

128.8 The Council noted receipt of the copy of the January journal of One Voice Wales.

128.9 The Council noted receipt of the correspondence advising of the development of various equality policies by the North Wales Health organisations.

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

129. SKATEBOARDING FACILITIES

The Council considered the previously circulated report including copies of the report of the County Council's Head of Pollution Control and details of the revised scheme layout.

It was noted the Head of Pollution Control had indicated he would not oppose the development, subject to conditions that included the provision of acoustic barriers

either side of the facility and detailed in the plans provided. It was again noted that the previously declared views of the Planning Officer were unlikely to change.

After much debate regarding the views of the County officers, the style and height of the acoustic barriers, the need for landscaping and the long-term desire to provide the facility, the Council determined to accept the report and proceed with a planning application.

Resolved: It was resolved to support the proposal and submit a planning application for the skateboard park facility.

130. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Council considered the previously circulated report advising of the retirement of Keith Williams and setting out the options for the future employment of a Town Centre Manager.

The Council discussed the options and felt that the two business groups, Mold 2000 representing the retailers and Mold Business Forum representing the commercial sector, and Flintshire County Council's Regeneration Department should be involved and able to give advice in the selection process. It was also agreed that the postholder should be offered the opportunity to join the Clwyd Pension Fund with the necessary employer contributions being met.

Resolved: It was resolved to:

130.1 Approve the appointment of a Town Centre Manager and authorise the advertisement of the post;

130.2 Confirm the hours of working and rate of pay as those currently applying;

130.3 Offer a three year contract of employment; and

130.4 Invite the two business groups and Flintshire County Council to nominate representatives to participate in the selection process.

131. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Council noted the report giving details of the new legislation introduced to make it clear that the code of conduct can include provision that applies to Members whilst acting in either their official and private capacities. It was also noted the legislation came into force on 31st January 2008 with a requirement that all Members must give a fresh undertaking to observe their authority's code of conduct. The Clerk advised that fresh undertakings would be produced for Members to sign.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report be noted.

132. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Town Centre Manager reported verbally to the Council.

Reference was made to the Healthcheck study, commissioned by the County Council, and the meeting due to be held in March in the Jubilee Room and referred to by the Mayor. The Town Centre Manager urged all those able to attend to do so.

The Town Centre Manager made reference to a further fall in the pedestrian footfall figures and again advised that this reflected the situation throughout the country.

The Town Centre Manager circulated information about the Barracuda Group who wished to establish a 'Smith & Jones' outlet within the Daniel Owen Precinct. He indicated the lettings agents had advised that there had been little interest in the units. County Planning officers had indicated that they would be prepared to consider a change of use for the units to allow the Barracuda Group to set up its business if the local community were in favour of such a development. The Town Centre Manager sought the views of the Town Council in order that he could report back to the lettings agents.

Members were generally supportive of the proposal believing that such a development could help to regenerate this particular part of the Town Centre. It was suggested that the views of the Hotel and Restaurant Association should also be sought.

Resolved: It was resolved the report be noted and that the Town Centre Manager respond accordingly to the Daniel Owen Precinct lettings agents.

133. NOTICES OF MOTION

133.1 On the proposal of Councillor Chris Bithell it was agreed to ask Flintshire County Council to provide dog litter bins at Woodlands Road, near to the junction with Woodlands Close, and King Street, near to the entrance/exit of the Roundabout Service Station.

133.2 On the proposal of Councillor Chris Bithell it was agreed that the Town Council should express its concern to the Association of British Insurers about the practices of some of its members in relation to properties that are built on or near floodplains.

133.3 On the proposal of the Mayor it was agreed to write to Royal Mail asking that it reinstates the post box outside Parkfields Community Centre.

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

134. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Town Council considered the following applications, including one new application:

134.1 KYT/044541 – Erection of a single storey rear extension, 31 Ffordd Pennant – No objections.

134.2 CZR/044507 – Variation of condition no. 5 attached to planning approval ref. 044189 to allow stone surface for access track/hardstanding, land adjacent to Highfield, Bryn Awelon – No objections.

134.3 DGJ/044451 – Alterations and extensions to existing dwelling and conversion of stables, Bromfield, Wrexham Road – The Council welcomed the application and agreed that there were no objections in principle to the proposals. However, it was agreed that any alterations and extensions must be in sympathy with the character of the building, use materials in keeping with its listed building status and comply with all recommendations and requirements of the County’s Conservation Officer.

134.4 DGJ/044452 – Listed Building Application, Alterations and extensions to existing dwelling and conversion of stables, Bromfield, Wrexham Road – The Council welcomed the application and agreed that there were no objections in principle to the proposals. However, it was agreed that any alterations and extensions must be in sympathy with the character of the building, use materials in keeping with its listed building status and comply with all recommendations and requirements of the County’s Conservation Officer.

134.5 KYT/044493 – 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 and having concerns about highway safety.

134.6 CZR/044560 – Erection of conservatory to rear, 5 Bryn Noddfa, Pwll Glas – No objections.

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

Note: Councillor Bithell left the meeting during discussion on 134.5 above.

135. MEETINGS ATTENDED

135.1 Councillor Ken Williams referred to his attendance at a meeting between community representatives and the local Police Inspector when this year’s crime statistics were reported. Councillor Williams circulated a report for Members.

135.2 Councillor Andrea Mearns reported on the meeting with David Blainey to discuss a bid for ‘Sustainable Travel Town’ status and the subsequent news that two towns from each region would be put forward to the Welsh Assembly Government for selection. Councillor Mearns advised that arrangements would be made for a further meeting to pursue this matter.

136. 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: 27th February 2008
--------------------------	--

MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
Councillor Chris Bithell	Planning Applications - KYT/044493, 103 Chester Road	134.5

FB/MINUTES/MTC/MTCMINS080227