

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 22nd October 2008.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Andrea Mearns (Mayor), Chris Bithell, Carolyn Cattermoul, Geoff Darkins, Ray Dodd, Bryan Grew, Carol Heycocks, Joyce Jones, Tim Maunders and Ken Williams with the Clerk and Finance Officer and Town Centre Manager.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: Tony Cattermoul, Geoff Collett, Ken Corbett, Stephanie Hulley and Sheila Powell

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

75. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised the Council of her attendance at the Civic Service for the Chairman of Leeswood Community Council, the Annual Meeting of the North West Cancer Research North Wales Branch and the Quiz Night organised by Mold 2000 in aid of the Christmas lights.

The Mayor also referred to her attendance at the County Forum when the Leader and Chief Executive of the County Council indicated a desire and willingness to involve town and community councils in joint planning and joint schemes. The Mayor also highlighted the report on Alcohol Free Zones provided by the County Legal and Democratic Services Officer and circulated for Town Councillors.

76. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24th September 2008 be received and approved;
- b) The minutes of the special meeting of the Council held on 8th October 2008 be received and approved.

77. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council – 24th September 2008

77.1 Minute 62.1 Vehicle Activated Sign – The Mayor advised that the vehicle activated sign had now been installed on Gwernaffield Road.

77.2 Minute 62.4 One Voice Wales Annual General Meeting – Councillor Bryan Grew advised that the notices of motion regarding the Aberystwyth Study, village hall rates, liaison on licensing with local councils and better communications were carried.

77.3 Minute 62.10 Drainage System, Cae Bracty – Councillors Carol Heycocks and Chris Bithell advised that the meeting with County and Welsh Water officers and hosted by David Hanson MP, had been very positive with a target date of 2010/11 for works to be undertaken.

77.4 Minute 63 Charter Agreement between County Councils and Town and Community Councils – Councillor Bryan Grew referred to the County Forum meeting and advised that there was no basis yet established for taking actions forward with no mention of accredited local councils. It was agreed that the Town Council should express its eagerness to pursue and promote closer links with the County Council.

77.5 Minute 64 Annual Report – The Mayor advised that the Open Meeting would be held at 7.00pm on 10th December 2008. It was agreed that arrangements would be made for Members to deliver the Annual Report in advance of the meeting.

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77.6 Minute 71 Town Centre Healthchecks Study – Members made reference to the Healthchecks Study meeting held on Friday 17th September and queried how the issues raised were to be addressed. It was suggested a small sub-committee should be established and it was agreed to contact Dave Heggarty to determine how we should proceed in the development of a longer-term action plan for the Town. The planning application for the two retail units at Denbigh Road highlighted the need for a strategy for the Town that would, if necessary, provide planners with a clear view of what is needed or not needed. It was also agreed to invite the Acting Planning Services Officer to discuss the Denbigh Road scheme and its impact on the Town, particularly in relation to the Healthchecks Study, as soon as possible.

77.7 Minutes 72 & 73 Improvement Initiatives and Future Projects – In further developing the initiatives and projects, it was agreed that Councillors Chris Bithell and Tony Cattermoul and the Mayor and Councillor Bryan Grew respectively, should work with the Clerk to set out the proposals in detail.

Resolved: That the actions set out above be approved.

78. CORRESPONDENCE

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

78.1 The Council noted the correspondence detailing the creation of a new consumer organisation, Consumer Focus Wales.

78.2 The Council noted receipt of the minutes of the Flintshire Fairtrade Coalition meeting held on 6th October 2008. The Council also considered the additional correspondence regarding the renewal of Fairtrade Town Status for Mold. The Council resolved to continue its support of the aims and objectives of the Fairtrade

campaign confirming that it will serve products with the Fairtrade Mark whenever possible in addition to offering its support to the Fairtrade and the Fair Trade country campaigns. It was also felt the Council should be more actively involved in the Flintshire Fairtrade Coalition and it was therefore agreed that Councillor Andrea Mearns should represent the Council on the Coalition.

78.3 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council and agreed that Councillor Bryan Grew and the Clerk should attend the Clwyd Pension Fund Employers Administration Meeting and Annual Joint Consultative Meeting to be held on 12th November 2008.

78.4 The Council noted the correspondence advising of the appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the change of use from retail to family entertainment centre at 6 The Mall, Ambrose Lloyd Centre.

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

79. ANNUAL RETURN & INTERMEDIATE AUDIT 2007 / 08

The Council noted the previously circulated report confirming that the External Audit of the Town Council's accounts for the year 2007/08 had been completed and a clean report issued.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report be noted.

80. ACCOUNTS – HALF YEARLY REVIEW

The Council considered the previously circulated report relating to the income and expenditure of the Town Council as at 30th September 2008.

The Council noted the figures shown in the schedules, invoices paid up to 30th September 2008, and the additional comments included within the report. The Clerk updated the Council on the arbitration for the national pay award (2008/09) for local government employees and advised that the interim agreement would be implemented in November.

The Council acknowledged that the increased expenditure on additional labour at the Cemetery has exceeded the budget provision and that following the approval of the Cemetery Committee, funds from the 'Machinery/Parts/Materials' budget heading would be used to cover these costs.

Members noted that the Mayor had agreed to cover small items of expenditure for Cittaslow Mold by allocation from the Mayor's Allowance but they felt that this was inappropriate. With expenditure on election costs being less than envisaged, it was agreed to transfer £500 to cover those Cittaslow Mold currently being paid from the Mayor's Allowance. Members also agreed to the transfer of a further £1,000 into the fund set aside for future elections such that at the end of the current financial year the fund will amount to £3,500.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report and the virements between account headings be approved.

81. LOCAL HEALTH BOARD ESTATES PROJECT

Resolved: It was resolved that Councillor Bryan Grew represent the Town Council at the meetings of the Flintshire Local Health Board's Mold Estate Project.

82. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Council considered a verbal report from the Town Centre Manager.

Reference was made to the empty shop premises in the Town and to the interest being expressed in some of those units. The Town Centre Manager advised of the initiative being pursued with the County Council's Regeneration Section and the Youth Justice Service, whereby displays would be shown in the windows of empty shops. He advised of his hope for the display of a nativity scene before Christmas.

The Town Centre Manager advised of progress on the loyalty scheme for retailers and on the updating of the visitmold website. He also advised on the proposal for a 'Mold Spring Clean' to be held in April 2009 with Keep Wales Tidy providing a coordinating role.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report be approved.

83. NOTICES OF MOTION

83.1 The Council considered the proposal of Councillor Bryan Grew to permit a period of up to 15 minutes before each full Council meeting to allow members of the public to make representations to councillors on any issue that may be causing them concern.

Members generally supported the proposal noting that prior notice would need to be given, at least 10 days before the meeting, with no individual being allowed to speak for more than five minutes. The proposal was agreed in principle subject to obtaining further information to clarify the procedures.

Resolved: It was resolved to support the proposal in principle and to seek the views of One Voice Wales on a framework for this initiative, setting out the rules for representations, in order that the procedures are clear for both the Council and members of the public.

84. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

84.1 KYT/045499 – Installation of a disabled access ramp, Victoria Hotel, 25 Chester Street – no objections.

84.2 KYT/045475 – Retention of portacabins for a temporary period, Mondi Packaging UK Ltd, Maes Gwern – no objections.

84.3 PGL/045443 – Change of use from A1 (retail) to A3 (restaurant), Curry’s Ltd, 15 High Street – no objections.

84.4 PGL/045366 – Outline, residential development, Land rear of Bodwyn, Gwernaffield Road – the Council agreed to object to this application believing that the proposal represented backland development.

84.5 JZB/045514 – Erection of a detached double garage, 9 Bryn Awelon – no objections.

84.6 PXR/045537 – Erection of a two storey rear extension, Glan Aber, Ruthin Road – no objections.

84.7 LEJ/045557 – Erection of a conservatory at first floor level over existing garage and car port, 2 Bryn Awelon – no objections.

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

Note: Councillor Chris Bithell abstained from voting on items 84.3 and 84.4 above.

85. MEETINGS ATTENDED

85.1 Councillor Bryan Grew advised of his attendance at the Regional and Annual Meetings of One Voice Wales. He advised that he had been elected to the Executive of One Voice Wales as a representative of the Larger Council’s Committee.

85.2 The Mayor referred to her attendance at a meeting with representatives of Cadwyn Clwyd and the County Council and advised that applications for funding will have to be made for individual schemes rather than allowing for an overall Cittaslow Mold approach.

86. 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: 22nd October 2008
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
None		