

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 25th June 2008.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Andrea Mearns (Mayor), Chris Bithell, Tony Cattermoul, Geoff Collett, Ken Corbett, Geoff Darkins, Ray Dodd, Robin Guest, Carol Heycocks, Stephanie Hulley, Joyce Jones, Tim Maunders, Sheila Powell and Ken Williams with the Clerk and Finance Officer.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: Carolyn Cattermoul and Bryan Grew.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

33. CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Mayor welcomed Salli Edwards from Flintshire Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to the meeting.

Ms. Edwards started her presentation by thanking the Town Council for its annual contributions towards the running costs of the CAB. She indicated that each individual CAB had to undertake its own fundraising and attempting to cover ongoing running costs always proved difficult so the contributions from the Town Council were very much appreciated. Some 28% of the funding required by Flintshire CAB comes from the County Council and other town and community councils.

Ms. Edwards outlined the changing role of CAB such that not only do they give advice to individuals, but they also undertake local policy work and get involved in influencing opinion and national policymakers. A key new initiative is the on-line advice service that is available 24 hours each day. CAB still relies on the goodwill of volunteers who provide some 80% of the services but the demand for advice and assistance always outstrips the ability to satisfy that demand. Flintshire CAB currently has some 58 volunteers of which 28 provide advice to clients.

Ms. Edwards referred to the various specialist services the CAB provides but which are funded separately. Copies of the newly published document, 'Demonstrating the Impact of Flintshire Citizens Advice Bureau' were circulated to Members for information.

The Mayor thanked Salli Edwards for the clear presentation on the role of Flintshire CAB.

34. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised the Council of her engagements since the last meeting. This included the photographic exhibition "We'll Keep a Welcome" in support of the stage production and the Town Mayor of Buckley's Civic Service.

The Mayor also advised that Mold Alexandra FC had been promoted and it was agreed to send a letter of congratulations.

35. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28th May 2008 be received and approved, subject to the date being amended; and
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 18th June 2008 be noted.

36. MATTERS ARISING

36.1 Minute 20.1 'Policing Matters' – The Mayor advised that the presentation evening for the Police Cadets was to be held on 16th July. Councillor Sheila Powell agreed to attend with the Mayor.

36.2 Minute 21.5 'Fairtrade' – The Mayor advised that Bryn Gwalia C.P. School was seeking Level 4 Fairtrade Status.

36.3 Minute 26 'Recycling Bins' - The Clerk advised that the suggestion to place the second set of recycling bins on the pavement alongside Y Pentan had been accepted by the County Council.

36.4 Minute 27 'Skateboarding Facility' – The Clerk advised that he had received information from the Environment Agency on the requirements of the flood assessment. He indicated that the assessment should be with the Environment Agency within a couple of weeks.

37. CORRESPONDENCE

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

37.1 The Council noted receipt of the copy of the Annual Report 2007/08 of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

37.2 The Council considered the copy letter from the Mold Hotel and Restaurant Association to the Head of Highways Strategy at Flintshire County Council and agreed to write in support of the request for a change to parking restrictions.

37.3 The Council considered the correspondence regarding the Flintshire County Council Environmental Competitions 2008 and agreed to participate. Members complimented the County Council for the floral display in front of St. Mary's Parish

Church. They also commented favourably on the hanging baskets and other floral displays in the Town.

37.4 The Council considered the correspondence from Acting Inspector Alun Oldfield and agreed to nominate Councillor Carolyn Cattermoul to work with the Police on environmental issues, including the visual audit undertaken on a periodical basis.

37.5 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council in response to issues raised relating to car parking and highways matters. Members were of the view that the practical issues resulting from any change in policy could be overcome. It was agreed to pursue the request to allow the transfer of parking tickets with Councillor Robin Guest also taking the matter up with the County Council. It was also agreed to raise the matter with Mold 2000.

37.6 The Council considered the correspondence from One Voice Wales regarding the National Training Programme now available to all community and town councils in Wales. It was agreed that Members would comment on training needs and return the questionnaire to the Clerk for collating.

37.7 Councillor Tim Maunders advised Members of the current arrangements for this year's Mold Carnival on 20th July 2008.

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

38. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Council considered the report detailing the applications for financial assistance and agreed to make contributions as follows:

a) Flintshire Forum for Learning Disabilities	£100.00
b) Bethesda Welsh Presbyterian Church	£350.00
c) Parents & Friends of Ysgol Bryn Gwalia	£200.00
d) Sounds Familiar	£100.00
e) Youth Firefighters Association, Mold	£200.00

Resolved: It was resolved that the grants detailed above be approved.

39. EXTENSION TO BUSINESS RATE RELIEF

The Council considered the previously circulated document detailing the Welsh Assembly Government's proposals to extend the provision of rates relief to certain businesses.

The Mayor reminded Members that the original scheme for rates relief followed the foot and mouth disease outbreak of some years ago and assisted a number of businesses within rural areas including Mold. She advised that extending rates relief to businesses whose premises with a rateable value of below £6000 would assist some of the smaller businesses in the Town although the precise number of those that would be helped was not known.

Members felt that, whilst welcoming any relief for businesses at this particularly difficult time, it would be necessary to know the precise details of the numbers in Mold that would be assisted if the Council were to make a meaningful response to the consultation document. Members were also generally of the view that the whole business rates system should be thoroughly reviewed and reformed. The Mayor suggested that an additional, and possibly much fairer, method of assisting businesses without an arbitrary 'cut-off point' would be to have a phased or banded system of relief to avoid the 'all or nothing' approach of assistance.

Resolved: It was resolved to respond to the Welsh Assembly Government:

- a) Welcoming the attempt to assist smaller businesses but believing that additional help is needed at this time;
- b) Suggesting that a phased or banded system of relief be considered; and
- c) Suggesting that the business rates system is itself in need of review.

40. NOTICES OF MOTION

40.1 On the proposal of Councillor Chris Bithell it was agreed to recommend to Flintshire County Council that a footpath at Milford Street be included on the Definitive Map as a public right of way.

40.2 On the proposal of Councillor Tim Maunders it was agreed that Flintshire County Council be asked to provide double yellow lines on the southern side of Milford Street between its junction with High Street and the lane leading to the rear of houses 1 – 19. This suggestion follows a recent road traffic accident to a young child.

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

41. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Town Council considered the following applications, including five new applications:

41.1 RMH/044930 – Renewal of planning permission (ref: 037534) to allow residential development, Former Broncoed Works Site, Wrexham Road – Whilst noting that the previous approval was granted on appeal, the Council agreed to object to the current application. Members advised that there had been a large number of drainage problems in the area since the development of Is-y-Coed. The Council therefore, expressed concern at the arrangements proposed for the drainage and foul sewerage and the capacity of the existing system to cope with the increased demand from the new development. Members were also of the view that the proposed access is unacceptable and inadequate with the potential to give rise to traffic problems between two busy junctions (Bromfield Lane and Nercwys Road) on Wrexham Road.

41.2 CZR/045047 – Single storey extension to side elevation, 1 Llys y Nant – no objections.

41.3 KYT/044990 – Erection of a monopitched detached block comprising construction workshop, Alun School, Wrexham Road – no objections.

41.4 ECH/045117 – Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 24 no. new apartments, Land at 53 New Street – no objections.

41.5 KYT/045040 – Erection of a glazed lobby to main entrance, adjustment to associated street furniture and relocation of one disabled car parking bay, Tesco Stores Limited, Ponterwyl – no objections.

41.6 DGJ/045094 – Resubmission of application for the conversion of existing stable block to provide studio space, with new timber framed windows throughout, glazed screen and doors. Remodelling of villa to provide open plan kitchen and breakfast room with glazed door and 2 additional bathrooms/en-suite to first floor, Bromfield, Wrexham Road – no objections in principle to the proposals. The Council did, however, agree 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.

41.7 DGJ/045095 – Listed Building Application, resubmission of application for the conversion of existing stable block to provide studio space, with new timber framed windows throughout, glazed screen and doors. Remodelling of villa to provide open plan kitchen and breakfast room with glazed door and 2 additional bathrooms/en-suite to first floor, Bromfield, Wrexham Road – no objections in principle to the proposals. The Council did, however, agree 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.

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

42. MEETINGS ATTENDED

42.1 Councillor Tim Maunders referred to his attendance at the recent meeting held to discuss emergency planning. He advised that further information was being sent to Town and Community Councils following which the involvement of those councils could be considered.

42.2 Councillor Robin Guest referred to his attendance with the Mayor, at the meeting held to discuss the restructuring of the National Health Service in Wales.

42.3 Councillor Joyce Jones referred to her attendance at the Alyn Works Liaison meeting when the effects of the increase in fuel costs was outlined. She also advised of the grants given by the workforce to local voluntary groups.

42.4 Councillor Sheila Powell referred to her attendance at a recent meeting of the Flintshire Disability Forum when concern was expressed about the future operation of the group in light of the pending closure of Ty'r Binwydden.

42.5 Councillor Carol Heycocks referred to her attendance at a recent meeting of the Air Cadets management committee.

42.6 Councillor Geoff Collett referred to the recent meeting of the Cittaslow Mold group, 'Space and Place'. He indicated that the group was developing a sponsorship scheme for benches in the Town. He also advised that the next meeting would be held at Bailey Hill.

42.7 The Mayor advised of her attendance at the Cittaslow UK Board meeting and the recent exchange trip to Perth with Cittaslow Mold. Reference was also made to meetings of Mold 2000 and the Mold Hotel and Restaurant Association.

43. 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: 25th June 2008
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
Councillor Sheila Powell	Financial Assistance	38 (a)
Councillor Andrea Mearns	Financial Assistance	38 (c)
Councillor Robin Guest	Financial Assistance	38 (c)