

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 24^h February 2010.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: Ken Corbett and Stephanie Hulley

112. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

113. COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

The Mayor welcomed Messrs Elwyn Owen and Chris Bradshaw of Gwernymynydd Community Council to the meeting to share their experiences in the development of a community strategy.

Mr. Chris Bradshaw advised that the process for the community council being more proactive followed the submission of a planning application for the development of 29 houses in the village. He stated that a partnership with Flintshire County Council was essential and that substantial support was subsequently given by the Principal Planner, Mr. Andy Roberts, but that also the experience gained by residents of Kelsall, Cheshire who had undertaken their own plan had been of benefit. Indeed Kelsall's plan, developed over a three year period, had been accepted as a supplementary plan to the Cheshire County Council's Development Plan.

The importance of involving the community was stressed and the process for doing so in Gwernymynydd was outlined. The result was the establishment of four focus groups that each outlined their own ideas for detailed consultation with residents.

Consultation had been a combination of questionnaires to every house and a day of events linked to a presentation.

Mr. Elwyn Owens advised that they hoped to have a series of statements, their development plan, agreed by residents and then with Flintshire County Council later this year that could form the basis for future developments. It was however, not yet clear how this development plan would fit into the formal planning process of the County Council.

Mention was made on both sides of the possible opportunities for working together to the benefit of both communities.

The Mayor thanked Messrs Owen and Bradshaw for their comments.

114. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised the Council of the functions he had attended since the last meeting. Reference was made to the Connah's Quay Chairman's Charity Dance and the handover of the proceeds of concerts by the Llwynegrin Singers to the local MS Support Group.

The Mayor referred to his varying degrees of success in the Pancake Day Races and the Rotary Club's Quiz and reminded Members of his charity concert to be held on 18th March.

115. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

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

Reference was made to the various changes in retail units since the last report and to the positive 'feel' within the Town.

The Town Centre Manager advised the Council of the current status of the projects put forward by the Town Partnership, namely, 'Marketing the Market' and the 'Loyalty Package'. He also indicated that he was working with the County Council in their review of the markets.

The Town Centre Manager reminded the Council of the surgery being undertaken the following day for local businesses involving the Valuation Office and Flintshire County Council's Business Rating Office. A number of local businesses had confirmed their attendance at what would be the first ever such surgery. Reference was also made to the 'Pass on a Smile Day' to be held on 12th May 2010.

116. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27th January 2010 be received and approved; and
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2nd February 2010 be received and noted.

117. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council 27th January 2010

117.1 Minute 104.1 Crossing at Hall View – It was agreed that the Clerk would pursue this matter with Highways Officers with a view to approaching Lidl as soon as possible to provide a crossing at Hall View.

117.2 Minute 105.4 Aldi Car Park – Councillor Chris Bithell advised that Aldi had decided not to provide retractable bollards at the entrance to its car park but to provide sliding gates. It was hoped that this work would be completed by the end of March.

117.3 Mold Flood Alleviation Scheme – The Clerk advised that the County Council's bid for funding had not received approval from the Competitiveness Programme Board but had been shortlisted with the intention of future approval subject to the provision of further details and availability of funding. The County Council was not yet aware of what further details were required but had provisionally arranged a meeting with Welsh Assembly Officers in April to pursue the application.

118. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were considered including one additional item circulated at the meeting:

118.1 The Council considered the correspondence from the Secretary of the North Wales Brass Band Association and was pleased to note the success of the 2009 Annual Championships and the Association's desire to hold the 2010 event at Bryn Coch School. It was agreed that the request for a grant should be considered alongside other applications at the June meeting of the Council.

118.2 The Council noted that the Welsh Assembly Government is conducting a comprehensive review of the planning application system in Wales and it was agreed that the report, when available should be considered by the Planning Committee for a response. It was also agreed that the Mayor and Councillor Brian Lloyd should attend the dissemination event to be held on Friday 12th March.

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

119. REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF FLINTSHIRE

The Council considered the previously circulated papers from the draft proposals of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales.

It was unanimously agreed to oppose the draft proposals set out in the Review of Electoral Arrangements for the County of Flintshire and to send the following comments to the Commission:

- It was noted that within the directions from the Minister, the 'Commission shall consider the desirability of multi member electoral divisions' (para 3.6) and that 'decisions to alter the existing pattern of multi and single member electoral divisions should only be taken where such proposals for alteration are broadly supported by the electorate in so far as their views can be obtained ...'(para 3.7(d)). The Council considers that this direction does not instruct the Commission to propose multi members as appears to be the case with the plethora of multi member wards suggested. Nor is there any evidence within the Review that the establishment of a multi member ward for Mold is 'broadly supported' by the electorate of Mold. Indeed concern was expressed at the lack of and ease for public consultation over this issue.
- The Council considers that the establishment of a multi member ward for Mold, and in other areas of Flintshire, will break the important link that residents have between themselves and the councillor that they recognise as representing their area.

- There is also the concern, that if there is a concentration of population in one part of a multi member ward there will possibly be a bias of voting towards candidates from the more heavily populated part of the ward with the result that the more sparsely populated areas will be marginalised.
- It is not considered practical or economical for candidates to canvass or represent residents of wards with an electorate of 8000. The costs and practical difficulties of canvassing will inevitably result in the disenfranchisement of many who may wish to stand for election to a council.
- Whilst it is recognised that the establishment of a multi member ward for Mold does acknowledge the community of Mold, it is believed that what appears to be the random amalgamation of existing wards elsewhere in Flintshire, will result in wards that have no empathy whatsoever of community boundaries or interests.
- The Council considers the Review to have been merely a 'desk bound number crunching exercise' which could have been undertaken more easily and acknowledged the communities' interests if the Commission had been able and willing to change the electoral division boundaries.

Resolved: It was resolved that the above comments be sent to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales with copies sent to local Assembly Members.

120. REVIEW OF COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES REGULATIONS

The Council considered the previously circulated consultation document and agreed responses for dispatch to the Welsh Assembly Government. The response is available at the Town Hall office.

Resolved: It was resolved that a response as agreed be sent to the Welsh Assembly Government.

121. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Resolved: It was resolved that the report be noted.

122. NOTICES OF MOTION

122.1 On the proposal of Councillor Chris Bithell, it was agreed to ask Flintshire County Council to provide salt bins in Moldsdale Road and the lower section of Woodlands Close.

122.2 On the proposal of Councillor Chris Bithell, it was agreed to ask Flintshire County Council to erect bollards on the corner of Raikes Lane and the road leading to Blackbrook in order to protect the verge from being further damaged by vehicles. It was also suggested that it would be appropriate to plant trees behind the bollards which could then be removed once the trees reach maturity.

123. MEETINGS ATTENDED

123.1 Councillor Bryan Grew referred to his attendance at a recent meeting of the Mold Food and Drink Festival Committee. He advised of the parking arrangements that had been agreed with Tesco and Bryn Coch CP School and with Flintshire County Council for the suspension of charges on New Street car park for the period of the Festival.

Councillor Grew also referred to a meeting of the Health Board's Estate Project Committee and indicated that it was hoped for the submission of a planning application for the new health centre in April 2010.

123.2 The Mayor advised of his and Councillor Andrea Mearns' attendance at a recent meeting held to discuss the Waste Strategy and new 'Street Scene' proposals. Councillor Mearns made reference to the Waste Strategy and indicated that the County Council would soon be collecting food waste from a number of properties, some of which would be in Mold. The Council was advised that there would shortly be a dedicated team of officers working within each town on 'street scene' and that the views of the Town Council would be sought on the proposals.

123.3 Councillor Andrea Mearns referred to a meeting of the Mold Spring Clean Steering Group and advised Members to let the Town Centre Manager have details of areas within their wards that required attention during the Spring Clean. Councillor Mearns referred to meetings of the Parkfields Executive and the Communities First Partnership Board. It was agreed to write to the Welsh Assembly Government, in the light of the recent adverse report on Communities First, to stress the importance and success of the project at Bryn Gwalia.

Councillor Mearns also referred to meetings of the Mold Sense of Place and Local to Mold Groups. She advised of an application for funds to undertake surveys at Bailey Hill to complement the progress being achieved on the current scheme for works.

123.4 Councillor Carol Heycocks referred to her attendance at the monthly meeting with the Mold Air Cadets and the Mold Spring Clean Steering Group.

123.5 Councillor Geoff Collett referred to the recent meeting of the Cittaslow Space and Place Group and advised of the progress on the projects for Bailey Hill, bike racks, benches and leaflets. He also referred to the 'community picnic' to be held at Bailey Hill on 2nd May and asked Members if they would be willing to volunteer on the day.

123.6 Councillor Geoff Darkins referred to his attendance at the recent training session arranged by One Voice Wales.

124. 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: 24th February 2010
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
None		

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