

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 31st March 2010.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Chris Bithell (Deputy Mayor), Geoff Collett, Geoff Darkins, Ray Dodd, Bryan Grew, Robin Guest, Carol Heycocks, Joyce Jones, Brian Lloyd, Tim Maunders and Andrea Mearns with the Clerk and Finance Officer.

APOLOGIES:

The Mayor and Councillors: Carolyn Cattermoul, Ken Corbett, Stephanie Hulley and Ken Williams

125. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

126. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the absence of the Mayor there were no announcements.

127. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24th February 2010 be received and approved; and
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 3rd March 2010 be received and noted.

128. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council - 24th February 2010

128.1 Minute 115 'Marketing the Market' – The Deputy Mayor asked that Members are invited to the discussions on the 'Marketing the Market' campaign.

128.2 Minute 117.1 Crossing at Hall View – The Deputy Mayor reiterated the Council's desire to secure a crossing at Hall View and indicated that the matter had been raised at a recent meeting with a representative of Lidl. The Deputy Mayor advised that there was still no information forthcoming from the County Highways officers so that Lidl could be approached to assist and it was agreed to pursue this matter.

128.3 Minute 119 Review of Electoral Arrangements – Members were advised to provide any signed petitions rejecting the proposals of the Electoral Commission to the Clerk by 9th April.

128.4 Minute 123.1 Mold Food & Drink Festival – Councillor Bryan Grew asked that the Council reminds the County Council of the appropriateness of the proposal to provide free parking at New Street car park during the period of the Food & Drink Festival.

128.5 Minute 123.3 Application for Funding, Bailey Hill – Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that the application for funding the three surveys at Bailey Hill had been unsuccessful.

128.6 Minute 123.5 Bailey Hill Picnic – Councillor Andrea Mearns advised Members of the need for volunteers for the community picnic to be held at Bailey Hill on 2nd May 2010.

129. CORRESPONDENCE

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

129.1 The Council noted the correspondence from the Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council. It was noted that the County Council is challenging the Review indicating that the Commission has acted outside the directions of the Minister, cannot demonstrate the support of the electorate and has not paid sufficient regard to representations on 'local knowledge'. Councillor Bryan Grew advised that One Voice Wales was recommending the adoption of an 'one councillor, one ward' approach.

129.2 The Council considered the correspondence advising that Flintshire County Council wishes to withdraw the Mold-Lixwm 14C bus at 6.10pm. The Council acknowledged the comments that the bus is poorly supported but felt that details of usage over a longer period of time should have been made available. Concern was also expressed that if the earlier alternative bus is operated on demand to Cilcain, Nannerch or Lixwm there will inevitably be an effect on its ability to keep to the timetable. The Council also wondered whether a small bus (mini-bus style) could be used on this journey.

129.3 The Council considered the correspondence inviting Members to view the North Wales Police Air Operations Unit helicopter base on Wednesday 7th April. It was agreed that Councillors Geoff Darkins, Brian Lloyd and Tim Maunders would attend.

129.4 The Council noted the correspondence from the County Council advising of the current status of the Unitary Development Plan.

129.5 The Council noted the correspondence advising of the next meeting of the Police Authority Community Forum for Flintshire to be held at 7.00pm on 11th May 2010 at Oddfellows, 65 High Street, Saltney. The Deputy Mayor encouraged Members to attend the meeting and give their views.

129.6 The Council noted the imminent consideration of planning application for the outline residential development of a maximum of 50 dwellings on land off Ruthin Road to which the Town Council had objected. Councillor Robin Guest advised that two residents wished to speak at the County Council's Planning Committee on 7th

April 2010 and it was agreed to determine whether the Town Council could make representations in addition to those of the residents.

129.7 The Council was delighted to note the correspondence from The Rotary Club of Mold advising of its wish to appoint Councillor Andrea Mearns as an honorary member. The Council supported that appointment.

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

130. PROVISION OF SALT BINS

The Council noted the response to its request for the provision of salt bins in the Town. The County Council had advised that it would not be providing any more bins although it would be reviewing its policy and considering, later in the year, the stocking of any salt bins provided by Town and community councils.

Resolved: It was resolved to note that the County Council would be reviewing its policy and the Town Council agreed to await the outcome of that review.

131. STREET SCENE REVIEW

The Council noted the request of the County Council for the views of Town and Community Councils on street related issues.

Resolved: It was resolved that Members would complete the County Council's questionnaire and return it to the Clerk at the earliest opportunity.

132. DEVELOPMENT PLAN / COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Resolved: It was resolved to invite the Principal Planning Officer, Mr. Andy Roberts to a future meeting of the Council in order to discuss the development of a local town plan / community strategy.

133. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered the following planning application referred to Council by the Planning Committee:

Application Ref: 047039 - Reserved matters application pursuant to Outline Planning Permission ref: 034920 (renewal approved on 13th March 2009) to consider access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale in respect of the provision of 122 dwellings (comprising 14 x houses(11 x 3-bed and 3 x 2 bed), 96 x 2-bed apartments and 12 x 1-bed apartments), Former Bromfield Timber & Joinery, Queens Lane. (See attached site layout).

The Council agreed to object to the application on the following grounds:

- The development proposes the building of 122 units which is considered to be an over-development of this site which originally identified 35 dwellings when seeking outline planning permission.

- The housing mix is considered inappropriate. It is felt that the mix provides for far too many apartments and too few houses. It is also not clear as to the amount of affordable housing included within the proposal.
- For the size of the proposed development the public space shown as a community garden is considered to be small and there is no provision for a play area on site.
- The type of housing proposed is mainly three storey and it is considered that this would provide for a development that is out of context with the surrounding dwellings, which are either one or two storey, and therefore inappropriate at this site.
- There is concern about the volume of traffic movements this proposal will generate. There is also concern that there is no dedicated parking provision for the proposed houses fronting Bromfield Lane which is likely to cause difficulties on a road that currently suffers from parked vehicles and many heavy goods vehicles accessing the industrial units.
- Concern was expressed about the impact of the proposals on the existing drainage in the area. There have been a number of drainage problems in this area in recent years and it is feared that the proposed development will exacerbate those problems.

Resolved: It was resolved to object to the planning application reference 047039 on the grounds set out above.

134. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

135. NOTICES OF MOTION

135.1 On the proposal of Councillor Carol Heycocks it was agreed to ask that Flintshire County Council to provide 30mph signs on Wrexham Road and a 'concealed entrance' sign before the junction with Bromfield Lane on the approach to the Town Centre.

135.2 On the proposal of Councillor Carol Heycocks it was agreed to ask the Manager of the Somerfield Store to provide a cigarette butt disposal container outside the entrance to the store close to the ramp leading to the Ambrose Lloyd Centre.

136. MEETINGS ATTENDED

136.1 Councillor Brian Lloyd advised Members of his attendance at the recent meeting organised by the Welsh Assembly Government to discuss a review of the planning application process.

136.2 Councillor Andrea Mearns referred to her attendance at meetings related to the Town Partnership, the presentations to a group of Italians and representatives at Penarth about the activities of Cittaslow Mold. Councillor Mearns advised that

Cadwyn Clwyd had agreed a grant of £6,000 towards a Cittaslow Mold project on local produce.

Councillor Mearns also advised of the 'Diversity Event' held recently at Bryn Gwalia and highlighted the travel issues on the estate and the survey to be undertaken. Reference was also made to the 'Local to Mold' meeting held to discuss the draft feasibility report prepared by Mabis.

136.3 Councillor Bryan Grew referred to his attendance at One Voice Wales meetings, the County Forum and the Food & Drink Festival Committee.

136.4 Councillor Carol Heycocks referred to her attendance at the meeting held to finalise the arrangements for the public artwork to be provided within the site of the Lidl Store.

136.5 Councillor Geoff Collett referred to the recent meeting of the Cittaslow Space and Place Group and advised of the progress on the Bailey Hill project and the works to the planter off New Street. He also referred to the 'community picnic' to be held at Bailey Hill on 2nd May and reiterated the earlier comments of Councillor Andrea Mearns when she sought the support of Members for volunteering duties on the day.

137. 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.

138. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved: It was resolved to exclude the public and press from the meeting in order to discuss a confidential staffing matter.

139. STAFFING MATTER

The Council considered the previously circulated report setting out the arrangements made, with the agreement of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, with the County Council for the extra work undertaken by the Town Centre Manager. It was noted that the County Council would cover the costs involved in this exercise, including employer costs, and that the Town Council would reimburse the Town Centre Manager through his salary.

Resolved: It was resolved that the action taken and detailed in the report be approved.

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MOLD TOWN COUNCIL'S
CODE OF CONDUCT**

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL	DATE: 31ST March 2010
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
None		

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