

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 27th January 2010.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Chris Bithell

100. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were expressed as detailed in the schedule at the end of the minutes.

101. SUNDAY TEAS FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The Mayor welcomed Jane Carey-Evans to the meeting to outline her proposals for the development of 'Sunday teas for older people'.

Ms. Carey-Evans thanked the Council for the invitation and advised that she worked in the North Wales area for a small but national registered charity. She advised that there were currently 15 groups operating in North Wales but none of these were in Flintshire.

The reasoning behind the establishment of these groups is to provide some companionship at the weekend to elderly people who are alone or isolated. The service is free to the elderly. The help of volunteer hosts and drivers is required and it is usual that groups of 6-8 people are able to operate with 6-12 volunteer hosts who provide the venue and food and a smaller number of drivers. Ms. Carey-Evans advised that she had already been contacted by three volunteers from Mold who are willing to help.

Ms. Carey-Evans sought the help of Members in advertising and promoting the idea and then passing any details of volunteers or elderly isolated people back to her. She emphasised that the 'Sunday teas for older people' was not intended to impinge on any other groups activities but was an extra means to helping isolated elderly people. Ms. Carey-Evans confirmed that she would keep the Council informed of progress.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Carey-Evans for the presentation.

102. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised the Council that he had attended numerous events over the Christmas and New Year period, too many to mention at the meeting but he indicated that full details were held at the Town Hall office.

103. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th November 2009 be received and approved;
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 10th December 2009 be received and noted; and
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 7th January 2010 be received and noted.

104. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council 25th November 2009

104.1 Minute 89.2 Crossing at Hall View – Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that a meeting had been held with County Highways Officers who confirmed that it was not possible to have a pelican crossing because of the proximity to the King Street/Leadmills roundabout. Officers did agree to give thought to the possibility of a crossing at the bottom end of Milford Street and a footpath on the southern side of Hall View linked to any crossing.

104.2 Minute 89.5 Lidl Development, Hall View – Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that the developers had removed a substantial part of the hedge alongside Hall View despite the planning conditions stating that the hedge should remain. Planners have advised that Lidl will replace the hedge with a mixed species native hedge. Councillor Mearns also advised of the inadequate arrangements for pedestrians following the blocking off of the footpath on Hall View. Contact has been made with Highways officers who indicate that this type of barrier is appropriate for areas within a 30mph zone. The Clerk advised that County Engineers were reviewing the drainage arrangements linked to the culvert.

104.3 Minute 90.09 Community Strategies – Councillor Andrea Mearns referred to the importance of local community strategies and the need to be prepared for the local development plans that will be prepared in the near future. It was agreed to ask representatives of Gwernymynydd Community Council to address a future meeting of the Town Council to advise on their approach to and success in developing a local community plan. It was agreed that the meeting of the Council should commence at 6.00pm to allow sufficient time for discussion.

104.4 Minute 90.10 Welsh Language Strategy – Councillor Bryan Grew confirmed that he had attended the presentation and advised that the strategy to promote the Welsh language would be by way of encouragement, persuasion and education. Members expressed concern that care should be taken in processing the strategy with smaller groups and companies because of the financial implications of implementing any strategy.

104.5 Minute 90.11 Grass Cutting – The Clerk advised that contact had been made with the Head of Highways and Transportation and that a meeting would be arranged in the near future.

105. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were considered:

105.1 The Council considered the correspondence from the County Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services regarding the issue of ball games on amenity areas of the Town. Members felt that whilst occasionally disputes do arise, these are few and far between and it is more appropriate to deal with them on an individual basis rather than attempting to legislate against the playing of ball games on amenity areas throughout the County. Indeed it was felt that children should be encouraged to play locally on these amenity areas subject to it being safe to do so.

105.2 The Council noted with disappointment, the correspondence from the Driving Standards Agency advising of the closure of the Mold Driving Test Centre from 30th March 2010.

105.3 The Council noted receipt of the 'CCTV Cameras – Statistical Information' quarterly report.

105.4 The Council was pleased to note the correspondence from David Hanson MP advising that Aldi have agreed to install permanent retractable bollards on site, hopefully by the end of February, which will prevent access to the car park after the store is closed.

105.5 The Council agreed that it should be represented at Flintshire County Council's seminar on the draft Waste Strategy and review of its Street Scene services on 10th February 2010 by the Mayor and Councillor Andrea Mearns.

105.6 The Council noted the correspondence from Mr. C. Hodson, 91 Bryn Awelon regarding the Council's Annual Report but felt that the suggestion would not reduce costs involved in producing the report.

105.7 The Council noted the copy letter sent by David Hanson MP to residents affected by flooding. The Clerk advised that a letter from Sandy Mewies AM indicated that the Welsh Assembly Government's Competitiveness Programme Board should be announcing the successful flood alleviation schemes in the week commencing 1st February 2010. Members hoped that this announcement would include the Mold scheme.

105.8 The Council noted the correspondence regarding the Police's action in stopping motorcyclists and agreed to make no response.

105.9 The Council noted the copy of a statement from the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government on the rate relief thresholds for business. The Clerk advised of the meeting held recently at the Town Hall between representatives of the Town's business community, the Valuation Office Agency, Town Council and Flintshire County Council. He advised that the VOA had agreed to review the rateable values of shops where there had been substantial increases, in particular those in Wrexham Street. It was also agreed that the VOA and Flintshire County Council would hold a 'Rateable Value Surgery' for retailers in the Town Hall on 25th February.

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

106. BUDGET 2010/11

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing the estimates for the current year, the probable expenditure for the year together with estimates for the next financial year 2010/2011. The Council noted that the report included the third quarterly review of the current year's accounts with details of the petty cash expenditure, income and the bank / cash reconciliation as at 31st December 2009.

The Mayor and the Clerk highlighted the difficulties in budgeting when there are a number of unknown amounts for which financial provision is required. The Clerk suggested that it would be difficult to merely increase the precept for items such as the Town Hall rent without first having had a detailed review of the Council's accounts. The Clerk suggested that the Council should appoint a sub-committee to undertake this task and to undertake the required negotiations with the County Council on the matter of rent level and implementation date. The Council supported this approach.

The Council carefully considered the detail of the budget and in confirming the draft proposals agreed that an increase in the precept of 2% for the standard council tax payer, as detailed in the report, would be appropriate for the coming year.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The quarterly reviews of general expenditure, petty cash expenditure, income and the bank reconciliation as at 31st December 2009 be noted and approved;
- b) The Burial Fees for the year 2010/11 as agreed by the Cemetery Committee held on 17th January 2010 and circulated at the meeting be approved;
- c) The charges for use of the Jubilee Room be increased from 1st April 2010 to £8.25 and £12.50 per hour for Charities/Voluntary Groups and Non Charities respectively;
- d) The draft budget for 2010/2011 be approved;
- e) A precept of £165,973.00 be approved for the year 2010/2011; and
- f) A sub-committee comprising the Mayor and Councillors Chris Bithell, Ray Dodd and Bryan Grew undertake a detailed review of the Council's accounts and negotiate with the County Council in discussions on rental charges and report back to the Council.

107. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Council considered the report detailing the applications and recommendations of the Panel for financial assistance. It was agreed to make contributions as follows:

a) Shelter Cymru	£100.00
b) North Wales Deaf Association	£130.00
c) Hope House Children's Hospices	£130.00

d) Bobath Children's Therapy Centre	£ 50.00
e) Mold & District Choral Society	£130.00
f) Marie Curie Cancer Care	£200.00
g) Mold Commemorates the 70 th Anniv. Battle of Britain	£150.00
h) NSPCC Cymru (Childline)	£150.00
i) North Wales Assn for Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus	£100.00
j) Virgin Art	£160.00

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

108. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

In the absence of the Town Centre Manager there was no report.

109. NOTICES OF MOTION

109.1 On the proposal of Councillor Joyce Jones it was agreed that Flintshire County Council be asked to provide a salt bin in Fir Grove.

109.2 On the proposal of Councillor Stephanie Hulley it was agreed that Flintshire County Council be asked to provide a salt bin in Wood Green.

110. MEETINGS ATTENDED

110.1 Councillor Bryan Grew referred to his attendance at a recent meeting of One Voice Wales to discuss charter arrangements between County and local Councils. He also referred to a recent meeting of Flintshire CAB and highlighted the increasing pressure on the organisation which had dealt with as many clients in the first half of the last year as in the whole of the previous year.

110.2 Councillor Stephanie Hulley referred to her attendance at the recent meeting at the Aldi Store when it was agreed to install car park barriers (Minute 105.4 refers).

110.3 Councillor Geoff Collett referred to a meeting of the Cittaslow Mold Space and Place Group and advised of the progress being achieved on the scheme for works at Bailey Hill. He also referred to the proposed community picnic to be held on Bailey Hill on 2nd May 2010.

110.4 Councillor Carol Heycocks referred to her attendance at a recent meeting held to shortlist for the provision of public art at the new Lidl development. Reference was also made to the monthly meeting with the Mold Air Cadets.

110.5 Councillor Andrea Mearns referred to recent meetings relating to the 'Sense of Place' Feasibility Study, including the stakeholder event. Councillor Mearns referred to her attendance as Mold's representative at the Cittaslow UK Board meeting and advised that the pancake races, spring clean and 'pass on a smile day' were all being adopted by the Cittaslow UK member groups.

Councillor Mearns also referred to her attendance at two recent Town Partnership meetings and indicated her hope that following the agreement for the local projects, the group would be able to consider more strategic issues.

Councillor Mearns advised of a recent Parkfields meeting and indicated that the Bubblegum Club, which is supported by the Town Council, is proving to be very successful. Reference was also made to a number of Fair Trade events that are due to be launched on 21st February at Northop College.

110.6 Councillor Robin Guest referred to a meeting held to outline the proposals of the Local Government Boundary Commission on member representation within Flintshire. He hoped that the matter would be considered at the next meeting.

110.7 Councillor Joyce Jones advised of her attendance at the Parkfields meeting referred to in minute 110.5.

110.8 Councillor Ken Corbett referred to his attendance at presentation evenings for North West Cancer Research (Mold Branch), RNLI and the Llwynegrin Singers.

110.9 Councillor Tim Maunders referred to his attendance at a recent meeting of the group co-ordinating the 'Mold Commemorates the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain' events.

111. 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 January 2010
--------------------------	---

MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
Councillor Tim Maunders	Financial Assistance – 'Mold Commemorates the 70 th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain'	Minute 107 (g)

FB/MINUTES/MTC/MTCMINS100127