

# **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

## **PRESENT:**

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

## **APOLOGIES:**

Councillors: Ken Corbett and Brian Lloyd.

## **12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were expressed.

## **13. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor advised of his attendance at a concert at Bryn Coch School in aid of the Nightingale House Hospice.

## **14. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

- a) the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009 be received and approved; and
- b) subject to the deletion of "Sheila Powell" from minute 8(h), the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009 be received and approved.

## **15. MATTERS ARISING**

Mold Town Council 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009

15.1 Minute 162.7 Monitoring of exhaust noises – The Clerk advised that PC Janette Stott had indicated the VOSA operation would be taking place in July. She had also indicated that bollards should be erected in the Aldi car park within the next month.

15.2 Minute 162.9 Business Rates – Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that Mold 2000 would be submitting a petition to Flintshire County Council seeking a reduction in the business rates.

15.3 Minute 162.14 Invitation to Acting Inspector Andy Massey – It was agreed that the invitation should be held back for the appointment of the new Inspector.

15.4 Minute 166 Report of Town Centre Manager – The Town Centre Manager advised that he would be resubmitting the planning application for the lamppost banners and also for the lighting scheme in the Daniel Owen Precinct in the near future.

## **16. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items of correspondence were considered, including one additional item:

16.1 The Council considered the correspondence from One Voice Wales and agreed that Councillor Bryan Grew and the Mayor should represent the Town Council at the 2009 Conference and Annual Meeting. The Council considered the invitation to submit two motions for debate at the Annual Meeting. It was agreed to review the earlier request for the provision of CCTV in all primary schools and to consider a request for town and community councils to be given the powers to manage and implement parking enforcement within their areas, subject to any income from fines being capable of reinvestment in the service. It was agreed that the Mayor and Councillor Grew should determine the motions to be submitted.

16.2 The Council noted the correspondence regarding the programme of training for young people under the age of 25 living in Flintshire for the Advanced Driving Test. It was agreed to put notices in the Town noticeboards.

16.3 The Council noted the correspondence from the Minister for Health and Social Services, Edwina Hart AM MBE, advising that all the responses to the consultation paper, Delivering the New NHS for Wales, are published on the Welsh Assembly Government website.

16.4 The Council noted the correspondence advising of changes to the Mold to Ellesmere Port bus service (111).

16.5 The Council noted the correspondence advising that the Inspector's Report on the Flintshire Unitary Development Plan is now available online and at a number of County Council offices.

16.6 The Council considered the correspondence regarding the first ever national Armed Forces Day on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and agreed to fly flags at the Town Hall and the Cenotaph.

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

## **17. FINAL ACCOUNTS 2008/09**

The Council considered the previously circulated report and noted the alteration in the claim for a refund of VAT to £6709.92 and the subsequent effect on the Council's accounts for 2008/09.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the revised accounts as detailed in the report.

## **18. DRAFT FLINTSHIRE REGENERATION STRATEGY 2009 - 2020**

The Council considered the previously circulated draft strategy document.

Reference was made to the need to ensure that the Regeneration Strategy reflects and supports the other strategies and policies of the Council and vice versa, in order to maintain a consistent approach to regeneration initiatives. Members highlighted the recent planning application for retail development off Hall View that was recommended for approval by planners yet rejected as being inappropriate in this location by officers from Regeneration.

The following comments were also made:

- a) There is no reference within the document to the partnership that already exists with North Wales Borderlands and the positive benefits and grant aid that can result;
- b) There needs to be more emphasis on better transport links, the infrastructure, and sustainable travel, in the development of a more competitive Flintshire and sustainable communities. Additionally, if there is to be a move to manage town centres for evening and nighttime users, the need to consider the provision of better public transport is essential;
- c) There needs to be recognition of the role that the public sector in Wales does and can play in the development of employment and training initiatives. The public sector is responsible for the employment of a large percentage of the working population in Wales and this must not be overlooked;
- d) Reference is made within the document to the lack of head office functions within Flintshire and it would therefore seem appropriate to consider the encouragement of the relocation of public sector agencies and jobs away from their traditional locations in South Wales;
- e) There should be recognition that resources will be required to develop successful town centres and Town Action Plans. It was also suggested that the County Council should review its decision of some years ago to withdraw funding from the Town Centre Management initiative for the employment of Town Centre Managers: and
- f) There is no mention, within the Strategy's Tourism section, of the nationally recognised Clwyd Theatr Cymru or of the regional partners of Cheshire and North West England that have a role to play.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the above comments be forwarded to the County Council.

## **19. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER**

The Council considered an annual report from the Town Centre Manager circulated at the meeting.

The Town Centre Manager referred to the footfall statistics and whilst noting that Mold appears to be holding its own in these difficult times, there is a downward trend

of approximately 5% annually in the footfall. It was noted that the street market remains the most successful market in the county. Reference was also made to the occupation of a unit and interest expressed in other units at the Kwiksave site.

The Town Centre Manager commented upon other matters within his report making particular reference to the launch of the new Mold Business Forum (working alongside the North Wales Chamber of Commerce), the interest so far expressed in the loyalty scheme and the success of the 'Mold Spring Clean'. The Town Centre Manager sought the Council's support and membership of the Mold Business Forum and Councillor Andrea Mearns offered to represent the Town Council.

Members commented on the desirability of encouraging coach companies to bring their passengers into the Town. It was felt that the availability of coach parking and the removal of a previous car park obstruction should be advertised to coach operators. It was also suggested that Sue Warnock of the Beaufort Park Hotel should be contacted to discuss this issue.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the report and to approve the actions identified.

## **20. COUNTY FORUM**

The Council noted the minutes of the last meeting of the County Forum. It was agreed to write to the County Council asking when progress would be made in the development of a draft charter for Flintshire.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the report and to approve the actions identified.

## **21. PUBLIC ART**

The Council considered the previously circulated report. The Council recalled its commitment to maintain the public art provided within the Town following major developments. It was noted that the 'Steamwheel' on Chester Street, had received no maintenance since its installation. The Clerk advised that a local contractor, who would be able to clean the structure, had now been identified and had provided a quote of £576.40 (plus VAT) for cleaning.

In supporting the initial clean, the Council felt that the cost quoted for subsequent annual cleans was disproportionately high and agreed not to commit to future cleans.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the one-off cleaning of the 'Steamwheel' as detailed in the report.

## **22. NOTICES OF MOTION**

22.1 The Council considered the proposal of Councillor Chris Bithell and agreed that there is a need for a controlled pedestrian crossing on Hall View, near to the new Soughton Park housing development. Whilst the possible development of a Lidl supermarket will exacerbate the situation, it is acknowledged that residents are

already experiencing problems in crossing Hall View due to the speed and volume of traffic. It was agreed to ask Flintshire County Council to provide a controlled pedestrian crossing (puffin crossing) at this location.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the action identified.

### **23. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Council considered the planning applications detailed below:

23.1 LEJ/046239 – Major refurbishment of property following gas explosion including re-building of external walls to match existing, 21 Stanley Street – no objections.

23.2 LEJ/046254 – Addition of a balcony to rear of previously approved application, Etonfield, Gwernaffield Road – no objections.

23.3 LEJ/046161 – Reserved matters, erection of a dwelling, land rear of Clwyd, Gwernaffield Road – the Council agreed to express its concern about the access and parking of construction vehicles in Oakwood Close. The Council considers the Close is too narrow for such vehicles and that to allow access would result in severe difficulties for residents. In addition concern has been raised about the ability of the public sewers to take not only additional drainage but also to withstand heavy traffic. It is felt that access should be gained from and parking restricted to Gwernaffield Road.

23.4 JZB/046268 – Erection of a conservatory to rear, 36 Ffordd Pennant – no objections.

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

### **24. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the report be noted.

### **25. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

25.1 Councillor Joyce Jones referred to her attendance at a recent meeting of the Alyn Works Liaison Committee. Councillor Jones advised that a schedule of donations made by employees would be left with the Clerk for Members to see.

25.2 Councillor Geoff Collett referred to a meeting of the Cittaslow Space and Place Group. He advised that the leaflets advertising commemorative benches were nearly ready and he outlined the process for anyone to sponsor a bench and the involvement of the Town Council in installing and coordinating the initiative. The Town Council supported and approved the initiative.

25.3 Councillor Carol Heycocks advised that the clean up in Bromfield Park had been very successful. She also advised that the Virgin Art event held at St Mary's Parish Church had been successful and raised in excess of £3,000 for church funds.

25.4 Councillor Andrea Mearns advised of her attendance at the Parkfields Annual General Meeting. She indicated that whilst Parkfields had made a surplus in the last year, there was a downward trend in income and help at street collections was required. Councillor Mearns referred to her attendance at the recent meeting of Mold 2000 and at the 'Pass on a Smile Day' when 200 school children participated.

25.5 Councillor Tim Maunders advised of ongoing arrangements for the Mold Carnival to be held on 25 / 26 July 2009. The theme this year will be 'Farmyards and Farming' and there will be, as usual, space for community stalls.

## 26. 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

<b>MOLD TOWN COUNCIL</b>	<b>DATE: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MINUTE NO. REFERS</b>
None		

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