

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 26th January 2011.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: Stephanie Hulley and Brian Lloyd.

95. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

96. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

The Mayor welcomed Mark Jones and James Beattie from the Planning Enforcement Office to the meeting.

Mr. Jones, Planning Enforcement Team Leader outlined the structure of the officer team and indicated that the large backlog of enforcement issues had been substantially reduced since the full team had been in place. He introduced Mr. James Beattie as the link officer for the Town Council but stressed that he would not be dealing with every case in Mold.

Mr. Beattie advised that his principal activity was planning enforcement and indicated that it was his intention to deal with cases in a consistent, fair, flexible and transparent manner. He outlined the options available to Enforcement Officers namely, warnings, advice, statutory notice and ultimately prosecution. Mr. Beattie also advised that the team would deal with high hedge complaints but stressed that across all of the enforcement work, any action had to be commensurate with planning rules.

In response to questions from Members, Mr. Beattie advised that officers hoped to deal with cases within a 12 week timescale. He also advised that there are timescales within which action has to be taken and highlighted the matter of roller shutters within the town that had to be actioned within 4 years. Beyond that time, no action is possible.

Mr. Jones advised that he was currently working on a guide for advertisements, including the use of 'A' boards. The Town Centre Manager stressed the need for consultation on this matter. Mr. Jones asked that referrals be made through the Clerk.

The Mayor thanked Messrs. Jones and Beattie for their attendance and presentation.

97. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised the Council of his many engagements since the last meeting.

The Mayor advised of his attendance at the Civic Service for the Mayor of Caerwys and the carol services organised by the WI, Nightingale House Hospice and Llwynegrin Singers. He also referred to the Tyddyn Street Church Christmas Fayre and the presentation by the Mold and District Choral Society of 'The Messiah'.

The Mayor thanked those involved in the festivities surrounding the switching-on of the Christmas lights.

The Mayor advised of a meeting held with officers of the County Council to discuss the future arrangements for the occupation of the Town Hall.

The Mayor also reminded Members of the charity concert he would be holding at St Mary's Parish Church on 12th March 2011. He advised that the Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir would be performing.

98. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24th November 2010 be received and approved subject to the resolution of Minute 85 being recorded as 'It was resolved to note the correspondence and make no comment';
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1st December 2010 be received and noted.
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5th January 2011 be received and noted.

99. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council 24th November 2010

99.1 Minute 82.1 Bailey Hill Cottage – The Clerk advised that there had been no change in the situation regarding the future responsibility for the Cottage.

99.2 Minute 86 Town Centre Manager's Report, Consultation Events – Councillor Andrea Mearns advised of the success of the consultation events and it was agreed to circulate copies of the report to Members.

99.3 Minute 94 Town Hall – The Clerk advised that further information was available and it was agreed that this would be considered at the end of the meeting.

100. CORRESPONDENCE

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

100.1 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising that, due to over-subscription, it is unable to accommodate the Town Council's request for inclusion in the match funding scheme for play areas in 2011/12. Members expressed their disappointment at this response particularly as there had been no indication of the process for the selection of play area schemes for inclusion in the programme. Concern was also expressed that the selection of schemes had taken place without reference to the work of a panel of County Councillors who had been assessing the condition of the County's play areas. It was agreed to write to the County Council expressing these concerns.

100.2 The Council considered the correspondence advising of proposals for the County Council to take on responsibility for parking enforcement from the Police. The Council felt that in giving its general support to the application for powers relating to Civil Parking Enforcement, concern should also be expressed that this approach was not being considered as part of an overall parking strategy within the County. Members considered that it would be necessary to review existing parking regulations within the Town and the provision and management of off-street car parking prior to the implementation of civil parking enforcement. It was felt that a comprehensive approach to all car parking management and enforcement issues was needed. Members recalled responding to previous consultation on a proposed car parking strategy and felt that many of the comments made still applied and should be reiterated. It was agreed to respond accordingly.

100.3 The Council considered the correspondence advising of proposals for the forthcoming year's summer playschemes. The Council agreed to confirm its support for the playschemes subject to approval of the budget for 2011/12 and the County Council being able to secure sufficient grant aid. It was also agreed to advise the County Council of the following suggestions for 'dry' play areas in the event of inclement weather: Parkfields Community Centre, The Club House, the former Ysgol Delyn, Cathrina House, Ebenezer Chapel, English Methodist Church and the Glanrafon Centre.

100.4 The Council noted receipt of the 'Tenants Newsletter' detailing the consultation and ballot due to take place later in the year on the future of council housing in Flintshire. It was agreed to invite the housing ballot Project Director to a future meeting of the Town Council to explain the proposal.

100.5 The Council was pleased to note the correspondence advising that the 'Mold Salutes' commemoration, held in August 2010, had raised in excess of £6,400.

100.6 The Council noted the correspondence advising that an appeal had been made against the refusal of planning permission for the development of a maximum of 50 dwellings on land off Ruthin Road. The appeal will be held by way of public inquiry details of which are yet to be arranged. The Clerk advised that a new application for a development of 46 dwellings had been received and would be considered by the Planning Committee in due course. It was agreed that Councillor Geoff Collett should represent the Town Council at the public inquiry.

100.7 The Council noted the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising of a further period of consultation on the Unitary Development Plan relating to modifications affecting three areas, none of which are in Mold.

100.8 The Council considered the correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate advising of its view that it cannot consider the planning appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the wheeled play area (skateboard park) because a 'Design and Access Statement' (DAS) had not been submitted at the time of the planning application. The Clerk advised that despite the County Council planners taking a different view on the need for a DAS, the Planning Inspector had now reaffirmed his view. Whilst expressing disappointment at this latest turn of events, the Council agreed that it would be appropriate to submit a fresh planning application.

100.9 The Council noted that the County Council is undertaking a review of all play areas and expressed surprise that Members were being asked to identify the play equipment when the County Council is responsible for regular inspections of each site.

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

101. BUDGET 2011/12

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 2011/2012. 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 2010.

The Clerk reminded the Council that the Budget Sub-Group had been given responsibility for the preparation of the budget proposals. He indicated that the process had been difficult, particularly in relation to the need to ensure that funds are available to cover the rent and service charges for the Town Hall. The Clerk also indicated that a precept had to be agreed on the basis of the information known to date.

Members of the Budget Sub-Group commented on the difficult decisions the Council had to face and acknowledged that the suggested increase in the budget was higher than was anticipated or wanted. However, the Sub-Group was conscious that the Council could be facing more difficult decisions in future years if it were not prepared to seek a large increase in the precept now. Members of the Budget Sub-Group reiterated that the increase was required solely as a result of the County Council wanting to charge for use of the Town Hall, something that had not previously been considered.

Members acknowledged the difficult decisions facing the Council and whilst accepting the suggested increase, felt that it was essential to ensure that the reasons for the increase were fully communicated to residents of the Town. It was also acknowledged that the Budget Sub-Group would continue to monitor and review the Council's expenditure on an ongoing basis.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The quarterly reviews of general expenditure, petty cash expenditure, income and the bank reconciliation as at 31st December 2010 be noted and approved;

b) The charges for use of the Jubilee Room be increased from 1st April 2011 to £8.50 and £13.50 per hour for Charities/Voluntary Groups and Non Charities respectively;

c) The draft budget for 2011/2012 be approved;

d) A precept of £197,127.00 be approved for the year 2011/2012; and

e) The Budget Sub-Group continue to monitor and review the Council's expenditure on an ongoing basis.

102. 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) North Wales Deaf Association	£175.00
b) Flintshire County Forum for Learning Disabilities	£175.00
c) St John Cymru	£250.00
d) Mold & District Choral Society	£175.00
e) Wales Air Ambulance	£250.00
f) North Wales Assn for Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus	£175.00
g) Virgin Art	£175.00
h) Little Fishes Parents and Toddlers Group	£175.00

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

103. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Town Centre Manager presented a verbal report to the Council and circulated recent Town Partnership meetings for the information of Members.

The Town Centre Manager advised that he had hosted a meeting to discuss future events in the Town. He advised that Dee Valley Entertainments had indicated a willingness to support. The Town Centre Manager indicated the Mold Carnival would be taking place this year and that it was intended to hold a 'street party' on the bank holiday of the Royal Wedding day.

Reference was made to the Town's trading over the Christmas period which had been positive considering the economic climate. The Town Centre Manager praised the County Council for their work in clearing the pavements for shoppers over the Christmas period.

The Town Centre Manager reminded Members that the Mold Spring Clean would be held during the period 25th – 28th March. He advised that the Mayor, Nicola Bowness and himself would be attending the presentation for the Keep Wales Tidy Awards competition to be held in Cardiff the following day.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report be received.

104. DRAFT FLINTSHIRE PLAY STRATEGY 2010-2014

The Council considered the previously circulated draft strategy and it was agreed to support the strategy but to make the following comments:

Objective - Encourage the creation of more 'playable' communities

- It was felt that to achieve the reclamation of local streets for play needed to have the support and backing of planning and highways policies; and
- A recent planning application for development at Victoria Road, Mold included the loss of part of the adjoining recreation / sports ground with the support of Leisure Services contrary to the policy in the UDP for the protection of recreational open space.

Resolved: It was resolved that a response be made setting out the above comments.

105. NOTICES OF MOTION

105.1 The Council considered the proposal of Councillor Andrea Mearns and agreed to ask Flintshire County Council to undertake a community review which would allow for a change in the boundaries of the electoral wards in Mold. It was considered Members would be able to assist in the review and that it would be possible to achieve a better balance within the wards of the Town in readiness for the next boundary review.

105.2 The Council considered the proposal of Councillor Stephanie Hulley and agreed to ask Flintshire County Council to review its parking policy and to ensure that charges throughout the County are imposed fairly and evenly.

Resolved: It was resolved that the above action be approved.

106. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

107. MEETINGS ATTENDED

107.1 Councillor Andrea Mearns advised of her attendance at meetings of Mold 2000 and Communities First. Councillor Mearns referred to meetings of the Town Partnership and one that related to social enterprise and the starting up of local businesses. Councillor Mearns also advised that she would be attending a meeting with County officers regarding the development of a school travel plan for Ysgol Bryn Gwalia.

107.2 Councillor Geoff Collett advised of a meeting of the Cittaslow Space and Place Group which concentrated on footpaths and cycle-ways around Mold and the 'way forward' for Bailey Hill.

107.3 Councillor Carol Heycocks referred to her attendance at a meeting of the Daniel Owen Community Association Board and with the Air Cadets.

108. 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.

109. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved: It was resolved to exclude the public and the press from the remainder of the meeting in order to allow discussion on confidential matters.

110. TOWN HALL

The Clerk advised that he and the Mayor had attended a meeting with County Officers to discuss the requirement to pay rent and service charges when they were advised works were due to be undertaken at the Town Hall and that occupiers would be required to vacate the building.

The Clerk outlined the implications and indicated that vacant possession of the Town Hall would be required by 28th February 2011. He asked that delegated authority be given to the Budget Sub-Group to make the necessary arrangements for this move.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Budget Sub-Group be given authority to make all necessary arrangements for the relocation of the Town Council offices for the period of the works at the Town Hall.

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

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL	DATE: 26th January 2011
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
Councillor Chris Bithell	Financial Assistance – Virgin Art	102 (g)