

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 29th September 2010.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Chris Bithell (Mayor), Tony 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 and Town Centre Manager.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Carolyn Cattermoul

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

52. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Reference was made specifically to the 'Mold Salutes' celebration and the various complementary events. The Mayor extended his thanks to John Davies, Tudor Owen and Tim Maunders for organising the celebration and complimented them on the interesting programme.

The Mayor referred to his Civic Service and thanked those Members who had been able to attend for their support.

Councillor Andrea Mearns handed the Mayor two presentation plates received from Cittaslow Poland following the recent Reszel Conference.

53. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21st July 2010 be received and approved;
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26th July 2010 be received and noted;
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Cemetery Committee held on 26th July 2010 be received and noted
- d) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 18th August 2010 be received and noted;

e) The minutes of the meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 1st September 2010 be received and noted; and

f) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 8th September 2010 be received and noted.

54. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council 21st July 2010

54.1 Minute 42.1 Bailey Hill Cottage – The Clerk advised that the future of the Cottage was still uncertain with the County Council's Valuation and Assets Section determining options for its use. Councillor Tony Cattermoul stressed the importance of the County Council reaching an early decision and indicated a preference for the occupation by a warden who would take some responsibility for Bailey Hill itself. It was agreed to advise the County Council of this view and to seek an early determination of the matter.

54.2 Minute 42.2 Mold Food and Drink Festival – Councillor Bryan Grew advised the Council that the Festival had been a tremendous success and thanked all who had volunteered their help. It was agreed that the Mayor should write to the organisers thanking them for their efforts.

55. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were considered:

55.1 The Council noted with disappointment the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising that the road markings on Chester Road cannot be reinstated due to lack of funds.

55.2 The Council noted receipt of the latest statistics from the CCTV monitoring service.

55.3 The Council noted the request for the provision of a dog litter bin near to the entrance to the open space off Upper Bryn Coch (area to the rear of St Mary's Park) and agreed to ask the County Council to provide one.

55.4 The Council considered the correspondence detailing the motions to be considered at the annual meeting of One Voice Wales and agreed to support motions 1, 6 and 7. It was agreed that Councillor Andrea Mearns should attend the annual meeting as a replacement for Councillor Brian Lloyd.

55.5 The Council considered the correspondence from Mr. Gareth Williams, Brook Street concerning traffic concerns in the area of his home and Wrexham Road. Members felt that there were two issues for consideration: a 20mph speed close to all schools; and traffic congestion resulting from the volume of traffic and parents taking children to school. The Council agreed that:

- a) Members who are governors should raise the matter of school travel plans with their fellow governors at their next meetings;

- b) The concerns be raised by the Mayor and Councillor Carolyn Cattermoul at the next meeting of the County Council's Transportation Sub Group; and
- c) The County Council be asked to consider the introduction of a temporary advisory 20mph speed limit on the roads around schools until such time as it is able to determine its traffic calming policy.

55.6 The Council noted the correspondence detailing changes to some bus services.

55.7 The Council considered the invitation for a representative of the Town Council to attend the Annual Joint Consultative Meeting of the Clwyd Pension Fund. It was agreed that Councillor Bryan Grew should attend the meeting to be held on 11th November 2010.

55.8 The Council noted the correspondence from the County Council advising that it has agreed to investigate the possibility of siting a base/pole, for the pedestrian crossing by the Fire Station, Leadmills, adjacent to the Job Centre. Members hoped that this could be achieved to provide for the safety of pedestrians crossing the road.

55.9 The Council considered the correspondence inviting membership of Disability Wales but agreed to take no action.

55.10 The Council noted that a feasibility study (options appraisal) had been commissioned to identify how CCTV services should be delivered in North Wales. Members noted that insufficient time had been allowed for consultation with town and community councils and it was agreed to write to both Conwy County Borough Council (the commissioning authority) and Flintshire County Council expressing concerns that councils who have made substantial financial contributions to the service had not been given the opportunity to comment on future provision.

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

56. SKATEBOARDING / WHEELED PLAY FACILITIES

The Council considered the previously circulated report.

The report advised that the latest planning application, for the provision of a wheeled play facility / skateboarding park at Maes Bodlonfa recreation ground, had been refused by the County Council's planning committee in late July 2010. The reason for the refusal stated: 'It is the view of the Local Planning Authority that the construction of a skate park as proposed would be unacceptable, leading to an increase in anti social behaviour as the site is not in a prominent location to facilitate adequate surveillance and there are no public toilet facilities available within the recreational area, This it is considered would be detrimental to the privacy/amenity of occupiers of nearby residential properties and contrary to Policy GEN 1 of the emerging Flintshire Unitary Development Plan.'

Members noted the application had been supported by planning officers and that the issue of anti-social behaviour was not a planning reason for refusal. It was also noted that the complaints reported to the Police and Neighbourhood Wardens did not reflect a serious problem in the area, nor had any issues been raised at any of the meetings of the Neighbourhood Forum with the Police.

Resolved: It was unanimously resolved to submit an appeal against the decision to refuse planning permission.

57. PLANNING APPLICATION

The Council considered the planning application – (ADW/047868) Erection of extra care and elderly support living scheme comprising 57 no. apartments and 2 no. bungalows, Jasmine Crescent, Mold - details of which were displayed at the meeting.

The Council welcomed the application recognising the need for such accommodation. In supporting the application and acknowledging the needs of the future occupants, the Council agreed to ask that an assisted pedestrian crossing be provided as part of the development. In addition, the Council asked whether it would be possible to provide a building that achieves the passive design standard with an aim for a carbon neutral development.

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

58. COUNTY FORUM MEETING

Resolved: It was resolved to note the minutes of the County Forum.

59. REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FLINTSHIRE – FURTHER DRAFT PROPOSALS

The Council considered the previously circulated second consultation paper from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales (LGBCW) detailing further revised proposals for Flintshire.

Members noted that the revised proposals showed no change from those previously recommended for Mold with one electoral ward represented by four councillors. Members reiterated their opposition to the proposals.

Members noted that the directions from the Minister to LGBCW were not to be viewed as instructions, and remained of the opinion that there is no evidence to support the establishment of a multi member ward for Mold. The Council was of the view that the Proposed Local Government Measure, currently the subject of consultation, seeks to strengthen local democracy in a range of ways, yet the LGBCW proposals will have totally the opposite effect. In this respect the Council agreed to advise the Minister of what it is considered are contradictory aims between the two documents.

The practicalities of canvassing and representing a ward of 7500 electors are considered to be huge and impossible to complete. Each candidate would be required to represent the whole of the Town. They would be required to canvas all dwellings and the cost, certainly for independent candidates, would be prohibitive. This has the potential for a less democratic representation in the Town. It is currently a challenge for candidates to canvas one ward and it would be near impossible to canvas all dwellings.

The Council also felt that LGBCW was inconsistent in its approach with proposals for other towns having a combination of 1/2/3 members in their wards.

Resolved: It was unanimously resolved to write to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales, the Welsh Assembly's Minister for Social Justice and Local Government and One Voice Wales expressing the Council's opposition to the proposals as detailed above.

60. REQUEST FOR ALLOTMENTS

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing a request that the Council provides allotments in the Mold area.

The Council noted that where it is of the opinion that a demand exists in the town there is a requirement to provide allotments for personal cultivation. Additionally, in considering whether a demand exists, account must be taken of any written representations for the provision of allotments made by any six parliamentary electors or council tax payers. The request made and resulting in the report was signed by six residents of Mold.

Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that there are kitchen gardens available to the rear of the Club House, Park Avenue and residents can apply to be included on the waiting list if none are available at any one time. In addition Councillor Mearns reported that there had been a large number of people attending a recent meeting and expressing an interest in Community Supported Agriculture. She advised that landowners had indicated a willingness to offer land for such a scheme.

Members generally felt that there is a demand for allotments and agreed that a further report should be prepared on the available options, the practical issues involved and the financial implications.

Resolved: It was resolved that a further report be prepared as outlined above.

61. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Town Centre Manager presented a verbal report to the Council and circulated the latest minutes of the Mold Town Partnership and the Town Centre Matters newsletter.

The Town Centre Manager made reference to the proposed consultation events funded by Cadwyn Clwyd, which will allow for the wider discussion on the aspirations for Mold.

Reference was made to an event organised by Flintshire Tourism and to be held at the Beaufort Park Hotel when group organisers would be shown the attractions of the area. The Town Centre Manager advised that he would be in attendance, supported by David Rowe of the Civic Society, and referred to the Mold 'pop-up' displays that could also be used for other events.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report be received.

62. ECONOMIC MIGRANTS / GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

The Town Council noted the documents circulated by the County Council for the information of all town and community councillors in Flintshire.

Resolved: It was resolved that the documents be received.

63. NOTICES OF MOTION

63.1 Councillor Andrea Mearns asked that the Town Council consider the Council's management of the cemetery, having particular regard to the cost implications of providing the service, as part of the review of the budget currently underway. Councillor Mearns made reference to the new charter arrangements being developed between the County and town and community councils and wondered about the possibility of joint working and funding in the management of the cemetery. The Mayor advised that the Budget Sub Group were reviewing all aspects of the Council's expenditure and assured Members that this matter would be considered.

63.2 On the proposal of Councillor Stephanie Hulley it was agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Justice expressing the Council's support to the family of Peter Jones, Brook Street who was killed recently, in their request for change in the law on sentencing.

64. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

65. MEETINGS ATTENDED

65.1 Councillor Geoff Collett advised of a recent meeting when the possibility of establishing Cittaslow Mold as a Community Interest Company was discussed. This move would allow the group to apply for financial assistance from a variety of funding organisations. He advised that the next meeting of the group was due to be held at 7.00pm on 15th November 2010.

65.2 Councillor Andrea Mearns advised of her attendance at the Bryn Gwalia Communities First AGM when she and Councillor Joyce Jones were re-elected onto the Board. Councillor Mearns referred to her attendance at the recent Cittaslow conference in Reszel, Poland and at the Mold Town Partnership meeting.

65.3 Councillor Geoff Darkins referred to his attendance at the Mold Town Partnership meeting and also at the opening of the new facilities at Delfryn House.

65.4 Councillor Tony Cattermoul advised of a meeting of the Daniel Owen Community Association Board. He also advised that negotiations were currently taking place with the County Council about the refurbishment of the toilets in the Centre.

65.5 Councillor Joyce Jones advised of her attendance at the Bryn Gwalia Communities First AGM.

65.6 Councillor Brian Lloyd referred to his attendance at a meeting of the Club House Committee.

65.7 Councillor Ken Corbett advised of his attendance at a garden party hosted by the Llwynegrin Singers.

65.8 Councillor Tim Maunders advised that he had been able to join the Community Beat Manager on a night patrol in the Town.

66. 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: 29th September 2010
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
	None	

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