

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 30th June 2010.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: Carolyn Cattermoul, Robin Guest and Andrea Mearns.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

22. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised the Council that he had recently opened the new Lidl Store and the Sunray Day Care Nursery, the latter with the Chairman of Flintshire County Council.

The Mayor referred to his attendance at the Annual Nightingale House Garden Tea Party, the Chester Operatic's production of 'Fiddler on the Roof' and a Garden Party organised by Lady Janet Jones in aid of Clwyd Crimebeat. The Mayor also advised of his attendance at the Civic Services for the Mayor of Buckley and Chair of Connah's Quay.

The Mayor advised the Council that he had gratefully accepted on behalf of the Council a bench sited at Mold Cemetery and donated by Mold WI.

23. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26th May 2010 be received and approved; and
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2nd June 2010 be received and noted.

24. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council 26th May 2010

24.1 Minute 16.6 Planning Application (047039) former Bromfield Timber and Joinery site, Queens Lane – The Mayor and Councillor Heycocks advised that the application had been approved despite the concerns of the Town Council.

24.2 Minute 2.1 Planning Application JZF/047427 10 Swn y Nant, Upper Bryn Coch – The Mayor advised that despite acknowledging a request to await our observations, the County Council approved the application prior to receiving those observations. The Clerk advised that contact is always made with the relevant planning officer if the timescale for responses does not match the timescale for planning meetings. He added that there were usually no concerns and planning officers accepted the timescales suggested for the making of responses.

25. CORRESPONDENCE

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

25.1 The Council noted receipt of a copy of the minutes of the meeting of Flintshire Fairtrade Coalition held on 17th May 2010.

25.2 The Council noted receipt of a copy of the Strategy for Flintshire's Libraries 2009-12.

25.3 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council regarding a suggested new approach to liaison on planning enforcement matters. The Council agreed to welcome the suggestion and agreed to invite the Enforcement Officer to a future meeting.

25.4 The Council noted the correspondence from the owner of 4 High Street (The Card Shop) seeking the removal of the catenary wires and fixings from the front of their building.

25.5 The Council noted the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising that the mobile office service is being withdrawn on 30th June 2010.

25.6 The Council noted receipt of the copy of the Annual Report 2009/10 of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

25.7 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising of arrangements to upgrade the existing pedestrian crossing by the Fire Station, Leadmills. The Mayor expressed his concern at the removal of the gantry lights which had been introduced some years ago following public anxiety about drivers in the 'middle' lane. The Council was reminded that there had been accidents at this crossing, even when the School Crossing Patrol was in attendance. The Council agreed to support the views of the Mayor and to advise the County Council that it strongly believes that a gantry light over the 'middle' lane is necessary for the safety of pedestrians crossing the road.

25.8 The Council noted the correspondence confirming that the Summer Playscheme Programme will again be operating in Mold this year from Monday 19th July to Friday 20th August inclusive at Parkfields play area 10.30am – 12.30pm, Gas Lane play area 1.30pm – 3.30pm and Ysgol Maes Garmon playing fields (Welsh Medium) 1.30pm – 3.30pm.

25.9 The Council considered the correspondence received from One Voice Wales advising that Flintshire County Council is seeking nominations for a vacancy on the Flintshire Local Access Forum. It was agreed to advise Councillor Andrea Mearns of the vacancy and if she were to express an interest, nominate her for the vacancy.

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

26. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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

a) Flintshire Diabetes Voluntary Group	£100.00
b) Gwyl Gobaith	£200.00
c) Nightingale House Hospice	£150.00
d) Tegeingl Festival Society	£200.00
e) Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide	£150.00
f) Pinboard Writers	£100.00
g) Mold's Community Policing Team	£300.00
h) Knights of Columba	£100.00

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

27. COMPLAINTS – WALES CONSULTATION

The Council considered the previously circulated consultation paper from the Public Services Ombudsman on the development of a common complaints handling system for public service providers in Wales. The Council noted the proposal and felt that whilst it was probably more relevant to the principal authorities it did represent a reasonable approach to dealing with complaints.

Resolved: It was resolved that the document be noted.

28. CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council noted that the arrangements whereby the Planning Committee considers responses to all planning applications had been in operation for a trial period of six months and were now due for review.

The Council also noted the comments of the Planning Committee itself which had felt that the arrangements had worked well and allowed for the detailed and efficient consideration of applications. The Council agreed that it would be appropriate to continue with the approach subject to all Members having a copy of the agenda, being advised of how they can make comments on any application and the Committee referring any major applications to the Council for consideration.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Council delegate the responsibility for responding to planning applications to the Planning Committee subject to the arrangements set out above.

29. PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

The Council noted that the opportunity for the public to speak to the Town Council during a 15 minute session immediately before meetings had now been available for a period of 12 months.

Whilst there had been no requests from any member of the public to speak the Council felt that it was appropriate that the opportunity to do so should be retained.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Council retains the policy of allowing members of the public to make representations at meetings of the Town Council.

30. DRAFT FLINTSHIRE CHARTER

The Council considered the previously circulated report and Draft Charter and noted that it would be considered at the next meeting of the County Forum with all Town and Community Councils in Flintshire.

Councillor Bryan Grew introduced the Draft Charter advising that he had been a member of the working group established to prepare a document for consideration. He indicated that the Charter was intended to facilitate better and more co-operative working between town and community councils and the County Council and that it would evolve over time and be reviewed annually. It was acknowledged that the document did not indicate how issues of dispute would be addressed but it was reiterated that the intention was to improve working relationships between the various councils. It was agreed that this issue should be highlighted with the County Council.

Resolved: It was resolved to advise the County Council that the Town Council, subject to the comments above, supports the Draft Charter.

31. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Town Centre Manager presented a verbal report to the Council.

The Town Centre Manager referred to the recent meeting of the Town Centre Partnership and to the positive inclusion of younger people within the meeting. He advised that the 'Marketing the Market' campaign leaflet were nearly ready and that the Loyalty Scheme would hopefully be introduced in September 2010.

The Town Centre Manager outlined the current situation regarding the vacant shops within the Town and advised that there appeared to be interest in the Town from retailers. He also advised that he had facilitated a meeting between organisers of the Mold Food and Drink Festival and retailers interested in food and drink to try and ensure a fully inclusive event.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report be noted.

32. ITEMS FOR SUBMISSION TO ONE VOICE WALES AGM

The Mayor advised Members to advise the Clerk within the very near future of any suggested motion for debate at the Annual Meeting of One Voice Wales.

Resolved: It was resolved that Members would advise the Clerk of suggested motions for debate.

33. NOTICES OF MOTION

33.1 The Council considered the proposals of Councillor Stephanie Hulley and agreed to ask Flintshire County Council to repaint the 'Slow' red markings on Chester Road as they have now faded and are difficult to see. It was agreed not to pursue the relocation of the 30mph flashing sign on Chester Road.

33.2 The Council considered the proposal of Councillor Tony Cattermoul and agreed to write to Flintshire County Council seeking an early reoccupation of Bailey Hill Cottage and the refilling of the post of Warden. The Council acknowledged the work that had been undertaken in recent months at Bailey Hill to restore its position as a park attraction in the Town and was concerned that these efforts would be wasted if the property remained empty and the post unfilled.

34. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

35. MEETINGS ATTENDED

35.1 Councillor Geoff Darkins advised of his attendance at the meeting of the Town Partnership and commented that he believed progress was being made.

35.2 Councillor Bryan Grew advised of his attendance at a meeting of the Mold Food and Drink Festival Committee and indicated that he would shortly be seeking the support of Members as volunteers. Councillor Grew also advised of the last meeting of the Wrexham / Flintshire Regional Committee of One Voice Wales when there had been a positive report on the recent training programme and concern expressed about the possible reduction in grant aid from the Welsh Assembly to One Voice Wales.

35.3 Councillor Carol Heycocks advised of her attendance at the County Council's Planning Committee to represent the views of the Council on the development proposals for the former Bromfield Timber site. Councillor Heycocks also advised that she had attended a meeting held to discuss proposals for public art at the Lidl Store site.

35.4 Councillor Geoff Collett advised of his attendance at meetings held to consider schemes for submission for 'Tidy Towns' funding. He circulated a list of projects submitted for the first tranche of 'Tidy Towns' funding and those suggested for approval by the Town Centre Partnership for the second tranche and County Council Regeneration funding. The Council supported the suggestions.

35.5 Councillor Ken Williams advised of his attendance at the meeting of Mold 2000 when the issue of the number of charity shops and 'takeaways' in the Town was raised.

35.6 The Mayor advised of his attendance at the recent re-launch of the Flintshire Tourism Association and stressed the impressive list of attractions the County has to offer.

36. 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: 30th June 2010
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
Councillor Stephanie Hulley	Financial Assistance	Minute 26(f)