

## **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors: Ray Dodd (Mayor), Chris Bithell, Carolyn Cattermoul, Geoff Collett, Ken Corbett, Geoff Darkins, 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: Tony Cattermoul, Stephanie Hulley and Brian Lloyd.

### **102. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The declarations of interest expressed are detailed in the schedule shown at the end of the minutes of the meeting.

### **103. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor advised of his many engagements during the period since the last meeting which included the carol services / festivals for the Clwyd-Flint Federation of Women's Institutes, Mold and District Choral Society and Llwynegrin Singers.

Reference was made to the 75<sup>th</sup> Charter Dinner for Mold Rotary Club, the P&A 'Christmas Curry Lunch' and the dinner in honour of a senior Bangladeshi local government member at the Country Spice Restaurant.

The Mayor advised of his attendance at the Saltney Town Mayor's civic service and the 'French themed' evening organised by the Llwynegrin Singers.

The Mayor also advised that he had attended the opening of the new 'Cibo' Bistro / Coffee Bar which should prove to be a welcome addition to Mold's offer of exceptional food establishments.

### **104. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011 be received and approved;

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011 be received and noted;

c) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012 be received and noted; and

d) The minutes of the meeting of the Cemetery Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and circulated at the meeting be received and noted;

## **105. MATTERS ARISING**

### **Mold Town Council 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

105.1 Minute 91.1 'Black Lion' / B&M Frontage – The Town Centre Manager advised that B&M had initially indicated the facade was not within their ownership but that they were now reviewing that stance.

105.2 Minute 92.1 Coach House, Ponterwyl – The Clerk advised that there had been no further information from the County Council regarding the need for repairs to the Coach House.

105.3 Minute 94 Community Plan – The Clerk advised that Mr. Andy Roberts, Head of Planning Policy at the County Council, was happy to meet with members of the Town Council to discuss community plans. It was agreed that Councillors Chris Bithell, Tony Cattermoul, Bryan Grew, Robin Guest and Andrea Mearns should represent the Council at any meeting.

### **Planning Committee 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

105.4 Minute 19.2 Planning application, Mold Methodist Church – Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that the planning application had been approved subject to the existing door being attached to the blocked up entrance.

## **106. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

106.1 The Council considered the correspondence from the National Assembly for Wales seeking views on the proposed Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Bill. The Bill seeks to streamline the procedure for making bye-laws primarily by removing the requirement for confirmation by Welsh Ministers. It also provides an alternative form of enforcement through fixed penalty notices which aims to be a more effective and efficient form of enforcement action than through the Magistrates Courts. The proposed Bill also seeks to ensure that before a bye-law is made the authority undertakes an initial consultation with those potentially affected in order to explore whether a bye-law is the most appropriate solution. The Council agreed to respond generally supporting the proposal believing it to simplify and consolidate the existing processes.

106.2 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising that it has agreed to nominate Maes Bodlonfa recreation ground and the open spaces on the St. Mary's Park estate for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. Whilst the Council welcomed the proposal, concern was expressed that no nominations were being made for Kendrick's Field and Victoria Road playing field because of the potential for future development on these two sites. It was also noted that there remained much to do, by the County Council, to ensure acceptance of the sites nominated.

106.3 The Council considered the correspondence from Cogent Research on behalf of Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Ltd regarding the community benefit fund that will be available over the lifetime of the project. It was agreed to advise Cogent that:

- a) Mold's priorities were reflected in the Town Action Plan and the Cittaslow goals;
- b) It considered the fund should be managed by one of the local voluntary councils of the affected areas, such as Flintshire Local Voluntary Council;
- c) The fund should have a cascading effect, assisting those areas closest to the wind farm to the largest extent and with reducing support to those areas further afield and with lesser of an impact from the development;
- d) Projects that can demonstrate a legacy should be considered linked to the environment, tourism, infrastructure and energy reduction; and
- e) Decisions should be made by an organisation similar to Flintshire Local Voluntary Council.

106.4 The Council noted and welcomed the correspondence from Chief Inspector Darren Wareing advising that an additional 17 Police Community Support Officers are being recruited with nine and eight in North and South Flintshire respectively.

106.5 The Council considered the correspondence from the Kidney Wales Foundation and agreed to give its support to the Welsh Government's proposals for a change in legislation on organ and tissue donation in Wales for an 'opt-out' system.

106.6 The Council considered the précis of information received from the Police Authority relating to its estates property review. The Council agreed to ask the Police Authority to consider the development of an 'emergency services centre' in Mold based on the site of the current ambulance and fire stations.

106.7 The Council considered the correspondence from One Voice Wales advising of training available for town and community councils regarding sustainable development. It was agreed that Councillors Geoff Collett and Andrea Mearns should attend and represent the Council.

106.8 The Council noted the correspondence from Neville Howell advising that the application to become a member of the Flintshire Local Access Forum had been accepted.

106.9 The Council considered the correspondence from the Minister for Local Government and Communities regarding the proposal to move the date of the local government elections in Wales by one year from May 2016 to May 2017. The Council agreed to support the proposal.

106.10 The Council considered that it would be appropriate for a small group of councillors to meet to consider the proposed parliamentary boundary changes. It was also agreed to reserve spaces at the public hearing due to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> March. It was agreed that Councillors Geoff Collett, Bryan Grew, Robin Guest, Brian Lloyd and Tim Maunders should meet to prepare a response for consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

106.11 The Council noted receipt of the CCTV Incident Statistics for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

106.12 The Council noted receipt of the consultation documents setting out a proposal to transfer the County Council's housing stock to a registered social landlord.

106.13 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising that Stewart Milne Homes has suggested that the development on land adjacent to Ruthin Road be named Llys Ambrose, for that part of the development accessed from the existing road and Maes Glas for the remainder. The Council agreed to raise no objections.

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

## **107. BUDGET 2012/13**

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 2012/2013. 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 2011.

The Clerk reminded the Council that the Budget Sub-Group has monitored the expenditure and carefully considered the detail of the proposed budget.

Members considered the budget proposals and supported the purchase of commemorative mugs for the primary school children of the Town in recognition of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the ongoing grant to the Daniel Owen Festival and the acquisition of a cabinet to hold the Council's awards and gifts.

Members recognised the need for an increase in the precept income and supported the recommended increase of 3%. It was noted that this would result in a low projected balance at the end of the year 2012/13 but which, if necessary, could be covered by the Council's funds.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

- a) The quarterly reviews of general expenditure, petty cash expenditure, income and the bank reconciliation as at 31st December 2011 be noted and approved;
- b) The charges for use of the Jubilee Room be increased from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to £8.75 and £14.00 per hour for Charities/Voluntary Groups and Non Charities respectively;
- c) The budget for 2012/2013 as proposed be approved; and
- d) A precept of £202,366.00 be approved for the year 2012/2013.

## **108. 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	£150.00
b) Mold & District Choral Society	£200.00
c) NSPCC Cymru (Childline)	£150.00
d) Bobath Children's Therapy Centre	£ 50.00
e) Shelter Cymru	£200.00
f) Marie Curie Cancer Care	£150.00
g) North Wales Assn for Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus	£150.00
h) Côr Y Pentan	£200.00
i) Little Fishes Parents and Toddlers Group	£200.00
j) Virgin Art	£200.00
k) Gŵyl y Ffin Music Festival	£250.00

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

#### **109. BAILEY HILL OUTLINE CONSERVATION STATEMENT**

The Council noted the previously circulated outline management plan and revised entrance arrangements for Bailey Hill prepared by Harrison Design Development.

The Clerk advised that the plans followed the extensive consultations with a variety of stakeholders and give an outline of what can be achieved at Bailey Hill. They address a number of issues highlighted during the consultation and particularly the entrance access arrangements.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note and support the draft plans.

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

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

The Town Centre Manager referred to the recent report on town centres by Mary Portas and was pleased to advise the Council that Mold, with a 5.6% vacancy rate, is doing better than many other market towns. There is obviously concern about the Peacocks Store with the company having gone into administration and whilst the Mold store trades well, no definite news is available.

Information from a number of retailers indicated that trading over the Christmas period had been better than expected for most with good feedback being received from the markets.

The Town Centre Manager advised that the arrangements for 'Mold Celebrates', to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, were proceeding and an application for funding had been made to 'Awards for All'.

Reference was made to the new Visitor Centre and the Town Centre Manager advised that work was now proceeding with the County Council and North Wales Tourism to develop the services on offer.

The Town Centre Manager advised that the Mold Spring Clean 2012 would be taking place during the period 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> March and that planning was now underway. He also advised that following the work at the lagoons off Maes Gwern last year, funding had been secured by the County Council from the Welsh Government which will allo

the development of the area as a wildlife reserve. The project will be take forward by the County and Town Councils alongside Groundwork, West Coast Energy, Ysgol Maes Garmon and the Alun School.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the report.

## **111. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the report.

## **112. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

112.1 Councillor Geoff Collett advised of meetings of the Cittaslow group regarding the planting of trees, which was now receiving help from the coordinator of the Welsh Government's Pathfinder Project. He advised that four areas were being considered namely, New Street car park, Mold lagoons, St. Mary's Park and the cemetery extension.

112.2 Councillor Chris Bithell advised of a meeting with County Council and Welsh Water officers regarding the plans to resolve drainage concerns at Cae Bracty. He indicated that a scheme of works would be completed by 2015.

112.3 Councillor Andrea Mearns advised of her attendance at a meeting of Cittaslow International. She advised that the Cittaslow accreditation criteria were being strengthened.

Councillor Mearns also advised of a meeting at Parkfields to discuss energy reductions at the Club House and community centre and within the estate itself. Some funding is available from Cadwyn Clwyd and other grant applications are being made.

Councillor Mearns referred to a number of meetings with different groups to highlight the proposals for Bailey Hill and asked Members for any views to be passed to the Clerk. She also advised of a meeting of Mold 2000 when the importance of internet sales was highlighted and the logic of the charging for both plastic and paper carrier bags queried. It was agreed to consider this matter at the next meeting of the Council with a view to raising the concerns with the Welsh Government.

Councillor Mearns advised of proposals for the reorganisation of the Communities First projects with Mold being linked with the rural area of the County which would then be based in Holywell. She also advised that the Daniel Owen Festival committee were looking at the forthcoming festival and investigating projects with a lasting legacy.

112.4 Councillor Bryan Grew advised that meetings of the Food and Drink Festival Committee had restarted and preparations were being made for the 2012 event.

## **113. 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.

#### **114. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**Resolved:** It was resolved to exclude the public and press from the meeting in order to discuss confidential matters.

#### **115. TOWN HALL**

The Clerk circulated copies of the building survey report on the Town Hall and suggested that it would not be possible to digest the details within the short period of time remaining in the meeting.

It was proposed an informal meeting of the Council be held to discuss this report and that the report's author and his valuation and negotiating colleague be invited to the meeting to assist the Council in its deliberations. It was noted that there may be a cost to inviting the surveyor and colleague.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that an informal meeting of the Council be held on 7<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the report.

#### **116. BAILEY HILL LODGE**

The Council considered a report circulated at the meeting detailing the position relating to Bailey Hill Lodge.

The report highlighted the outcome of a meeting held with County Council officers in which it was agreed that the County Council would undertake and cover the cost of works to bring the Lodge back into a habitable condition and then transfer the ownership to the Town Council.

The Council supported this approach and acknowledged that it would be necessary to prepare an agreement and offer a tenancy following the transfer of ownership. Whilst the Council would be gaining an asset at no cost, it was accepted that there would be a need to appoint a solicitor to act for the Council in the conveyancing.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to:

- a) Accept ownership of Bailey Hill Lodge on the terms outlined and previously agreed at a meeting with County Council officers; and
- b) Approve the appointment of a solicitor to act on behalf of the Council in the transfer of ownership of the Lodge.

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

<b>MOLD TOWN COUNCIL</b>	<b>DATE: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MINUTE NO. REFERS</b>
Councillor Andrea Mearns	Budget (Grant for Daniel Owen Festival)	107
Councillor Chris Bithell	Financial Assistance (Virgin Art Application)	108
Councillor Chris Bithell	Town Hall	115
Councillor Carolyn Cattermoul	Town Hall	115
Councillor Robin Guest	Town Hall	115
Councillor Chris Bithell	Bailey Hill Lodge	116
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Councillor Robin Guest	Bailey Hill Lodge	116