

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 29th June 2011.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Ray Dodd (Mayor), Chris Bithell, Geoff Collett, Ken Corbett, Geoff Darkins, Bryan Grew, 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:

Councillors: Tony Cattermoul, Carolyn Cattermoul and Robin Guest.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were expressed as detailed in the schedule at the end of the minutes.

24. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised of his engagements during the past month including the Flintshire County Council, Connah's Quay and Buckley Civic Services. He also referred to the anniversary celebrations of the Oxfam shop and Richard and Brenda Rowley.

The Mayor praised the recent Bailey Hill Festival and referred to the positive comments highlighted in the exit survey.

The Mayor advised of his attendance at the recent 'Action for Market Towns' awards ceremony when Mold Spring Clean not only won the Environment and Culture category award but also the all Wales Regional Award which was then presented to the Mayor by 'Springy'.

25. POLICING MATTERS

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Iwan Jones and Sgt Andy Griffiths to the meeting.

Inspector Jones advised of the reorganisation of the North Wales Police Force and the move to establish two tiered policy with 24hour response and local policing. He indicated that the numbers of community beat managers had increased in the district such that a 'team approach' could be adopted to policing local issues.

In response to questions Inspector Jones advised that the currently known officers in Mold would continue in their posts although they would be supported as the need arose.

Reference was made to the proposed 'mothballing' of the custody suite and concerns were raised that officers would be involved in far more travelling such that their time in their areas would be reduced. Inspector Jones advised that a detailed study had been undertaken and that any decisions would not have been taken

lightly. Sgt Griffiths advised that the design of the current custody suite in Mold could result in a longer than necessary time being taken to process prisoners such that the proposed arrangements could be quicker.

Reference was then made to the letter included on the agenda from Ms. Hipkiss expressing concern at the activities of a few people in the Daniel Owen Square. Members commented that the introduction of an alcohol control order in Flintshire had followed advice from the Police and the County Council that this would be an effective measure to deal with concerns in Mold. Whilst Members generally supported the content of the letter some felt that the media coverage had been somewhat exaggerated.

Inspector Jones advised that he was aware of the concerns and the problem. He stressed that the alcohol control order could only be used if there were anti social behaviour problems associated. He advised that there had been both covert and overt patrols and confirmed that these would continue. Inspector Jones did however, stress the need for any members of the public, who were intimidated or frightened by the activities of any other person, to contact the Police, ideally at that time. He also advised that there are automatic referrals to Adult Social Services as many of the concerns highlighted require a joint agency approach.

The Mayor thanked Inspector Iwan Jones and Sgt Andy Griffiths for their attendance and their helpful comments.

26. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th May 2011 be received and approved;
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1st June 2011 be received and noted; and
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 1st June 2011 be received and noted.

27. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council 25th May 2011

27.1 Minute 16.1 Aldi Car Park Barriers –The Clerk advised that during that he had spoken with Aldi’s Area Manager who indicated that the gate was being closed and there had been a good police presence.

27.2 Minute 16.2 Car Parking Meeting – The Clerk advised that he and the Town Centre Manager had met with the County Council’s Head of Assets and Transportation for initial discussions on car parking. It was agreed that the Planning Committee would consider the matter further.

27.3 Minute 16.3 Bailey Hill Lodge – The Clerk advised that he had not been advised of any dates to meet about the future arrangements for the Lodge.

27.4 Minute 18 'Gateway to Mold' Signage – Councillor Collett advised there had been a useful meeting with the consultants and that we were now awaiting feedback.

27.5 Minute 19 Grant for Bailey Hill Surveys and Management Plan – the Town Centre Manager agreed to pursue the current status of the grant application.

Planning Committee 1st June 2011

27.6 There were no matters arising.

Tourism Committee 1st June 2011

27.7 Minute 1 Tourist Information Centre (TIC) – The Clerk advised that following a site inspection it was clear that access could be obtained to the TIC from the existing door even when the library is closed. It is therefore, intended to proceed with the works identified except without the need to provide a new door from the outside.

27.8 Minute 2 Blooming Mold – Councillor Chris Bithell expressed disappointment that the competition would not proceed this year. It was stressed that commencing the marketing of the competition in the autumn would ensure that momentum was maintained.

28. CORRESPONDENCE

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

28.1 The Council considered the correspondence Ms. S. Hipkiss relating to concerns about the groups of people collecting in the Daniel Owen Square. Having debated the matter with Inspector Iwan Jones and Sgt Andy Griffiths earlier in the meeting, the Council felt that it would be inappropriate to consider moving any benches but to see how the situation developed. It was again stressed that any concerns should be immediately reported to the Police.

28.2 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising of proposals for the upgrading of the pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Fire Station at Leadmills. The Council remained of the view that a gantry is required to ensure the safety of pedestrians crossing the road. It was agreed to ask the County Council to review its decision and to request a meeting with County Officers to discuss this further. The Council also noted the proposal to upgrade the crossing at Chester Road and whilst welcoming the upgrade felt that any works should be delayed until the traffic arrangements and planning application for the proposed Sainsburys' Store have been determined.

28.3 The Council noted the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising of the appointment of Gwynedd Consultancy to undertake the design and development phase of the Mold Flood Alleviation Scheme.

28.4 The Council noted the correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate regarding the traffic arrangements following the planning appeal for the Lidl Store.

28.5 The Council noted the correspondence from Flintshire County Council confirming its willingness to cost a refurbishment scheme for the public toilets in the Daniel Owen Centre. It was also noted that the proposals, once developed, will be discussed with the Daniel Owen Community Association.

28.6 The Council noted the correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate allowing the appeal against the refusal of planning permission for a maximum of 50 dwelling at land off Ruthin Road.

28.7 The Council noted the correspondence from Sandy Mewies AM enclosing a letter from Inspector Andrew Williams, North Wales Police, advising that Mold Custody Suite is to be 'mothballed' from 8th July 2011.

28.8 The Council noted the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising of the arrangements for this year's summer playschemes in the Town.

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

29. 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) Darby and Joan Club	£300.00
b) Flintshire Diabetes Voluntary Support Group	£100.00
c) Mold Phoenix Morris Dancers	£250.00
d) Gwyl Daniel Owen Festival	£350.00

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

30. PUBLIC CONVENIENCE SERVICE

The Council considered the previously circulated letter advising of a review of public conveniences in the County.

The Council was of the view that the provision of public conveniences is a 'core' service of the County Council. The Council believed that the majority of the public 'expect' public conveniences to be provided within Towns and it is considered particularly important in a market town that is endeavouring to encourage tourism, develop an evening economy and be a visitor destination.

The Council accepted that the service may not realise a 'profit' but it also accepted that conveniences of a high standard and even an increased provision should be available within the Town. The Council believes that it would be a retrograde step to consider the closure of any of the public conveniences.

The Council believes that the opportunity should be taken to consider the provision of facilities that are paid for by users and also the use of facilities within existing retail and business premises.

Resolved: It was resolved to respond to the Head of Streetscene as detailed above.

31. HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE SERVICE

The Council considered the previously circulated letter advising of a review of the household recycling centre services in the County.

The Council felt that if fly tipping were to be eliminated, it was essential that the household recycling centre services were retained. It was also felt that it would be difficult to introduce a 'residents only' policy at the centres particularly as there will be a number of Flintshire residents who use sites within neighbouring council areas.

The Council wondered why there was considered to be a need to review the current permit scheme for vans and large trailers. It was accepted that there needs to be a system that ensures there is no abuse in the disposal of trade waste, but the Council understood that the current systems works well.

It was suggested that the County Council should look at the design of the household recycling centres where the use of stairs does not make disposal easy. It is understood that the facility at Greenfield allows for the disposal of waste without having to negotiate stairs on a 'drive and drop' basis. The Council also felt that the opportunity should be taken to develop the household recycling centres as educational establishments to increase the public's understanding of recycling and allow for school visits.

Resolved: It was resolved to respond to the Head of Streetscene as detailed above.

32. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Town Centre Manager reported verbally to the Council on the following:

- Discussions are proceeding between Sainsbury's and the rugby, football and cricket clubs and representatives of the Town Partnership. Arrangements are being made for the company to meet with the Town Council and Cittaslow Mold in September 2011. The County Council has agreed to fund a feasibility study on the longer term options for the rugby, football and cricket clubs and representatives of the Town Council and Town Partnership will be involved in the discussions.
- Costa Coffee and the Card Factory had recently opened with planning permission granted for the change of use to an office of the former Choices unit for Working Links, a recruitment agency. The Town Centre Manager advised that there was interest in one of the units in St David's Walk for a coffee shop.
- Draft proposals for the tourist information points in the Town would be available for discussion at the Tourism Committee in the near future.
- The condition of the frontage of the former 'Black Lion' at the entrance to B&M Bargains has been referred to the owners of the building and the County Council's Conservation Officer has been advised of concerns.

- Following the presentation of the Wales National Award in the Action for Market Towns competition, Mold Spring Clean is to be automatically entered into the All England and Wales competition with judging taking place in October 2011. The Town Centre Manager again expressed his thanks to Robert Davies, winner of this year's Sid Matthews Community Award, for his support as 'Springy'.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

33. REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Council noted receipt of the copy of the Local Government Boundary Commission's proposals for electoral arrangements in Flintshire.

It was also noted that the Minister, Carl Sargeant AM, has advised that the next elections due in May 2012 will be held on the existing boundaries and that the County Council's Chief Executive has advised that the County Council supports a whole County review following the difficult experience of the Boundary Commission Review. The Chief Executive had also advised that he is awaiting further information from the Boundary Commission on a model process for conducting a community review and that once this information is to hand he will discuss the matter with the Town Council.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

34. BAND COMMITTEE

Resolved: It was resolved to nominate Councillor Tony Cattermoul to represent the Council on the Mold Town Concert Band Management Committee.

35. NOTICES OF MOTION

35.1 On the proposal of Councillor Andrea Mearns it was agreed that the County Council be asked to ensure the protection of the Bryn Gwalia Bowling Green for community use and in view of the shortage of community gardens endeavour to secure use of the site for that purpose.

36. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

37. MEETINGS ATTENDED

37.1 Councillor Andrea Mearns advised of her attendance at recent meetings of the Bryn Gwalia Communities First Partnership Board to review the financial systems and at the Parkfields Management Committee when thanks were expressed for the Council's grant towards the Bubblegum club. Councillor Mearns also advised of her attendance at a meeting with Shelley Barratt to discuss the possibility of holding an antiques and collectors market in the Town.

Reference was also made to a meeting of the Daniel Owen Festival committee with plans taking shape and funding being sought for the event. Councillor Mearns

advised of a visit by representatives of Cittaslow Berwick on Tweed to Mold and her attendance at the Cittaslow International Assembly in Poland when she was re-elected as a Vice President.

Councillor Mearns referred to the success of the Bailey Hill Festival and expressed thanks to those who had helped on the day.

37.2. Councillor Bryan Grew referred to the meeting with colleagues about the Council's response to the Flintshire Charter and highlighted the views of the Chief Executive of One Voice Wales who urged caution.

Councillor Grew also advised of his attendance at a meeting of the Mold Food and Drink Festival Committee and highlighted the confusion resulting from the inclusion on the Dee Valley Events website of details of a 'seasonal' festival. It was agreed to write to Dee Valley Events welcoming the event but advising that the use of the existing terminology was causing confusion.

38 . 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 June 2011
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
Councillor Andrea Mearns	Financial Assistance	29(d)