

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 24th April 2013.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Geoff Collett (Mayor), Haydn Bateman, Chris Bithell, Richard Brookes, Geoff Darkins, Ray Dodd, Bob Gaffey, Bryan Grew, Robin Guest, Carol Heycocks, Brian Lloyd, Geoff Matthias, Andrea Mearns, Anthony Parry, Phil Thomas and Gareth Williams with the Clerk and Finance Officer and Town Centre Manager.

APOLOGIES: None

159. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

160. FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Mayor welcomed Mr Andy Roberts Planning Strategy Manager from Flintshire County Council and invited him to speak. Mr Andy Roberts introduced himself and thanked members for the welcomed invitation to attend the Council Meeting to discuss the process for developing the County's Local Development Plan (LDP). He advised that the process was new, and differed to the Unitary Development Plan (UDP). He explained that the new approach would allow for a greater opportunity for early involvement for the Town Council and other stakeholders, unlike the UDP process.

Andy Roberts advised that there would be an 18 month consultation process before the LDP is drafted, and unlike the UDP will have no weight until it is inspected after completion. He advised that Mold was in a good position as significant pieces of work have already been carried out such as the Sense of Place Study, and the current Strategic Sites Assessment, which would form part of the evidence gathering for the LDP. In addition the County would welcome stakeholder feedback on what the desires for Mold are into the future. Andy Roberts advised that there is also work currently being carried out on traffic flow data gathering, which will build a transport model. This was on-going work and he would be happy to return to the Town with the results.

Andy Roberts advised that Mold, one of the principle settlements in the County have many planning applications throughout the year, and there is a need to consider the future capacity of the town.

Reference was made to the LDP guidance provided by Welsh Government (WG) which highlights the key stages involved. A significant condition of the LDP is the requirement to deliver the completed Plan within an agreed time frame, approximately 5 years. The first stage of this would be to have approved a Time Frame Delivery Agreement by WG. The draft of this agreement is almost complete, which will then be consulted on during the summer of 2013. Accompanying this agreement would be a Statement of Community Involvement, showing the

mechanisms involved including feedback. Any significant variances to the time frame would have to be justified with WG.

The next stage of the process would include a “Call for Sites” requesting expressions of interest for land to be included within the plan from the public and stakeholders. These sites would be considered for inclusion within the LDP.

Andy Roberts gave an example of a local community who had prepared a Community Plan, which he had supported. The Plan presents the views of the community. This process is not the only way that could be adopted, as a town the size of Mold could develop a Master Plan to link various sites. Andy Roberts offered to meet with the Council to assist in developing a suitable plan.

Councillor Chris Bithell asked if the Community of Gwernymynydd had received assistance from Andy Roberts. Andy Roberts advised that they had worked together on the Plan. This process was new in Wales, and they went through a learning process as the Plan was developed. Councillor Bithell asked if there was a template that could be followed, and he was advised that there was a draft Flintshire Corporate guide that Andy would forward to the Clerk.

Councillor Andrea Mearns asked if all towns in the County were expected to work at the same speed in developing a Plan. She was advised that the key stage for involvement and influencing the development of the LDP is the first 18 months, this is the timeframe he would want towns and communities to work to. Andy Roberts added that 12 months from now the core Strategy for the LDP will be developed. In response Councillor Mearns asked if the Town Council would benefit from developing a Community Plan within the next 12 months. Andy Roberts agreed, adding that the further down the process the more difficult it will be to influence.

Following a question from Councillor Bob Gaffey relating to Green Barriers between Mold and the surrounding communities, Andy Roberts advised that Mold as a principle settlement with a high level of services can sustain a certain amount of development. He added that the land which had housing development on had not been Green Barrier following a review, the land had been identified for housing allocation within the UDP.

The Mayor thanks Andy Roberts for discussing the process which had highlighted the work required by the Town Council, to ensure stakeholder views were considered during the development of the LDP.

Resolved: It was resolved that members of the Planning Committee would meet to consider the development of a Community Plan or similar, with an open invitation for all members to attend.

161. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor handed out a printed sheet showing all activities since the last meeting (attached). He updated members on the success of the Mold Spring Clean and thanked the Town Centre Manager for his hard work ensuring the Spring Clean was a success. The Mayor advised members that the Charity Dinner Dance and Auction had raised an amazing £10,000 for the Mold Community Hospital League of Friends

appeal. In addition the Community Hospital Action Group had also raised £10,000 since January bringing the total to over £20,000 raised to date for the x-ray equipment appeal.

Members were also advised that the next big event for the continued funding raising would be the Ken Dodd Happiness Show to be held at Clwyd Theatr Cymru on 24 July 2013. Councillor Carol Heycocks expressed her congratulation to the Mayor for the successful Charity Dinner Dance and Auction, which was supported by all members.

162. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27th March 2013 be received and approved;
- b) The minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 2nd April 2013 be received and noted.
- c) The minutes of the meetings of the Audit Sub-Committee Committee held on 8th and 15th April 2013 be received and approved.

163. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council 27th March 2013

163.1 Minute 147.4 Report of the Town Centre Manager – Councillor Bob Gaffey asked if a meeting of the Tourism Committee had been arranged. The Clerk advised that a meeting had been agreed for Monday 13th May 2013 at 5.30pm.

163.2 Minute 147.3 Minute 126 Proposed Car Park Policy – Councillor Bob Gaffey asked if the meeting had been confirmed with Flintshire County Council. The Clerk advised that a meeting had been arranged for Thursday 23rd May 2013 at 10.00am. Following a request from members the Clerk agreed to contact Flintshire requesting that in addition to the County Councillors, a Town Councillor from each ward could attend the meeting.

163.3 Minute 148.10 Correspondence – Councillor Bob Gaffey asked if confirmation had been received from Flintshire on the date that the works to Hawthorn Avenue play area would commence. The Clerk advised that she had not been given a date, but believed it would be imminent as the funding had come from the 2012/13 budget.

163.4 Minute 149 Report of the Town Centre Manager – Councillor Bob Gaffey asked if arrangements had been made for first aid training for members. The Town Centre Manager advised that he had not yet confirmed any dates, but would contact the Trainer to make arrangements.

163.5 Minute 151 Parkfields Community Centre – Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that the Annual General Meeting of Centre is on 11th June 2013 at 7.30pm.

163.6 Minute 152 Notice of Motion – The Clerk was asked if there was any update on the contact made with the Alzheimer’s Society and the possibility of them attending a future meeting. The Clerk advised that she had emailed the Society, but to date had not received a response. However, the Society’s website does provide information on Dementia Friendly Communities.

163.7 Minute 154.3 Meetings Attended – Councillor Andrea Mearns asked if there had been any progress for an invitation to Nia Wright-Morgan from Wales Co-Operative Centre to attend a future meeting of the Council to give a presentation on Social Enterprises. The Clerk advised that she had not yet made contact with Nia Wright-Morgan.

163.8 Minute 158.1 Cemetery Extension – The Mayor advised members that a pre-contract meeting had been held with the successful tenderer and the works on site are likely to commence 13th May 2013.

Planning Committee 12th March 2013

163.9 Minute 36.2 Planning Applications – Councillor Mearns advised that the Ramblers had now produced a claim form for people who use the footpath through Kendrick’s field in a bid to retain the path following the recent planning application.

164. CORRESPONDENCE

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

164.1 The Council considered the correspondence received from John Les Tomos, providing a report on the last Mold Food and Drink Festival in 2012. Councillor Andrea Mearns welcome the document adding it was very useful. Councillor Bob Gaffey asked for clarification on the reduced funding for 2013. Councillor Bryan Grew advised that the funding had been reduced to £9,000 for this year, as funding would not be received from Cadwyn Clwyd. Councillor Chris Bithell advised members of a paper considered by the Cabinet at Flintshire County Council, which had been supported by Edwina Hart Minister for Economy Science and Transport. The paper had identified the importance of strengthening the Mersey Dee Alliance and suggests that the boarder is not recognised by many people. Councillor Bithell suggested this paper could be used to support the Food and Drink Festival Committee as they are faced with the Welsh Government requirements for 75% of the stalls at the next festival to be Welsh.

164.2 The Council noted the correspondence received from Sandie Mewies AM, providing a copy of the Record of Proceedings relating to the questions asked by Sandie Mewies AM on the new Vibrant and Viable Places Strategy.

164.3 The Council noted the correspondence received from One Voice Wales relating to The Big Lunch event on 2nd June 2013, encouraging communities to take a greener approach and hold waste free events locally this summer.

164.4 The Council noted the correspondence received from North Wales Police advising of an operation which is aimed at reducing motorcycle related deaths and serious injuries on the roads of North Wales.

164.5 The Council noted the correspondence received from the Acting Chief Executive at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) in response to the request from the Town Council for new signage to the Community Hospital. The Town Council is advised that the Health Board will be in contact with the County Council's Highways Department to enquire if the current signage can be improved and/or upgraded.

164.6 The Council noted the correspondence received from Lawrence Rawsthorne, the Head of Culture and Leisure at Flintshire County Council, advising the Council that match funding for 2013/14 has been approved for play areas. A draft upgrading scheme is being prepared for the Council's consideration for improvements to Gas Lane.

164.7 The Council noted the correspondence received from One Voice Wales providing guidance for farmers and local authorities affected by the extreme recent weather conditions, with a copy of the guidance being available from the Clerk on request.

164.8 The Council noted the correspondence received from Mr. Tomos Gwyn, who is the young man the Town Council gave financial support to which will enable him to visit Patagonia. Mr. Gwyn expressed his thanks, and has offered to attend a future meeting of the Town Council following his return to share his experiences.

164.9 The Council considered the correspondence received from Flintshire County Council confirming that a Community Review will be conducted, with the formal consultation period commencing on 1 May 2013. The Clerk advised that two dates had now been provisionally agreed for 22nd and 23rd May, and once the date is confirmed she would advise the members further. Councillor Chris Bithell asked if the Town Council had received information on the principles of the Community Review, as he was aware that a number of Town or Community Councils had written to the County Council in response to the principles. The Clerk advised that she had not received any information to date, but would make enquiries with the County Council.

164.10 The Council noted the correspondence received from One Voice Wales, advising of a training event on Allotments/Community Growing. The event in Mold will be held on 19th June 2013, and members wishing to attend the session should inform the Clerk following the meeting.

164.11 The Council noted the correspondence received from Sandie Mewies, AM, providing further information on Vibrant and Viable

164.12 The Council noted the correspondence received from Flintshire County Council providing an update on the Dog Watch Scheme.

164.13 The Council noted the correspondence received from North Wales Police providing details of the Seatbelt Campaign.

164.14 The Council noted the correspondence received from Carolyn Thomas, Vice Chair of Flintshire County Council seeking volunteers to take part in a Coastal Charity Walk to raise money for the Mold Community Hospital, which will take place

on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th May. The Mayor advised that he would be happy to take part in the walk. Members agreed to sponsor the Mayor's participation.

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

165. ELECTION OF MAYOR 2013/14

Resolved: It was resolved that Councillor Robin Guest be elected Mayor for the forthcoming year 2013/14.

166. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

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

That Town Centre Manager gave an update on the recent success of the Mold Spring Clean which took place from 12th to 15th April. Over 740 volunteers took part during the weekend, with 340 bin bags of rubbish collected and several large items such as TV's. The Cub Scouts had prepared the planters near to the Co-op and the land near the Cemetery had been cleared by Probation Services. Wild flowers had been planted and the trees at St. Mary's Park had been sheathed. However, due to the poor weather on the Sunday not all tasks were carried out, and the Town Centre Manager sought volunteers to complete the outstanding tasks, which included the staining of benches.

The Town Centre Manager reported that a number of shop units were empty on New Street, but there were some positives with Forrester's expanding and moving their unit to the former Hop It shop. Town and Country were also expanding and would be moving into Forrester's former shop unit, and there was also some interest being shown in the other empty units.

In promoting the Town, the Town Centre Manager and Councillor Mearns had both been interviewed on Radio Wales that morning, which had proved to be very positive.

The Town Centre Manager advised that he had worked with the Mold Independent Retailers Community (MIRC) over the Easter Period with the Easter Egg hunt competition. He also advised that over the coming week's further consultation will be taking place for the future development of the Daniel Owen Square.

In closing his presentation the Town Centre Manager advised members of up and coming events including the Virgin Arts exhibition from 6th to 11th May, the Pass on a Smile Day on 14th May, the Bailey Hill Festival on 23rd June and the Carnival on 14th July.

167. AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council considered the previously circulated report containing the suggested revised Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment, based on the model set of Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment provided by the Society of Local Council Clerks, and reviewed in detail by the Audit Sub-Committee.

Subject to the amendment within the Financial Regulations allowing the CRFO incurring expenditure necessary to carry out any repair replacement or other work which is of such extreme urgency with a limit of £1,500 instead of £500. The amendment would also include an additional sentence advising that the CRFO would report any emergency expenditure above this figure to the Mayor or Deputy Mayor.

Resolved: It was resolved that subject to the amendments as detailed above the revised Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment be approved.

168. FINAL ACCOUNTS

The Council considered the previously circulated report setting out the accounts of the Town Council for the year 2012/13 which included:

- a) Summary Income and Expenditure Account;
- b) Balance sheet;
- c) Details of the Expenditure incurred within the year;
- d) Summary of Expenditure and Income for 2012/13; and
- e) Bank and Cash Reconciliation for the year.

Resolved: It was resolved that the accounts be approved for audit.

169. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

170. MEETINGS ATTENDED

170.1 Councillor Geoff Darkins advised that he had attending the Mold Town Band Annual General Meeting. The Band had welcomed an extra 10 members in the last year. He advised that the Band would be having a Christmas show in aid of the x-ray equipment appeal for Mold Community Hospital.

170.2 Councillor Mearns advised that Parkfields Community Centre and Communities First have now starting the second stage of the household energy reduction programme in Mold. Geoff King of Brook Lyndhurst has met some people involved to help him design energy reduction pilots to be used across Wales.

170.3 Councillor Mearns advised that Parkfields Community Centre will be holding a Strawberry Fair on the afternoon of Saturday 11 May 2013. All organisations are invited to take a stand, or help steward. Those that are interested should contact Mal Breeze at the Centre.

170.4 Councillor Mearns advised members that the first stage for the Local Produce Officer application has been approved by Cadwyn Clwyd and the outcome on the applications success should be provided next week.

170.5 Councillors Mearns advised that she had attended the Cittaslow International Coordination meeting in Finland. They are looking at creating a European Grouping

of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) to enable Cittaslow towns involved to bid directly for EU funding. Councillor Mearns will be speaking with Derek Vaughan MEP's and seeking advice. If he supported the idea then an item will be included on the agenda of the Town Council at the end of May. Councillor Mearns will also like the Mold Town Partnership and Flintshire County Council's Regeneration Department to be consulted.

170.6 Councillor Mearns advised that Flintshire Foodbank is looking for access to a van to deliver food to rural communities. They would be happy to share with an organisation that has a van which is not used all the time, or is going out to those areas already. If anyone can help they can contact Peter Dorricott or Andy Leake at the Foodbank.

171. 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.

172. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

173. SID MATTHEWS COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Council considered the previously circulated confidential report from the panel appointed to consider nominations for the Sid Matthews Community Awards 2013.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report be approved and that the following awards be given:

- a) For "Outstanding Voluntary Service by an Individual" – Helen Bravey;
- b) For "Outstanding Voluntary Service by a Local Organisation" – Mold Food and Drink Festival; and
- c) For "Outstanding Voluntary Service / Achievements by a Young Person": Sarah Kirkham.

174. BAILEY HILL LODGE.

The Mayor and Councillor Andrea Mearns gave a brief update to members of the progress that had been made at a recent meeting.

Resolved: It was resolved that an update would be provided to the Town Council at each monthly meeting on the progress of the Bailey Hill Lodge.

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

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL	DATE: 24th April 2013
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
None		

SR/MINUTES/MTC/MTCMINS130424

List of Mayors Engagements Since 27th February 2013

- 28th Feb. Attended County Forum meeting at Connah's Quay town hall
- 6th March Awarded Mold Coral Society cheque from Town Council.
- 7th March Attended meeting for the food festival 12th Feb.
- 8th March Attended dinner at Deeside college for the chair of Flintshire County Council.
- 12th March Attended Mold Town Partnership meeting.
- 13th March Attended meeting of Mold Hospital League of Friends.
- 15th March Attended Connah's Quay Chairman's Dinner.
- 18th March Attended a meeting in the Town Hall of a group of interested parties to raise funds for the Mold Hospital League of Friends to help purchase new X-Ray equipment.
- 19th March Presented cheque to organisers of the St Mary the Virgin Art Festival.
- 21st March Attended presentation in Colwyn Bay to members of groups and individuals who had collected for last year's "Poppy Appeal".
- 25th March Attended a photo shoot to open the Easter Egg Hunt organised by Mold Independent Traders.