

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 18th July 2012.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Geoff Collett (Mayor), Hadyn Bateman, Chris Bithell, 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:

Councillors: Richard Brookes and Geoff Darkins.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

45. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised of his engagements since the last meeting.

The Mayor advised that he had attended the Flint Mayor's Civic Service, a concert at the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen and a concert by the Mold Clippers.

The Mayor made special reference to the Mold Flower Festival held at St. Mary's Parish Church which he opened. He advised that the wonderful display of flowers was a culmination of work involving the Churches and many community groups. The Mayor also advised that he had presented some of the prizes for the 'Blooming Mold' competition and he congratulated the winners.

Reference was also made to the Mold Carnival and the Mayor extended his thanks to Helen Perry and all the other volunteers who helped to make the day such a success.

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

47. STREETSCENE

The Mayor welcomed Harvey Mitchell Streetscene Manager and Fraser Roberts, Area Supervisor to the meeting.

Mr. Mitchell advised that the principle behind the development of the Streetscene arrangements was to bring together a number of different services of the Council under one umbrella organisation with one point of contact for the residents of the County. At an operational level, the County has been divided into 12 areas with Fraser Roberts being the Area Supervisor for Mold with targets being set for service

delivery. Mr. Mitchell indicated that extra staff were being recruited to the 'call centre' at this time and it was envisaged that callers should not have to wait longer than 20 seconds for a response.

Mr. Mitchell advised that it was the role of the Area Supervisor to undertake environmental audits of the area with Police and County Councillors and it was hoped that Town Councillors would provide information for those audits rather than attending the audit itself. Mr. Mitchell advised of the changing role and working patterns of the workforce and indicated that over a period of 18 months it was envisaged that a multi-skilled workforce would be established.

In response to questions, Mr. Mitchell indicated that dog fouling is a major concern. He advised that enforcement teams were being established to ensure that irresponsible dog owners cleaned up behind them. The County Council is looking to provide dual purpose bins, dog and litter, and reference should be made to the Area Supervisor if there were problems with emptying. Mr. Mitchell also advised that poster publicity campaigns against dog fouling were being pursued alongside the possible provision of 'doggie bags' from libraries and other venues.

Comments were made on the condition of the entrances to some of the car parks and the proposals to reinstate some of the traffic markings on the roads in the Town. It was agreed to ask Highways if it is necessary to paint new markings when there is a need to review the overall parking restrictions in the Town.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Roberts for their attendance and their comments.

48. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27th June 2012 be received and approved;
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5th July 2012 be received and noted; and
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 21st June 2012 be received and noted.

49. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council 27th June 2012

49.1 Minute 31 Policing Matters – Councillor Carol Heycocks advised the Council of an accident on Victoria Road and expressed concern about the traffic outside Bryn Coch School. It was agreed to ask Inspector Andy Griffiths for any feedback following his comments at the last meeting when he said that he would investigate concerns at Victoria Road and other streets in the Town. Members expressed their concern at the effect on the policing of the area with the requirement on North Wales Police to provide assistance at the Olympic Games. It was also agreed to write to

complain about the failure of G4S to fulfil its commitment to provide staff for the Games.

49.2 Minute 35.1 Bailey Hill Lodge – Members felt that the heads of terms for Bailey Hill Lodge could be circulated and considered prior to finalising the funding for repairs. It was agreed to pursue the matter with the County Council's Chief Executive.

49.3 Minute 35.4 Lamp Post Banners – The Town Centre Manager advised he understood that approval would be forthcoming for banners for both the Food and Drink Festival and the Daniel Owen Festival.

50. CORRESPONDENCE

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

50.1 The Council noted the correspondence advising of the arrangements for this year's summer playschemes in Mold. It was agreed to advise the County Council that indoor facilities could be available for use at the Club House, Methodist Church and Bryn Coch School.

50.2 The Council noted receipt of the consultation paper 'Payments by Parish and Community Councils and Charter Trustees' from the Department for Communities and Local Government. It was agreed that the paper should be considered by the Audit Sub Committee with authority being given for the Sub Committee to respond on behalf of the Council.

50.3 The Council considered the correspondence from the Secretary of Mold Juniors Football Club, an adult team (over 16's) playing in the Welsh National League Division 1, seeking financial assistance to allow them to participate in the league later this year. The Clerk advised that the usual timescale for considering grant applications would not assist the Club. It was therefore agreed further information should be sought from the Club and that authority be given to the Financial Assistance Panel to determine the whether a grant should be given and the amount of that grant if appropriate.

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

51. MOLD FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

The Clerk reported on the recent meeting, facilitated by David Hanson MP, with Sandy Mewies AM and representatives of Flintshire County Council, Environment Agency (Wales), Welsh Water, Gwynedd Consulting to review the current position regarding the Mold flood alleviation scheme. Many Members of the Council had attended the meeting.

It was reported that the scheme proposed the development of a channel / culvert from the by-pass roundabout on Ruthin Road linking into the River Alyn at Rhyd y Goleu. Site investigations are due to be completed this month with a detailed design prepared by the end of August 2012. Landowner and environmental considerations should be completed by the end of January 2013 followed by a planning application

and grant applications made to the Welsh Government. It is envisaged that a start on site could be achieved by the summer of 2013 with a contract lasting eight months.

It was also reported that further works within the Town would be required from Welsh Water following completion of the alleviation scheme.

Information will be made available to residents and other interested bodies once the detailed design of the scheme has been completed. It was acknowledged that there can be no guarantees that flooding will never recur but it is hoped that the assessments by the design engineers have taken into account changes in the climate of the area.

Resolved: It was resolved David Hanson MP be thanked for his help in facilitating the meeting and that the situation be monitored.

52. ACCOUNTS 2012 / 13 – QUARTERLY REVIEW

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing the first quarterly review of its accounts for the current financial year.

The Clerk explained the structure of the accounts and commented on the appendices giving the details of the transactions and income received since 1st April 2012.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

53. ANNUAL RETURN & INTERMEDIATE AUDIT 2011 / 12

The Council considered the report of the Auditor and noted that there are no issues arising from the external audit of the accounts for the year 2011/12. The Council formally approved the Annual Return, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda, for return to the Auditor and final completion of the audit.

Resolved: It was resolved to approve the Annual Return for signing by the Mayor and return to the Auditor.

54. MOLD TOWN PARTNERSHIP

The Council considered the report of the Town Centre Manager which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Town Centre Manager advised that the Mold Town Partnership (MTP) had been successful because of its inclusivity and its ability to obtain grants for a variety of projects. However, the development of the MTP had now reached the stage where it needs a formal constitution and the establishment of an executive which is not too unwieldy to take action when needed.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

a) The Council continues to support the role, work and management of the Mold Town Partnership;

b) The Mayor be nominated as the representative of the Council on the executive of Mold Town Partnership and to serve, as with other members of the executive, a two year term. On the Mayor's retirement from office on the executive, the then Mayor will become the Council's nominated representative on the same terms; and

c) Any other Members interested in being on the Mold Town Partnership contact the Regeneration Officer at the County Council or attend the Annual General Meeting.

55. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Council considered a verbal report from the Town Centre Manager.

The Town Centre Manager commented on the success of both the Flower Festival and the Carnival and it was agreed to write and thank the organisers of both events for their efforts.

Reference was made to the forthcoming Mold Food and Drink Festival and it was reported that the Food Trail (1st – 23rd September) was developing well with some 23 establishments agreeing to participate.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report and approve the actions detailed above.

56. PROMOTING LOCAL DEMOCRACY – WHITE PAPER

The report of the group of Members suggesting a response to the Welsh Government's White Paper 'Promoting Local Democracy' was circulated for the Council to consider.

In recommending approval of the response Councillor Bryan Grew suggested that reference be made to the lack of positive action and the need to give priority to the involvement of local councils (not primary councils) resulting from the Local Government (Wales) Measure which has now come into effect.

Councillor Grew also recommended that a further reference be made to support the need for the training of local councillors but to highlight the role that One Voice Wales does and can play.

Resolved: It was resolved to note that the response be approved subject to the inclusion of the above comments.

57. NOTICES OF MOTION

57.1 The Council considered the proposal of Councillor Phil Thomas and agreed to ask Flintshire County Council to provide bicycle and wheelchair / pram access to Maes Gwern from Upper Bryn Coch. It was noted that the current access is by way of a gate off Upper Bryn Coch which is only suitable for pedestrians. Members acknowledged that Maes Gwern forms a potentially useful link for cyclists in and around St Mary's Gardens to access the Sports Centre / Mold Alun School / Ysgol Maes Garmon and could also be of benefit to residents in the Broncoed Lane area

seeking to avoid the town centre. It was also noted that it would be necessary to move one of the stones currently spread across Maes Gwern to allow access for wheelchairs and prams to pass.

57.2 The Council considered the proposal of Councillor Bryan Grew and agreed that the possible formation of a Mold Youth Action Group, along the lines of that operating in Penarth, be considered at the next meeting of the Youth Council.

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

58. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

59. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Members referred to their attendance at the Flower Festival and Carnival and supported the earlier comments about both events.

59.1 Councillors Geoff Matthias, Chris Bithell and Bob Gaffey referred to their attendance at a recent meeting of the Daniel Owen Community Association and commented on the issues arising.

59.2 Councillor Andrea Mearns advised of her attendance at a meeting of Mold Rotary Club and advised that Brian Acty and Harry Roberts had been elected as Chairman and Community Representative respectively.

Councillor Mearns also advised of her attendance at the Hospitality and Food Conference and suggested that it may be appropriate to invite the County Council's Interim Facilities Manager to a future meeting of the Town Council to discuss public procurement.

59.3 Councillor Bryan Grew referred to his attendance at a meeting of One Voice Wales and advised that membership had increased to 543 local councils.

60. 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: 18th July 2012
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
None		

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