

## **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

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

### **PRESENT:**

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

### **APOLOGIES:**

Councillors: Bryan Grew and Robin Guest  
Town Centre Manager

### **78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

### **79. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor handed out a printed sheet showing all activities since the last meeting. The Mayor advised on the forthcoming Remembrance Sunday service on 11<sup>th</sup> November and asked that all members who wished to walk with the parade to be present at the car park for 9.30am.

The Mayor confirmed that arrangements had been made for Mold's Civic Service for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2012, 3.00pm at St. Mary's Church, Mold, and he changed the format for this year with the intention that the service would be attended by as many organisations and the public as possible. The Mayor sought volunteers to assist with the provision and serving of refreshments following the service, and asked that anyone wishing to help to advise the Clerk following the meeting.

The Mayor also sought volunteers for the Novemberfest for the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> November.

### **80. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012 be received and approved;
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012 be received and noted

## **81. MATTERS ARISING**

### **Mold Town Council 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

Minute 62 Mayor's Announcements – Councillor Chris Bithell asked if there had been press coverage following the Town Councils award received from the Best Kept Communities Competition. The Clerk agreed to obtain the photographs taken and provide a press release to the local press.

Minute 64 Matters Arising – Councillor Bob Gaffey advised that following concerns raised by this Council relating to the Tegeingl Festival he had spoken with the Committee about the general impression that the festival is conducted in the medium of Welsh, and they had advised that all the information on the festival does state that it is bilingual.

Minute 51- Councillor Bob Gaffey asked if there was an update following the flood alleviation meeting with residents. Councillor Haydn Bateman advised that only five residents had been present, and that work is being progressed.

Minute 57.1 Notice of Motion – Councillor Chris Bithell asked what works this related to, and asked that it be included in the minutes. The Clerk advised that Flintshire County Council had agreed to support the request to provide bicycle and wheelchair / pram access to Maes Gwern from Upper Bryn Coch, and had requested a quote for the works required. The Clerk advised that Flintshire may seek match funding from the Council in the region of £250.00. A further update will be provided when more details are available.

Minute 59.2 Meetings Attended – Councillor Bob Gaffey asked if an invitation had been made to the County Council's Interim Facilities Manager to attend a future meeting of the Council to discuss public procurement. The Clerk advised it had been arranged for the Interim Facilities Manager to attend the November meeting.

Minute 65.3 Correspondence – Councillor Chris Bithell gave an update on the position regarding the Regional Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Project and advised that there are concerns relating to the merging of the systems with Conwy, resulting in the project being delayed.

Minute 65.9 Correspondence – The Clerk advised that confirmation had been received from the County Council that they would be introducing combined litter/dog waste bins. Concerns were raised that residents may object to this, and may not want to use the combined bins, which could create a litter problem.

Minute 71 Report of Town Centre Manager – Councillor Chris Bithell gave an update on his attendance at the workshop on Car Parking Policy organised by the County Council. He advised that there had been a wide ranging discussion, with the views of Mold being expressed.

## **82. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

82.1 The Council noted the correspondence received from the Secretary of Mold Cytun with their congratulations on the outstanding success of the Mold Flower Festive held at St. Mary's Church last June.

82.2 The Council considered the correspondence received from Flintshire County Council in response to the request for confirmation on the introduction of combined litter/dog waste bins. In the future Flintshire intend to install combined litter/dog waste bins instead of specific dog waste receptacles. In essence these will be litter bins with a sticker saying that dog waste can be deposited in them. Councillor Bithell reiterated his earlier comments and asked if this would be acceptable to the public, and believed there could be resistance. He had spoken with the Head of Streetscene about his concerns, and the Head of Streetscene had advised that the Streetscene service were being careful where they placed the combined bins. Councillor Gareth Williams suggested this issue should be addressed by the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee at the County Council.

Councillor Andrea Mearns tabled a paper relating to dog waste and anaerobic digestion, and upon speaking to the paper suggested that the County Council should wait until the New Year before introducing the combined waste bins when the outcome of the research would be known. It was agreed that the Council write to the County Council outlining the concerns.

82.3 The Council noted the correspondence received from the Town Clerks at Saltney Town Council and Hope Community Council in relation to the BCUHB consultation document on proposed changes to Health Care in North Wales. The Town Councils wished to share their views with Mold Town Council. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to both Saltney and Hope thanking them for their support.

82.4 The Council considered the correspondence received from the Chair of the Local Access Forum, including the minutes of the inaugural meeting of the project on Volunteering between the Local Access for and Town & Community Councils. Whilst Mold Town Council did not attend the first meeting, an invitation is open for the Council to participate. There are two further projects on Publicity and Obstruction Free Walks, with inaugural meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October. Councillor Haydn Bateman agreed to attend the next meeting relating to Obstruction Free Walks.

82.5 The Council noted the correspondence received from the Head of Assets and Transportation at Flintshire County Council following this Council's support of the proposed traffic calming measures on Gas Lane, Mold. The letter advised that the proposal will now include a pair of cushions on either side of the raised table. The County Council acknowledged their appreciation for the support of the Town Council with regard to the traffic calming.

82.6 The Council considered the invitation received from the Treasurer and Administrator to the Clwyd Pension fund to attend the Annual Joint Consultative Meeting (AJCM), to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012. It was agreed that Councillor Bryan Grew would attend the meeting with the Clerk.

82.7 The Council considered the correspondence received from Flintshire County Council reporting on the Flintshire County Summer Playscheme Programme, 2012. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the organisers congratulating them on the success of the scheme.

82.8 The Council noted the correspondence received from Environment Protection at Flintshire County Council, providing a response on the introduction of a by-law for the control of dogs from Maes Bodlonfa Recreation Ground. The County had advised that at this time the County had made the decision to firstly implement Dog Control Orders. In the future they will consider the introduction of Dog Exclusion Zones which will be done in consultation with Town & Community Councils. In addition Councillor Chris Bithell advised that a Notice of Motion had been accepted at the County Council for consideration to be given to employing external contractors to enforce Dog Control Orders, and a report on the finding would be considered by the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

82.9 The Council considered the correspondence received from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services at Flintshire County Council inviting councillors to attend a training session on the Code of Conduct, to be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012, from 6.30pm-8.00pm at Douglas Place Community Centre, Woodall Avenue, Off Boundary Lane, Saltney, CH4 8PB. It was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries as to whether councillors who had already attend recent training sessions on the Code of Conduct should attend.

82.10 The Council considered the correspondence received from Inspector Andrew Griffiths, North Wales Police inviting representatives from the Council to attend an informal consultation meeting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012, 9.30am at Mold Police Station to discuss progress on the reduction of crime and any inhibitors Town and Community Council may have. It was agreed that Councillor Bob Gaffey should attend on behalf of the Council together with the Clerk.

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

### **83. ACCOUNTS 2012/13 – HALF YEARLY REVIEW**

The Council considered the previously circulated report including the bank reconciliation, petty cash, income and the expenditure schedules that detail all amounts and invoices paid up to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

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

### **84. PROVISION OF SALT BINS**

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing the locations of requests for the provision of salt bins.

It was agreed to provide salt bins at Bryn Awelon, Ffordd Argoed and Bron y Nant. It was also agreed to reconsider the provision of salt bins at Wood Green next year as part of the ongoing programme of provision.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the provision of salt bins at Bryn Awelon, Ffordd Argoed and Bron y Nant and advise the County Council accordingly.

### **85. MOLD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**

The Mayor gave a verbal update on action taken following the publication of the proposals of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to close the minor injuries and x-ray units at Mold Community Hospital. He advised that he had written a comprehensive letter encompassing all the concerns identified to the Health Board. A copy of the letter was available from the Clerk if anyone wished to read it. The Mayor advised that he was of the view that the Council should now wait for the outcome of the consultation due in December before determining whether any further action is required. He thanked everyone for their efforts.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to await the outcome of the consultation before any further action is determined.

## 86. PLAY AREAS

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing the locations of requests for play areas to be considered to receive funding for improvements. It had been agreed that Councillors Geoff Darkins, Richard Brookes, Anthony Parry and Gareth Williams, would be given the responsibility of considering the list of requirements and agreeing which play area should be recommended for improvement this year.

It was agreed that the recommendations of the group would be accepted but with an amendment, that Bailey Hill be removed from the list of play areas to being improved.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that a letter is sent to the County Council advising of the following:

Request for improvements to:

Park Avenue – One new goal post situated alongside the club house but on the Park Avenue play area.

Pont Y Garreg (Wrexham Street) and small play area on Bromfield park -  
Paint boundary railings.

Ffordd Pentre – Replace, repair and paint paneled fencing and re-paint swings.

That the Council writes to the County Council requesting that consideration is given to the future use of Section 106 funding. The Council believes that Section 106 money could be used for maintenance and refurbishment of existing play areas, rather than the provision of additional play areas.

That the Council agrees to a rolling programme of playground repairs in partnership with the County Council. If this can be achieved the full allocation of £10,000 be invested in Gas Lane play area for bigger equipment more suited to that playground.

## **87. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – Statutory Guidance to Welsh Local Authorities on the Power to promote or improve Economic, Social or Environmental Well-Being under the Local Government Act 2000.**

The Clerk advised the Council of the consultation on new statutory guidance under Section 3(6) of the Local Government Act 2000 on the discretionary power available to unity authorities and community councils to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area. Comments or questions on the guidance and views as to whether it is clear and useful are required by 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

- a) Councillors Geoff Collett, Bryan Grew, Robin Guest and Andrea Mearns meet to consider the guidance and prepare a response.
- b) The group have delegated power to provide the response on behalf of the Council as the closing date of the consultation is before the next meeting of the Council on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

## **88. USE OF FACEBOOK/TWITTER**

The Council considered a report tabled at the meeting by Councillors Richard Brookes and Phil Thomas on the introduction of Facebook or Twitter by the Town Council, as a means of communicating with the public.

Following a number of concerns by members relating to required criteria and guidelines for use, together with concerns of the potential of misuse of social media it was agreed that the Clerk would conduct some research on good practice, obtaining information from sources including the Society of Local Council Clerks, One Voice Wales and other Town and Community Councils. The Clerk would then meet with Councillors Richard Brookes and Phil Thomas to prepare guidelines and criteria for use, and have a dry-run in using the social media, with the aim of concluding the review in the New Year.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

- a) The Clerk carries out research on good practice in the use of social media.
- b) That Councillors Richard Brookes, Phil Thomas and the Clerk develop guidelines and criteria for the use of social media and carry out a dry-run in using Facebook or Twitter.
- c) Report finding and recommendations to the Council in the New Year.

## **89. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Councillor Carol Heycocks sought support to contact David Hanson MP, to ask him to write to Flintshire County Council and request an update on flood prevention for Mold, with particular concern for Cae Bracty.

Councillor Carol Heycocks also sought support to contact David Hanson MP, requesting that should Wales choose to replace GCSE's from 2015 with the Baccalaureate that he monitors and ensures the inclusion of Religious Education as a core subject. Councillor Chris Bithell suggested that it should be Sandie Mewies AM who should be contacted as Education is devolved.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) A letter would be sent to David Hanson MP, requesting an update on flood prevention for Mold with particular concern for Cae Bracty.

b) A letter would be sent to Sandie Mewis AM, requesting that should Wales choose to replace GCSE's from 2015 with the Baccalaureate that he monitors and ensures the inclusion of Religious Education as a core subject.

## **90. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Councillor Andrea Mearns advised Council that Bryn Gwalia Communities First partnership Board had been disbanded due to the new structure for Communities First, which no longer support the boards with officer time. There will be local forums to allow the community to air concerns.

Councillor Andrea Mearns also advised that Margaret Lonsdale, Head Teacher at Bryn Gwalia would be leaving as the post was temporary and the permanent Head Teacher Mr Dylwyn Jones would be returning to his post. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Margaret Lonsdale for her commitment to the school.

Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that she had attended the One Voice Wales training course on "Being a good Employer" which has given her concerns that the Council should review all its policies to ensure compliance.

Councillor Richard Brookes advised that all the eight motions supported by the Council that went to the Annual General Meeting of One Voice Wales were passed.

Councillor Chris Bithell advised that he had attended a site visit at Bryn Awelon junction following the installation of the cycle route, and advised that new proposals would follow.

Councillor Anthony Parry advised that a motion had been put forward by members of Mold 2000 for it to disband, as they felt it had achieved what it had set out to achieve. They had asked that Councillor Parry write to all traders to seek a response to the motion, which would be discussed at the next meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012. Some responses have been received which indicate that they wish Mold 2000 to continue. Councillor Andrea Mearns stressed the importance of a Business Group for towns with Cittaslow status, and advised Martin Jones had suggested a sub group of Mold Town Partnership.

## 91. 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.

## 92. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Council agreed to the exclusion of the public and the press from the meeting in order to allow discussion on confidential matters.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

## 93. BAILEY HILL LODGE

The Clerk advised the Council of the current situation regarding the transfer of Bailey Hill Lodge to the Town Council. Following a debate on the issues raised, it was agreed that the Mayor would write to the Chief Executive at Flintshire County Council.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the Mayor would write to the Chief Executive at Flintshire County Council

### 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> October 2012</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MINUTE NO. REFERS</b>
None		