

## **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors: Geoff Collett (Mayor), Hadyn 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.

### **30. FORMER MAYOR GARETH EVANS**

The Mayor advised of the recent death and burial of former Mayor Gareth Evans and the Council stood in silence in his memory.

### **31. POLICING MATTERS**

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Andy Griffiths to the meeting to respond to matters of concern to the Council.

In response to questions raised, Inspector Griffiths confirmed there has been a general reduction in the numbers of policing staff and that it was essential that the remaining resources were used to the best effect. He also confirmed that there are nine new Police and Community Support Officers currently in training in the South Flintshire area, two of which (and possibly one other) would be working in Mold alongside PSCO Lynn Turner and PC Janette Stott.

Inspector Griffiths advised the Government had set a target of 19 minutes to respond to emergency calls and that the response to a recent shoplifting incident in Mold had been achieved within the target time.

Concern was expressed by Members about indiscriminate and illegal parking in the Town. Inspector Griffiths advised that special attention had been given to these concerns highlighted previously and had hoped that there had been an improvement. He advised that concerns regarding parking should be reported to the control room (using the telephone number '101') when the matter would be recorded. He stressed the importance of recording problems. Inspector Griffiths advised, in response to specific concerns about Earl Road, Victoria Road and Wrexham Street, that he would give these roads particular attention.

Inspector Griffiths advised that he would arrange for concerns about speeding on Gwernaffield Road, and joy riding in the Tesco Store car park to be investigated. He also advised there had been no increase in shoplifting in Mold and that the matter of drugs in the area was being addressed by two proactive officers.

The Mayor thanked Inspector Griffiths for his attendance at the meeting and for agreeing to take on board a number of the matters raised.

### **32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **33. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor advised of his engagements since the last meeting.

The Mayor advised that he had attended a luncheon in aid of the Mold Branch of the North Wales Cancer Research Fund and an indoor street party organised by the Llwynegrin Singers.

The Mayor also advised that he had attended the primary schools in Mold to deliver and distribute the commemorative Diamond Jubilee mugs provided by the Town Council for every primary school child. He advised the children had been delighted to receive the mugs and that the schools were appreciative of the gesture by the Town Council.

The Mayor then referred to the 'Mold Celebrates' festival which had proved to be a great success. He thanked Councillor Anthony Parry, the Town Centre Manager and all the organisers who had helped to make the day so successful. The Mayor also referred to the Bailey Hill Festival which had also been successful. He thanked Councillor Andrea Mearns, Sophie McKeand and all those who had helped both prior to and on the day. It was agreed to write to thank Sophie McKeand for the work she had undertaken.

The Mayor then thanked the Deputy Mayor for attending a number of events on his behalf during his holiday.

### **34. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012 be received and approved subject to the resolution to Minute 23 reading: 'It was resolved that a group comprising the Mayor and Councillors Chris Bithell, Geoff Darkins, Andrea Mearns, Anthony Parry and Gareth Williams consider the matter further'; and

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012 be received and noted.

### **35. MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Mold Town Council 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

35.1 Minute 17.1 Bailey Hill Lodge – The Clerk advised that he had been advised draft heads of terms for Bailey Hill Lodge would be circulated once the funding for repairs had been finalised. The Council felt that these issues could be dealt with concurrently. The Clerk also advised that the County Council's Chief Executive had

been due to meet with representatives of the Heritage Lottery Fund and was due to highlight the proposals for Bailey Hill.

35.2 Minute 17.2 Earl Road Parking Restrictions and Market Regulations – Councillor Chris Bithell advised he had recently been advised that the timescale for introducing the decriminalisation of car parking was now September 2013.

35.3 Minute 24 Mold Town Partnership – The Town Centre Manager advised that it was likely the annual meeting of the Partnership would be held in September 2012 with correspondence due to be circulated in the near future. It was hoped to report further to the next meeting of the Town Council.

### **Planning Committee 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

35.4 Minute 3.9 Lamp Post Banners – The Town Centre Manager advised of his understanding that the planning application would be given approval in time for the Mold Food and Drink Festival and possibly include the Daniel Owen Festival.

## **36. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

36.1 The Council considered the previously circulated correspondence with representatives of the Town's traders. The Clerk also advised that a further letter had been received that afternoon from the Independent Traders Group. The Town Centre Manager advised of the background to the concerns raised and the timescales involved in the lead-up to the commencement of the gas mains replacement. He indicated the current response from retailers was that the works were at an early stage and that it was not possible to tell what the implications would be.

Councillor Anthony Parry, in his role as Chairman of Mold 2000, advised that the Town Council had responded at the earliest opportunity and would continue to respond as issues arose. The communications with Wales and West Utilities, the company undertaking the work, were now running smoothly with a number of retailers also included on the circulation list for updates on the progress of the works.

Members understood the concerns and frustrations of retailers and stressed the need to ensure that there were sufficient and appropriate communications with retailers. It was noted that the programme for the works envisaged the relocation of the street market for a maximum of two / three weeks. Members were also pleased to hear that Wales and West Utilities was reviewing its programme on an ongoing basis.

The Town Centre Manager advised that retailers had received details of the compensation package and that retailers from Wrexham Street were happy to assist those affected.

The need to put a positive view on the situation in the Town was stressed.

36.2 The Council considered the correspondence from the Flintshire Local Access Forum seeking support in projects of mutual benefit. It was agreed that any Members interested in participating in the projects should advise the Clerk and Finance Officer.

36.3 The Council noted the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising of this year's 'Best Kept Communities Competition 2012'.

36.4 The Council considered the request from the Headteacher at St. David's RC Primary School for a nomination for governor at the School following the resignation of Stephanie Hulley. It was agreed to nominate Councillor Geoff Matthias.

36.5 The Council considered the correspondence from Ms Sam Hollingworth, 4 Maes Bodlonfa advising of problems with dog fouling and litter. It was agreed to raise the matter with the new Streetscene department of the County Council identifying this area as a 'hotspot' in need of attention. It was then agreed to review the matter after a couple of months.

36.6 The Council noted receipt of the copy of the Annual Report 2011/12 of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

36.7 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council seeking nominations for a Town / Community Council representative on the Flintshire Standards Committee and it was agreed that subject to his further consideration, Councillor Bob Gaffey be nominated.

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

### **37. 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) Wales Air Ambulance             | £200.00 |
| b) Knights of Columba              | £200.00 |
| c) 1378 Mold Squadron ATC          | £200.00 |
| d) Flintshare CSA                  | £200.00 |
| e) Ysgol Bryn Gwalia Eco-Committee | £200.00 |
| f) Wisp Dance Club                 | £200.00 |
| g) Cymdeithas Gŵyl Tegeingl        | £300.00 |

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

### **38. MOTIONS FOR THE ONE VOICE WALES AGM**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that One Voice Wales be asked to pursue the draft sustainability guidelines previously prepared.

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

The Town Centre Manager initially reported on the promotion being developed by a number of retailers for 4<sup>th</sup> July. 'Independents Day' is being marketed to support the smaller local retailers in the Town.

Reference was made to the 'Mold Celebrates' event on 5<sup>th</sup> June and the Town Centre Manager reiterated the thanks to Councillor Anthony Parry. He also referred to the upcoming Flower Festival and asked that as many people as can to support the event. The Town Centre Manager also referred to the Carnival due to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> July.

The Town Centre Manager advised the County Council was hosting an event of the Association of Market Towns and that this was to be held at the Town Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> July. Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that a similar event was being held in Diss, another Cittaslow town and in addition Newcastle University is funding a three year research project on Cittaslow towns. Councillor Mearns felt that it would be advantageous for Mold to be one of the towns the researcher works with.

The Town Centre Manager advised that there is a study being undertaken on behalf of all the primary councils in North Wales to consider the centralisation of the monitoring of the closed circuit television systems throughout the area. It was stressed that the CCTV system is an important tool in the management of our towns and concern was expressed that there has been no consultation on this issue with town and community councils despite their financial contributions. It was agreed to write to the County Council's Chief Executive to ask about the proposals and why there had been no consultation.

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

### **40. NOTICES OF MOTION**

40.1 On the proposal of Councillor Carol Heycocks the Council agreed to fly the flag from the balcony at the Town Hall in remembrance of Armed Forces Day on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

40.2 The Council considered the proposal of Councillor Bob Gaffey and agreed to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Chief Secretary to the Treasury and David Hanson MP stating the Council's objection to plans for regional and localised public sector pay and its concerns about the impact this policy would have on services and the local economy. In addition, it was agreed to sign up to the Pay Fair campaign raising awareness of the implications and risks of this policy locally, regionally and nationally.

40.3 The Council considered the proposal of Councillor Chris Bithell and agreed to approach the Post Office and Royal Mail seeking an improvement in the times of the delivery of mail in the Mold area.

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

## **41. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

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

## **42. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

42.1 Councillor Anthony Parry commented upon the success of the Mold Celebrates Jubilee event.

42.2 Councillor Brian Lloyd advised of his attendance at the briefing meeting held to review the Mold Celebrates Jubilee event.

42.3 Councillor Bob Gaffey advised of his attendance at the Parkfields Annual Meeting, the training event on the 'Code of Conduct' and the Bailey Hill Festival.

42.4 Councillor Phil Thomas advised of his attendance at the training event on the 'Code of Conduct' and the Bailey Hill Festival.

42.5 Councillor Andrea Mearns advised of a meeting with Councillor Chris Bithell and Niall Waller, Regeneration Officer to view a number of potential development sites within the Town centre.

Councillor Mearns advised that works had commenced to insulate the roof at Parkfields Community Centre and grants were now being sought to upgrade the centre's heating system. Councillor Mearns mentioned her attendance at the Parkfields Annual Meeting and advised that the financial arrangements were much better now than previously.

Councillor Mearns advised of her attendance at a recent meeting of the Daniel Owen Festival Committee and indicated that the programme was developing well although further grants were being sought. She also mentioned her attendance at the reopening of the Tyddyn Street Church providing modern community facilities.

Councillor Mearns thanked all volunteers who had helped with the Bailey Hill Festival which had been well received with over 700 visitors.

42.6 Councillor Carol Heycocks referred to her attendance at the at the briefing meeting held to review the Mold Celebrates Jubilee event and at a meeting of the Air Cadets.

42.7 Councillor Chris Bithell advised of his attendance at the reopening of the Tyddyn Street Church and at a community clean-up campaign at Lon yr Orsaf.

42.8 Councillor Geoff Matthias advised of his attendance at the Bailey Hill Festival.

42.9 Councillor Richard Brookes advised of his attendance at the Bailey Hill Festival.

42.10 Councillor Robin Guest advised of his attendance at the meeting, in the absence of the Mayor, at the County Forum which had been held at the Town Hall and at the meeting of the Youth Council. Councillor Guest also advised of his attendance at the reopening of the Tyddyn Street Church.

#### 43. 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

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|--------------------------|--|
| <b>MOLD TOWN COUNCIL</b> | <b>DATE: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012</b> |
|--------------------------|--|

| <b>MEMBER</b>             | <b>ITEM</b>                                | <b>MINUTE NO. REFERS</b> |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Councillor Phil Thomas    | Letter from Mold Independent Traders Group | 36.1                     |
| Councillor Robin Guest    | Financial Assistance                       | 37                       |
| Councillor Carol Heycocks | Financial Assistance                       | 37                       |
| Councillor Andrea Mearns  | Financial Assistance                       | 37                       |