

## **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

### **PRESENT:**

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

### **APOLOGIES:**

Councillors: Geoff Darkins, Geoff Matthias and Brian Lloyd

### **144. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were declarations of interest expressed from Councillors Andrea Mearns and Bob Gaffey for the item relating to Parkfields Community Centre

### **145. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor handed out a printed sheet showing all activities since the last meeting (attached). He reminded members that the Charity Dinner dance was on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013, and asked members to ensure they paid for their tickets as soon as possible as there was limited availability.

### **146. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013 be received and approved;
- b) The minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013 be received and noted.
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Cemetery Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013 be received and noted.

### **147. MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Mold Town Council 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

147.1 Minute 101.3 Matters Rising – Councillor Andrea Mearns asked if a response had been received from Andy Roberts to attend a future meeting of the Council to discuss the development of the LDP. The Clerk advised that a response had now been received, and Andy Roberts would be attending the next meeting of the Council on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

147.2 Minute 101.4 Matters Arising – Councillor Bob Gaffey asked if the meeting had been confirmed with David Hanson MP relating to flood alleviation in Mold. The Clerk advised that the meeting had not yet been re-arranged by David Hanson’s office.

147.3 Minute 126 Proposed Car Park Policy – Councillor Bob Gaffey asked if a meeting had been arranged with Flintshire. The Clerk advised that the County had not yet responded to the request.

147.4 Minute 120 Report of the Town Centre Manager – Councillor Andrea Mearns asked if arrangements had been made for a Tourism Committee meeting. The Town Centre Manager advised that he had been in contact with Niall Waller from Flintshire, but due to resource issues the County had been unable to provide a report for the Tourism Committee. It was agreed that a meeting of the Committee would be arranged without the report from the County.

147.5 Minute 132.2 Correspondence – Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that the residents of the cottages had now received black and green wheelie bins, which should address the issue of black sacks collected on the street.

147.6 Minute 132.5 Correspondence – Councillor Bob Gaffey asked if a response had been received from BCUHB relating to new signage for Mold Community Hospital. The Clerk advised that a letter had been sent to BCUHB but a response had not yet been received.

## **148. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

148.1 The Council considered the correspondence received from Sandie Mewies AM, providing the latest statement by Mrs. Edwina Hart, Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science, on business rates. Councillor Mearns suggested that it should come under the remit of the Town Centre Manager, adding that the non-domestic rates revaluation would now be deferred until 2017 in line with England, which would result in business paying a higher rate for four years. The Town Centre Manager advised that he had spoken with the traders of the town, who had questioned why business rates were paid by traders in Mold, but not in Ruthin. He suggested that these issues could be discussed via the Mold Business Forum. Councillor Chris Bithell spoken of the 50% relief scheme for bringing empty properties into use, and suggested this could also be used to ensure empty living accommodation above shops are brought back into occupation. Councillor Mearns asked what the Mold Town Partnership was doing about the Start up funding. The Town Centre Manager advised that it had not been discussed. He added that Business Improvement Districts had proved successful around the country, but he was not aware of them being introduced within smaller market towns. He suggested that smaller independent traders may view the initiative as an additional cost rather than an investment. Following a suggestion from Councillor Mearns the Town Centre Manager agreed to circulate the details of Business Improvement Districts with the MIRC.

148.2 The Council noted the correspondence received from Flintshire County Council advising of a second open information event to promote the development of Llys Jasmine extra care scheme, Mold on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April between 10am and 6pm.

148.3 The Council noted the correspondence received from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales providing new information booklets to advise members of the public how they can complain.

148.4 The Council noted the correspondence received from Mike Harriman, One Voice Wales' representative on the Stakeholder Reference Group, providing information from the last meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

148.5 The Council noted the correspondence received from the CCTV Manager at Flintshire County Council advising that due to the change in service provider the recharges for the Town Council have reduced significantly for the current financial year (-19%) compared to costs of 2011/12.

148.6 The Council considered the correspondence received from Sandie Mewies, AM, providing a statement made by the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage on the New Regeneration Framework for Wales. Councillor Chris Bithell asked if there would be any funding available. The Town Centre Manager advised that he had made enquiries with the County Council, who had informed him that they were not aware of any but would be monitoring the situation.

148.7 The Council noted the correspondence received from One Voice Wales inviting the Town Council to renew its membership from April 2013 with the annual subscription increasing by 1.3% to £1,145

148.8 The Council considered the correspondence received from Neal Cockerton, Head of Assets & Transportation at Flintshire County Council relating to the County's Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, inviting comments and observations to inform and develop the final version of the Strategy. It was agreed that Councillors Chris Bithell, Carol Heycocks, Bryan Grew and Geoff Collett would meet as a sub-group to consider the draft Strategy and provide a response to the County Council on behalf of the Town Council.

148.9 The Council considered the correspondence received from Peter Evans, Democracy & Governance Manager at Flintshire Council confirming that funding is available up to the sum of £500 for each Town & Community Council to introduce or improve their websites. It was agreed that the Communications Committee would work with the Clerk to research and consider new website providers, and come back to the Council with proposals for improvements to the website.

148.10 The Council noted the correspondence received from Richard Roberts, Play Design Officer at Flintshire County Council advising that the match funding provided for 2012/13 for minor play area improvements in a number of locations has not all been spent following completion of the works. There is a remaining balance of £6000 which the County have suggested could be spent on Hawthorn Avenue play area (with an additional contribution of £2,500 from the County) to bring it up to a suitable standard to allow for the play area to be re-opened as requested by the

Town Council. It was agreed that the County Councils proposals for investment into Hawthorn Avenue be supported.

148.11 The Council considered the correspondence received from Menter Iaith offering free Welsh Language Awareness training sessions to members who are keen to learn more about the role and powers of the Welsh Language Commissioner, the 2011 Welsh Language Measure and Standards, and the effect the legislation will have on Town & Community Councils. It was agreed that the Clerk would make contact with Menter Iaith to arrange a training session as nine members expressed an interest.

148.12 The Council noted the correspondence received from Lawrence Rawsthorne at Flintshire County Council providing an update on the 2013 Summer Playscheme.

148.13 The Council considered the correspondence received from a resident of Mold, expressing concern over a recent newspaper article relating to a planning application for the former Morris Garage site in Wrexham Road, Mold which states that due to restrictions place on the opening times of the proposed stores the Developers are considering withdrawing from the scheme. The resident is concerned that potential jobs could be lost, and believes the town need a convenience store. It was agreed that as the County Council could not reverse its decision there was nothing the Town Council could do. The only process now available is for the developer to appeal or provide a new application.

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

#### **149. REPORT OF THE TOWN CENTRE MANAGER**

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

The Town Centre Manager advised that he and the Clerk had been working to bring the Mayor's Charity Dinner together, but there was still a need for further auction and raffle prizes. He also informed members that all tables were now allocated but there were some spaces still available for those members who had not yet confirmed their attendance to the evening.

The Town Centre Manager reminded members of the spring clean on 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> April. He advised that he had received a number of "grot spot" locations from some members, but if there are any additional locations if members could let him know as soon as possible so they could be programmed into the weekend. He requested additional assistance on the stall to promote the weekend, and asked members to take away the flyers and posters with them at the end of the meeting to display in their wards and promote the weekend.

The Town Centre Manager spoke of the extreme snow the area had experienced and the impact on the town. He was aware of guttering broken in the Daniel Owen Precinct which could not be repaired until the snow had cleared. He paid tribute to the Streetscene team who had worked tirelessly in an attempt to clear the streets for the traders. He was aware of 20 tonne lorries transporting snow from the town.

The Town Centre Manager reminded members that the Independent traders were holding an Easter egg hunt during the two weeks of school half term.

The Town Centre Manager advised that he is working with the Mold Community Hospital League of Friends on their marketing campaign.

In ending his report the Town Centre Manager sought views on the possibility of members and officers who volunteer for events receiving first aid training to ensure compliance. He had spoken with Don Nickson, Regional Trainer for St. John's who would be able to provide the basic training for approximately £200, which could be paid for out of the events budget. Members supported the suggestion, and agreed two evening sessions would be preferable.

A number of comments were made by members relating to the extreme snow, including the issue of car parks being unavailable when people had managed to drive into town but were unable to park, and the risk of flooding once the snow begins to melt. Councillor Robin Guest advised that the County were already discussing a review of practices following the extreme snow. Councillor Andrea Mearns asked that Steve Jones, Head of Streetscene be thanked for the email he circulated to Town and Community Councils relating to service provision during the snow.

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

#### **150. MOLD GATEWAY ROAD SIGNS**

The Council considered the previously circulated draft designs for replacing the five gateway road signs into Mold. The Mayor advised members on the process taken in preparing the proposals. Comments were made relating to the graphics, and the Clerk advised that a grant had been provided by Flintshire County Council for the existing graphics, and should the Council wish to substantial change the graphics there would be additional costs, for which funding was not available. The Clerk advised that in order to apply for additional funding to develop the signs the Council needed to support the draft designs. It was possible to make amendments to the design, such as changing the strap lines, adding logo's etc. but not to re-design the signs.

Councillor Bob Gaffey suggested that a strap line could be included relating to the town being the home of the Gold Cape, which was supported by members. It was noted that there was no reference to Mold being a Cittaslow town, and that welsh translation would be required for the strap lines. There was some debate on the shape of the sign and whether the Town Crest should be included. Upon being put to the vote it was agreed that the "wave" shape would be used and that the Town Crest would be included within the design.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the Town Clerk liaises with Harrison Design and Development to ensure the amendments agreed were included within the design.

#### **151. PARKFIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE – MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Councillor Andrea Mearns provided additional information for the Council to consider. She advised that at present the Town Council have three representatives, one on the Management Committee and two trustees. Councillor Chris Bithell

suggested that it would be useful to view the centre's current mission statement. Councillor Robin Guest added that Parkfields Community Centre were very successful in the services it provides the community, and questioned whether there was a need to change. Councillor Mearns advised that the Centre were attempted to get a balance of trustees and involvement, adding that at present the Town Council had a very small representation, but were significantly involved. She sought views on whether the Town Council would continue with the same number of representatives. Councillor Guest suggested that there were two areas to consider, one relating to governance and the other relating to the services provided. On the area relating to governance he suggested the Town Council continue to send the same number of representatives. In relation to point two, he believed the Council would need time to consider. Councillor Mearns asked that if any member had any good ideas they would be welcomed.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

- a) If any members had any ideas for the future of the Community Centre they could speak with either Councillor Andrea Mearns, Councillor Geoff Matthias or Councillor Bob Gaffey;
- b) That the Town Council continue to send the same number of representatives.

## **152. NOTICE OF MOTION**

152.1 The Council considered the proposal of Councillor Carol Heycocks and agreed that the council should research further into the possibility of the Town becoming a dementia friendly town. As part of this research it was agreed that the Clerk would invite a representative from the Alzheimer's Society to attend a future meeting of the Council to provide more information about what it means to be a dementia friendly town.

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

## **153. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

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

## **154. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

154.1 Councillor Andrea Mearns advised Council that she had attending the Cittaslow UK board meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, and that Bernard and Margaret Shaw from Berwick upon Tweed would now be the Chair of the Board. In addition, Mold will be the lead town for Llangollen's application towards becoming a Cittaslow Town.

154.2 Councillor Mearns advised that she had also attended the Celyn Farmers Market Steering Group meeting, where they expressed a desire have closer links with Cittaslow Mold with the aim of improving the local produce offered in the town.

154.3 Councillor Mearns had also attend the Flintshire County Council Regeneration Conference, where she listened to a presentation from Nia Wright-Morgan from Wales Co-operative Centre on Social Enterprises which was very interesting, and suggested that it could be useful for the Town Council to receive the presentation or to team up with One Voice Wales for the presentation.

154.4 Councillor Mearns advised members about the meeting the previous evening with Colliers Consultants relating to a Strategic Sites Assessment for the town. She suggested that members should view the map held with the Clerk.

154.5 Tessa Holland, from Newcastle University was the successful candidate on the AHRC funded PhD studentship studying Cittaslow in the UK. Councillor Mearns advised that Tessa would be visiting Mold during the Mold Spring Clean.

154.6 Councillor Mearns had attending a further meeting with the Clerk with Cadwyn Clwyd and Flintshire County Council's Regeneration Department about the application for a local food officer.

154.7 Councillor Bryan Grew advised that he had attend the One Voice Wales Larger Councils meeting with the Clerk where he had received a presentation from Tidy Towns, and a report from the Chief Executive relating to the Sustainable Development Bill. The next meeting would be a conference.

154.8 Councillor Bryan Grew advised that the Food & Drink Festival Committee were now meeting. They had debated the merits of a Celebrity Chef, more information would be provided at a later date. The Committee had also received communication from Welsh Government relating to new regulations on future funding. There was now a requirement that 75% of the traders attending the festival would have to be Welsh. This is very concerning for the committee and John Les Thomas has written to Welsh Government. Subject to the response received the Committee may seek support if necessary from the Town Council. It was agreed that should the Committee require the support of the Town Council, it would be given.

## **155. 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.

## **156. 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.

## **157. BAILEY HILL LODGE.**

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor Councillor Robin Guest 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.

## 158. CEMETERY EXTENSION.

158.1 The Council considered the recommendations of the Cemetery Committee and following a debate on the period of the loan, agreed to support the recommendations of the Committee.

158.2 The Council also considered the outcome of the Tender Opening process and agreed subject to clarification on a number of issues by Harrison Design and Development that the contract be awarded to the tenderer who scored highest during the process.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

- a) That the Council approve the recommendations of the Cemetery Committee on the term of a loan for the Cemetery Extension;
- b) That the Council approve the appointment of the tenderer who scored highest during the tender opening process, subject to clarification on a number of issues by Harrison Design and Development.

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

<b>MOLD TOWN COUNCIL</b>	<b>DATE: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2013</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MINUTE NO. REFERS</b>
Councillor Andrea Mearns Councillor Bob Gaffey	Parkfields Community Centre	Minute No. 151

SR/MINUTES/MTC/MTCMINS130327



### **List of Mayors Engagements Since 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

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