

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 27th February 2013.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Geoff Collett (Mayor), 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:

Councillors: Haydn Bateman

128. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were declarations of interest expressed from Councillors Andrea Mearns, Bob Gaffey and Geoff Matthias for the item relating to Bubblegum.

129. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

130. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30th January 2013 be received and approved;
- b) The minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 29th January 2013 and 18th February 2013 be received and noted.
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 21st January 2013 be received and approved.

131. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council 30th January 2013

Minute 101.3 Matters Rising – Councillor Chris Bithell 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 not been received. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow this request up.

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 Mayor advised that notification had been received today that the meeting scheduled for 8th March 2013 had been postponed but another date would be arranged.

Minute 116.4 Correspondence – Councillor Robin Guest asked if the ward members had an update on consultation carried out with residents seeking views on the future of the play area in Hawthorn Avenue. Councillor Brian Lloyd advised that they had

spoken with residents adjacent to the play area, who stated that they did not understand why the play area was closed, and would like it to be re-opened. Councillor Lloyd had asked the residents if they would be happy with it being an open green space if the equipment could not be replaced, this was supported by the residents. Councillor Geoff Matthias advised that one resident was willing to lock the gate in the evening to prevent misuse of the area. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Flintshire County Council expressing the residents views that the play area should be re-opened, and if the equipment could not be replaced the area could be used as a green space.

Minute 116.7 Correspondence – Councillor Chris Bithell asked for a correction to the minutes relating to his comments on the County Councils review of speed limits. Councillor Bithell advised that his comments on an area related to the road from Rhydygaled traffic lights to King Street in Mold.

Minute 120 Report of the Town Centre Manager – Councillor Andrea Mearns asked if arrangements had been made for a Tourism Committee meeting. The Mayor advised that it would be arranged as soon as possible.

Minute 126 Proposed Car Park Policy – Councillor Bob Gaffey asked if a request to meet with officers of the County had been made. The Clerk advised that the request had been made, but there had been no response to date.

132. CORRESPONDENCE

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

132.1 The Council noted the attached correspondence received from the Chief Executive's Office at Flintshire County Council regarding the proposed changes to the Royal Mail services at Mold and Buckley

132.2 The Council noted the attached correspondence received from Neville Howell, the Town Council's representative on the Local Access Form group, following a request on behalf of the Town Council asking if there is anything the Town council can or should be doing to help. It was agreed that this should be considered at the next Tourism Committee meeting.

132.3 The Council considered the attached correspondence received from Mrs. C Ryder, relating to concerns of increasing amounts of litter on the local environment, together with additional correspondence received from another resident of Mold highlighting three areas of concern for littering. A number of members commented on the apparent increase in littering and were familiar with the three locations identified, as they had attempted to have the areas cleared on previous occasions. Councillor Richard Brookes suggested that a letter should be sent to the two High Schools to raise awareness of littering, and ask that the pupils are made aware of the issue. The Town Centre Manager also suggested that he could continue the positive work through the use of Springy and agreed to explore this further with the Clerk.

132.4 The Council considered the correspondence received from Frank Cuthbert at the Welsh Government advising community and town councils that the Minister for Local Government and Communities has released £1.25m additional funding to

county councils to support local democracy and public engagement. Part of this is to be used to assist in the development of websites for community and town Councils. Each local authority will received £500 multiplied by the number of community and town councils within their area. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Flintshire County Council to enquire whether funding was available for Mold to improve the current website.

132.5 The Council considered the correspondence received from the Head of Assets and Transportation at Flintshire County Council responding to a request by the Town Council for improved signage for Mold Community Hospital. The Town Council was advised that the County do provide signage however; it would be fully rechargeable to the operator, in this instance BCUHB. The County had suggested that the Town Council write directly to BCUHB. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to BCUHB to make them aware of the Town Councils views.

132.6 The Council noted that a copy of the CCTV statistics for the period July – September 2012 has been received and is available at the Town Hall office for Members to view.

132.7 The Council the contribution made to the NSPCC following the Mayor's Civic Service in November. A total of £181. 46 were raised at the service.

132.8 The Council noted the copies of reports received at the last larger Councils Committee held on 23rd January 2013.

132.9 The Council noted the correspondence received from Sandy Mewies AM, providing the Council with a copy of the submissions she made to the BCUHB on behalf of both Mold and Flint Community Hospitals.

132.10 The Council noted the correspondence received from Head of Assets and Transportation confirming receipt of the Town Council's observation on the review of Speed Limits in the County, which will be considered as part of the review.

132.11 The Council considered the correspondence received from a student of Ysgol Maes Garmon, Mold requesting financial support to enable him to visit Patagonia, Argentina as part of the Urdd's International volunteering project. As this request for financial assistance was outside the normal criteria set by the Council, it was proposed and approved that a contribution of £100 should be made to the Student under the Power of Well-being.

132.12 The Council considered the correspondence received from Sue Black, retailer in Mold, requesting that the Town Council assist in supporting the retailers to promote an Easter egg hunt in the Town. The Town Centre Manager provided more detail on the event advising that it is an initiative introduced by Clare Raynor which has been taken up by over 40 towns in the UK, of which Mold is the only Welsh Town. The Mold Independent Retailers Community (MIRC) are seeking support from the Town Council to promote the event, such as sending flyers out to the local schools, and photo shoots with the Mayor. The Town Centre Manager advised that this should be supported and offered to be the liaison between the Town Council and MIRC. It was agreed that the Town Council would support the Easter egg hunt and its promotion.

132.13 The Council noted the correspondence received from Sue Black, retailer in Mold. The letter was addressed to David Hanson MP, to which the Town Council were copied relating to car parking concerns in the town. The Town Centre Manager advised that there were a number of MIRC that believe that car park charges will not be good for Mold. He advised that he believes that David Hanson MP is now in discussion with Flintshire County Council over the issue. It was agreed that as the letter was copied to the Town Council for information that the Council should just note the content.

132.14 The Council noted the correspondence received from Gareth Owens, Head of Legal & Democratic Services at Flintshire County Council, advising the Town Council of the Standards Conference Wales to be held on Friday 19 April at Venue Cymru, Llandudno. The cost for delegates will be £70 each. Expressions of interest must be received by 18 March 2013. The Mayor advised members to advise the Clerk should they wish to attend the Conference.

132.15 The Council noted the correspondence received from Aber Valley Heritage Group, Caerphilly relating to a proposed Welsh National Mining Memorial to be located on the site where the Universal Colliery once stood. The group are seeking funding towards the cost of the Memorial, and has written to all Local Authorities and Town and Community Councils who have been affected by mining disasters. If the Council are minded to contribute towards the fund further details are available

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

133. CEMETERY EXTENSION

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing the funding requirements for the development of the Cemetery extension. Members discussed the merits on the options for the length of the loan repayment period, but agreed that this would be decided upon at a later date.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The Town Council notes the current and proposed estimated costs for the Cemetery Extension;
- b) The Town Council gives the Town Clerk approval to apply to the Welsh Government for permission to apply for a loan of £32,000 for stage one of the cemetery extension;
- c) That subject to the Welsh Government giving their approval, the Town Council allows the Town Clerk to apply to the Public Works Loan Board for a loan of £32,000.

134. REVIEW OF HR AND HEALTH & SAFETY POLICIES

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing the proposals for the appointment of a Consultant to provide HR and Health & Safety Policies.

Resolved: It was resolved that the Town Council appoints Wirehouse Employment Services to provide HR and Health & Safety services from 2013/14 for a period of five years.

135. USE OF FACEBOOK

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing draft guidelines for the administration and management of a Facebook account by the Town Council. Councillor Richard Brookes spoke to the report, advising that social media is growing and that the Town Council should not be left behind.

Councillor Chris Bithell advised that he had originally been dubious, however with the work that had been carried out, and the draft guidelines he now felt more comfortable for the Town Council to have a facebook account. He did suggest that there is no need for a 'three strikes and you are out' criteria for blocking an individual, and suggested that if a comment was deemed to be inappropriate in any way that goes against the guidelines then the individual should be blocked immediately. The Town Centre Manager added that there should also be a process included within the guidelines for reporting criminal offences to the police. There was a proposal that the trial introduction of a facebook account should not be administered by the Clerk, this was voted upon and was not supported. A second proposal that the trial introduction of the facebook account should be deferred for six months was voted upon and was not supported.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) A Town Council Facebook account would be set up for a trial period of sixth months;
- b) That a Communications sub-group is set upon to introduce and monitor the Facebook account. The members of the group would be Councillors Richard Brookes, Phil Thomas, Bob Gaffey and Gareth Williams.

136. FINANCIAL SUPPORT – BUBBLEGUM

The Council considered a report provided by Councillor Andrea Mearns on the proposal for the future funding of the Bubblegum Group. Following confirmation from Flintshire County Council that Cymorth Funding from the Welsh Government would end at the end of the current financial year, Councillor Mearns had researched alternative service providers and costs. The report detailed proposals from Flintshire County Council, Plas Derw Trust Ltd and West Flintshire Community Enterprise Ltd. Whilst the Town Council do not make a decision on who should provide the service, the report gave some assurance that the service could continue to be provided within budget.

137. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: A SUSTAINABLE BILL – WHITE PAPER: BETTER CHOICES FOR A BETTER FUTURE

The Council considered the previously circulated response prepared by the sub-group on the consultation sought by the Welsh Government for views on the

proposals for legislation to place a Sustainable Development (SD) duty on some organizations in Wales and create a new independent SD body.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

a) The response prepared by the sub-group is submitted to the Welsh Government.

138. REPORT OF THE TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

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

The Town Centre Manager advised that the Hop-It shop on New Street was now vacant, but there had been some interest in the unit. He also advised that the Shake Shack would also be closing this week. Hammersley's had now replenished their stock following the sale of the shop falling through.

The Town Centre Manager reminded members of this year's Spring Clean which will be held from 12th-15th April, and he sought volunteers for the weekend. The Town Centre Manager also asked that any information obtained from EVA's be forwarded to him, to allow him to identify work required during the Spring Clean weekend.

The Town Centre Manager updated members on his attendance at the Town Centre Managers meeting, where CCTV was discussed. He advised that he has requested an update on the condition of the CCTV's throughout Mold. Reference was made to the Collaborative project for CCTV provision throughout North Wales, and comments received from Wrexham who wish to have a control centre. There had been no consultation with town and community councils to date.

The Town Centre Manager advised that the 3rd Flintshire Regeneration Conference would be held on 7 March 2013, the themes for this year are Young People and Employment and Social Enterprises. He asked that if any member wishes to attend to notify himself or the Town Clerk as soon as possible.

In ending his report the Town Centre Manager referred to the Mold Gold Cape being shown in Cardiff and Wrexham this year and sought views as to whether representation should be made to request that the Gold Cape also be shown in Mold. There were comments made by members about the lack of high security required for the Cape to visit Mold, but it was agreed that the Mayor would make enquiries about the possibility of it visiting Mold for a day.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

139. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

140. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Councillor Andrea Mearns advised Council that she had met with Robert Price from Cadwyn Clwyd, Rudy Imhoof from Flintshire and Caroline Dawson from Wrexham to

discuss public procurement of local food produce. Rudy had suggested that they meet with the Company who have the contract for school meals, and look to replicate Swansea's approach. They had also discussed a local sustainable food strategy such as that of Carmarthenshire, which would link in with the Welsh Governments white paper: Sustainable Bill – Better Choices for a Better Future.

Councillor Mearns advised that she had attended a Communities First meeting looking at employment and poverty which will impact on the Bryn Gwalia work, however, the funding is now for all areas in Mold and not just Bryn Gwalia.

Councillor Mearns advised that she had also attended a Parkfields meeting the previous evening where they were informed that the youth worker is to be re-located to Shotton, which means that the Club House is only assured until April.

141. 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.

142. 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.

143. 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 with officers from the County Council.

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: 27th February 2013
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
Councillor Andrea Mearns Councillor Bob Gaffey Councillor Geoff Matthias	Budget (financial support to Bubblegum).	Minute No. 136

List of Mayors Engagements Since 30th January 2013

- 6th February Held buffet in the Jubilee Room for supporters of Save Our Hospital Group
- 12th Feb. Attended Mold Pancake Race.
- 12th Feb. Attended Mold Partnership Meeting.
- 14th Feb. Attended Mold Hospital buffet and entertainment.
- 16th Feb. Attended Hollywell Mayor's Dinner Dance at The Springfield.
- 22nd Feb. Attended Mold Air Cadets dinner at Plas Hafod.
- 26th Feb. Attended a meeting with FCC to discuss Bailey Hill Lodge.