

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 28th November 2012.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Geoff Collett (Mayor), Haydn Bateman, Chris Bithell, Geoff Darkins, Ray Dodd, Bob Gaffey, Bryan Grew, Robin Guest, Carol Heycocks, Brian Lloyd, , 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 Matthias

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

95. FAIRTRADE

The Mayor welcomed Ken Chisholm to the meeting and invited him to speak. Mr Chisholm provided some details about Fairtrade and advised the Council that Mold has been a Fairtrade town since 2007 and to mark the renewal of its status, he wished to present the Certificate to the Mayor. Mr. Chisholm advised that The Fairtrade Foundation in London issued the certificate in September, confirming Mold as once again a Fairtrade Town - one of only two towns in the whole of Flintshire. The Mayor accepted the certificate at the Council Meeting and thanked Mr. Chisholm for his attendance to the meeting and his commitment to ensuring Mold remains a Fairtrade Town.

96. PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

The Mayor welcomed Rudy Imhoof, Interim Facilities Manager from Flintshire County Council and invited him to speak. Mr Imhoof thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting. He provided a presentation on Flintshire School Meals and Procurement. The main features of the presentation were as follows:

- Who we are
- What we do
- How do we do it?
- Developments
- Who are our suppliers?
- Where do we source the Food?
- Challenges with Local Procurement
- Opportunities with Local Procurement
- Next Steps
- Contacts

Councillor Andrea Mearns thanked Mr. Imhoof for his presentation, and stressed the importance of helping to support local producers. She advised Mr. Imhoof of a study carried out three years ago which identified farmers within Flintshire who were interested in working collectively for local procurement, and suggested that Flintshire Officers should make use of the database to identify potential local producers. Mr. Imhoof offered to begin dialogue with any producers to help encourage local procurement.

Councillor Chris Bithell advised the Council that Flintshire had been very fortunate in appointing Mr. Imhoof to the service. The service had also recently been awarded the Soil Association food for life bronze award. The Association is membership charity campaigning for planet-friendly organic food and farming.

Councillor Gareth Williams suggested that contracts and licensing agreements could be simplified for small producers. He believed that large Procurement Companies could have a negative impact on small producers financially. Mr. Imhoof agreed that it was not easy for small producers, but that should not deter any efforts from attempted to source food locally. He re-iterated his willingness to speak with local producers to assist the process.

Councillor Andrea Mearns provided some examples where Local Authorities were predominantly sourcing local food produce for their schools. Mr. Imhoof suggested meeting with Councillor Mearns to discuss this further.

97. FLINTSHIRE FOODBANK

The Mayor welcomed Peter Dorricott, Director of Flintshire Foodbank and invited him to speak. Mr. Dorricott thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting and provided a verbal presentation on the History of the Foodbank. He advised that there are now over 300 Foodbanks throughout the UK, with one opening every 2-3 days. The Flintshire Foodbank was officially opened on 27 April 2012, and to date they have fed 806 people. Mr. Dorricott advised that the Foodbank is a short term solution to assist people in financial difficulty, with each family allowed up to 3 vouchers which could be exchanged for food.

Mr Dorricott advised Council that this weekend is the Tesco National Foodbank week, where all food received from the public plus 30% of the total value being received from Tesco. The National Foodbank had also received a seven year commitment from Tesco to support collections. Next year through funding from Comic Relief Flintshire Foodbank will employ a Rural Development Works for a period of two years. They will visit the villages of Flintshire to raise awareness.

Following questions from Councillor Robin Guest Mr Dorricott advised that they are unable to issue food that has passed its "best before date" and that they do not issue non-perishables. However, the Foodbank do often receive potatoes at a weekend, so they do get given out on a Tuesday.

The Mayor suggested that the Town Council could have a food collection point based at the Town Hall. Members agreed to trial the suggestion.

98. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor handed out a printed sheet showing all activities since the last meeting (attached). The Mayor thanked all members for attending the Remembrance Service and for the assistance in providing food for the Civic Service. The Mayor spoke on the success of the Novemberfest the previous weekend, and how people who had attended would welcome the festival returning next year. During the discussion on the success of the Christmas Lights switch-on Councillor Anthony Parry presented a cheque to the Town Council from the former Mold 2000. The donation of £2,445.35 had been raised to improve the Christmas Lights in Mold.

99. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th October be received and approved;
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12th November 2012 be received and noted

100. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council 25th October 2012

Minute 79 Mayor's Announcements – Councillor Andrea Mearns suggested that the Mayor's printed sheet of activities that is handed out at each meeting should be included within the minutes and provided on the Website. The Clerk agreed to include the printed sheets in all future minutes and on the Website.

Minute 81 Matters Arising – Councillor Haydn Bateman provided a further update on the meeting he had attended relating to the Flood Alleviation at Cae Bracty. He advised that Clwyd Alyn Housing Association and Environment Agency Wales had attended the meeting and they had agreed to fit flood gates at Cae Bracty, and had also provided emergency phone numbers, which had been used this week following the heavy rain.

Minute 82.2 Correspondence – Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that a response had been received from Streetclean which would be provided at the next Council meeting.

Minute 88 Use of Facebook – Councillor Bryan Grew asked if there was an update on the progress of introducing Facebook. The Clerk advised that she had met with Councillors Richard Brookes and Phil Thomas, and they had begun preparing guidelines for consideration by the Council, and would be meeting again on 17th December to continue working on the guidelines.

101. CORRESPONDENCE

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

8.1 The Council considered the attached notes of the meetings of the Flintshire Local Access Forum received from Neville Howell, the Town Council's representative on these groups. Councillor Andrea Mearns stressed how useful the detailed reports were from Neville Howell. She had been at a Cittaslow meeting with Neville Howell, who had advised her that the IT systems used for identifying footpaths were different for each County, which wasn't very practical.

8.2 The Council considered the attached correspondence received from One Voice Wales advising the Council of a project to be carried out on the role of community and town councils in climate change adaptation. A survey will also be developed and circulated for completion by community and town councils as part of the project. The Clerk advised Council that the survey had now been distributed for completion by individual Councillors, and she would email the link for the survey to all members if they wished to take part in completing the survey. Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that the survey takes more than the ten minutes it suggests, and asked if an all Council response could be provided. Councillor Bryan Grew advised that he would enquire with One Voice Wales.

8.3 The Council noted the correspondence received from the Head of Planning at Flintshire County Council advising the Council that the adopted UDP has now been formally published, with a copy of the written statement and proposals maps being provided to the Council for reference. Councillor Mearns commented on the urgency of the development of the LDP. It was agreed that an invitation would be made to Andy Roberts from Flintshire to attend a future meeting of the Council to discuss the development of the LDP.

8.4 The Council noted the correspondence received from David Hanson MP in response to the Council's letter relating to Flood Alleviation in Mold. The Council have been advised that David Hanson MP has written to Welsh Water and Flintshire County Council requesting an update on the scheme. It was agreed that a further letter would be sent to David Hanson MP, asking that he arrange a further meeting with all relevant bodies.

8.5 The Council considered the correspondence received from the Head of Culture and Leisure at Flintshire County Council advising the Council of national changes to Welsh Government grant which impacts on the funding for Summer Playschemes. As a result the County can only offer a reduced programme for 2013/14 of two playschemes for a period of three weeks. The Town Council will still be required to contribute £898.20 per location. The letter details other options available should the Town Council wish to increase its contribution to meet the cost of a higher level of provision. It was agreed that the Council would continue to support the two Playschemes for 2013/14, with a contribution of £898.20 per scheme for a period of three weeks. It was also agreed that consideration would be given during the budget setting process on future financial contributions towards the Bubblegum Club at Parkfields.

8.6 The Council noted the correspondence received from Ysgol Glanrafon detailing the Governors' Annual Report to parents. A copy of the report will be provided at the meeting.

8.7 The Council notes the correspondence received from Sandie Mewies AM, advising the Council of a letter received from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB). A copy of the letter from BCUHB will be distributed at the meeting.

8.8 The Council considered the correspondence received from the CCTV Manager, Lifelong Learning Directorate, Flintshire County advising that camera 45 which cover Chester Street, Tyddyn Street and the surrounding area requires replacing as it was removed for repair, but unfortunately it is an obsolete camera and parts are no longer available. As per the service level agreement the CCTV Manager had obtained three quotes for replacement, the cheapest being from Quadrant at a cost of £913.75 plus VAT. It was agreed that the CCTV Manager would be instructed to replace the camera as required. It was also agreed that the CCTV Manager would be asked to arrange an assessment of all the cameras, to allow for future financial planning for maintenance and replacement.

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

102. PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing the correspondence received from the Head of Culture and Leisure at Flintshire County Council advising that the County is proposing to make a budget provision for the year 2013/14 for improvements to children's play areas. An invitation had been made to nominate a play area and agreed level of contributions to a maximum of £10,000. However, the County advise that a guarantee cannot be given that all nominations will be approved, and that it may be necessary to make a reduction in the level of match funding.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The Clerk is authorised to incorporate into the budget for 2013/14 the sum of £5,000 for play area improvements.
- b) The County Council is advised of the proposal for Gas Lane to receive the full allocation of funding 2013/14, amounting to £10,000.

103. IMPROVED ACCESS TO MAES GWERN

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing the proposal to install a new barrier at the head of Maes Gwern. The County Council had obtained a quote to carry out the work of £800, and were asking if the Council would be prepared to share the costs, 50/50 with the County Council.

Resolved: It was resolved to inform the County Council that the Council will consider the request during the budget setting process in the New Year.

104. LGPS: INVESTMENT IN PARTNERSHIP – INFORMAL CONSULTATION

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing the consultation sought by LGPS for views on whether any amendment is necessary to remove specific barriers preventing Scheme funds from being invested in infrastructure investment vehicles designed to control risk exposure and provide both future income stream to funds and necessary capital input into projects intended to stimulate growth. The closing date for receipt of responses to the consultation is 14th December 2012.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

a) The Personnel Committee meet to consider the document and prepare a response.

b) The Personnel Committee 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 30th January 2013.

105. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – VIBRANT & VIABLE PLACES, NEW REGENERATION FRAMEWORK

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing the consultation sought by the Welsh Government as a result of a policy review of approaches to regeneration instigated by the Minister for Housing, Regeneration & Heritage in February 2012. The closing date for receipt of the responses to the consultation is 14th January 2013. Councillors Geoff Collett, Anthony Parry and Andrea Mearns had attended the Regeneration Wales Summit on 15th November 2012, which included consideration of the consultation document.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

a) Councillors Geoff Collett, Anthony Parry, Andrea Mearns the Town Centre Manager and Town Clerk meet to consider the document and prepare a response.

b) That the group has delegated power to provide the response on behalf of the Council as the closing date of the consultation is only one day after the next meeting of the Council on 30th January 2013.

106. REPORT OF THE TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

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

The Town Centre Manager that Rubens coffee shop would be opening shortly, and although this had been opposed by Cibo it would mean that there are no vacant premises on the High Street of Mold.

Reference was made to the former Gold Shop, which would be used for the Nativity Scene over the Christmas period. Some traders will also be opening on 23rd December 2012, and the Town Band had been approached to play on that day.

The Town Centre Manager advised that Mold 2000 had now finished and traders are looking at how a new group might look like, and a questionnaire will be sent out to traders in the New Year. The Town Centre Manager will be assisting in this process.

The Town Centre Manager advised that he will be touring the town with the Conservation Officer in a few days. He had also recently taken part in interviews to appoint consultants for the Daniel Owen Square; Paul Harrison Consultants had been successful. There are also interviews on Friday 30th November 2012 for the Strategic Sites assessment across the town.

Reference was made to the success of Novemberfest the previous weekend, where over 620 people had attended, and had supported future a Novemberfest. The Town Centre Manager thanked everyone for their efforts in delivering the event, particularly Councillor Bryan Grew and the Mayor, Councillor Geoff Collett. The Mayor gave thanks to the Town Centre Manager for all his hard work in ensuring the success of the festival.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

107. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Bob Gaffey had sought support for The Town Council to write to the Coalition Government urging them to set up an over-arching inquiry with the remit to look outside of Social Services relating to the inquiry into Bryn Estyn.

Councillors Bob Gaffey and Geoff Matthias sought support for the Town Council to write to Flintshire County Council, requesting double yellow lines on Dreflan, for the section at the top on the bend onto the bottom of Pwll Glas.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

a) Councillor Bob Gaffey withdraw the notice of motion following further development published in the media.

b) A letter would be sent to Flintshire County Council, requesting double yellow lines on Dreflan, for the section at the top of the bend onto the bottom of Pwll Glas.

108. NOTIFICATIONS OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

109. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Councillor Andrea Mearns advised Council that she had recently attended a Cittaslow UK meeting in London, and would provide a paper on this at the next meeting of the Council. She also advised that the PHD student would be starting work in the towns in the New Year, including Mold.

Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that the Forrest school at Bryn Gwalia is in need of wood.

Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that the Daniel Owen Festival dates for next year are 19-26 October 2013. Reference was also made to the need for a central website for all events in the town, and that Mentyr Iaithe should be advised of the yearly events for their calendar.

Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that there is a new Cittaslow Mold Chair, Sarah Platt.

Councillor Andrea Mearns also advised that she had visited San Miniato last week with Cittaslow, and noted that EU money was being accessing through town twinning.

110. 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: 28th November 2012
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
None		