

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 30th January 2013.

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 and Gareth Williams with the Clerk and Finance Officer and Town Centre Manager.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: Geoff Matthias and Phil Thomas

111. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

112. MOLD POLICE AND PCSO SUPPORT

The Mayor welcomed Sgt. Sue Richards and PCSO's Emma Owen and Carol Richards to the meeting and invited them to speak. Sgt. Richards introduced herself and her colleagues and welcomed any questions. Councillor Gareth Williams asked if the parking enforcement currently being carried out would be a purge or if it would be on-going. Sgt. Richards advised that they are very pro-active to help not only residents but the emergency services. She advised that although her officers do not work 24/7 they do their best to enforce parking. She advised that recent indications show that most cars parked on yellow lines are blue badge holders and so are legally parked.

Councillor Chris Bithell thanked the sergeant and her officers for attending the meeting and for the work they are doing. He advised the officers of information he had received relating to the new skateboard park and his concerns relating to the information and asked if the officers could monitor the area. Sgt. Richards advised that she did not have any information with her that she could provide the Council with but she would take Councillor Bithell's concerns are report back to a future meeting.

Councillor Andrea Mearns congratulated the officers on their work and looked forward to working with them in the future.

Councillor Brian Lloyd advised the officers of concerns he had relating to activities at a block of flats in his ward. Sgt. Richards advised that she is aware of the issues and would be taking action to address the problem.

Councillor Brian Lloyd also asked about the shelter at the Club House at Bryn Gwalia Playground being removed. He also believed that it would be replaced with another Sheltered. Sgt. Richards confirmed that a new custom made sheltered would be

provided, especially designed for young people. She advised that evidence shows that such ~~sheltered-shelters~~ aid in the reduction of Anti-social Behaviour.

113. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor handed out a printed sheet showing all activities since the last meeting (attached). He spoke to the list of activities providing more details. The Mayor advised that he had attending the meeting at St. Asaph on 18th January 2013 where BCUHB had provided the outcome of the consultation. He was pleased to say that Mold had been successful if their bid to save the x-ray and minor injuries department. In addition Mold Community Hospital would also now become a Hub Hospital. He advised members that he would be having a small get together at the Town Hall on Wednesday 6th February 2013 from 7.00pm as a way of thanking everyone who had supported the Action Group during the consultation period. The Mayor also advised that all proceeds from his Charity Dinner to be held at the Beaufort Park Hotel on 20th April 2013 would be donated to the Mold Community Hospital League of Friends.

Councillor Bithell advised that he had also attended the meeting at St. Asaph and it had been a very good day for Mold. However, he stressed his disappointment for other areas, and made particular reference to the loss of Flint Hospital. His suggestion to write to all the Town and Community Councils who supported Mold, to thank them was agreed by the Council. A number of councillors congratulated the Mayor on his leadership during the campaign. It was agreed that a formal vote of thanks be recorded to the Mayor and everyone who was involved in the campaign to save the services are Mold Community Hospital

114. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28th November be received and approved;
- b) The minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 3rd December 2012 and 14th January 2013 be received and noted.
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Cemetery Committee held on 8th January 2013 be received and noted.

115. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council 28th November 2012

Minute 96 Public Procurement – Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that she has arranged a meeting with Rudy Imhoof on 6 February 2013, there will also be Niall Waller from Flintshire, Robert Price from Denbighshire and Caroline Dawson from Wrexham in attendance

Minute 100 Matters Arising – Councillor Chris Bithell ~~aside-asked~~ if there was an update on the progress of introducing Facebook. Councillor Richard Brookes

advised that it had been the intention to bring the work on the introduction of Facebook to the meeting, however, due to the length of the agenda and as Councillor Phil Thomas was unable to attend it will be brought to the next meeting of the Council.

Minute 101.2 Correspondence – Councillor Bryan Grew advised that the consultation was for individual councillors to respond and there is still time to take part if any councillor wishes to.

Minute 101.3 Correspondence – Councillor Chris Bithell asked if there had been an invitation made to Andy Roberts to attend a future meeting of the Council to discuss the development of the LDP. The Clerk advised that an invitation had been sent, but a response had not yet been received.

Minute 101.4 Correspondence – Councillor Carol Heycocks asked if all Councillors had received a letter recently from Sandie Mewies AM. The Clerk added that a copy was available for those who had not received it, and that a meeting was being arranged through David Hanson MP, with proposed dates currently being 1st or the 8th March 2013.

Mold Town Council Cemetery Committee 8th January 2013

Minute 4.1 Matters Arising – It was asked if additional quotes had been obtained for the works required on the railings. The Clerk advised that no further quotes had been obtained at the moment, and the Mayor added that he had been in discussion with the Town Centre Manager on options for repairing the railings through the Spring Clean which could save the Council money and this needed to be pursued further before additional quotes are obtained.

116. CORRESPONDENCE

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

116.1 The Council noted the correspondence received from Streetkleen relating to the anaerobic digestion of dog waste. The Council was been advised that Streetkleen recently attended a meeting with Welsh Government Waste Strategy Board officers in Cardiff. Both officers were incredibly supportive of Streetkleen's objectives and agreed that they align very well with policies and strategies of the Welsh Government. Streetkleen and Free-Energy will now proceed with plans for a small scale proof of concept trial that will involve pasteurization of and anaerobic digestion of dog waste. The dog waste will be sourced from dog kennels and rehoming centres in North Wales. A full scale trial of acceptance of Local Authority collected dog waste is expected to begin in January 2013. The Environment Agency, State Vet and other regulatory bodies are suitably satisfied with the technology process and Free-Energy are happy to proceed with spreading the digestate to land.

116.2 The Council noted the attached correspondence of the meetings of the Flintshire Local Access Forum and email received from Neville Howell, the Town Council's representative on these groups. It was suggested and agreed that Neville

Howell be contacted and asked if there is anything the Town Council can or should be doing.

116.3 The Council noted the correspondence received from Alan Roberts, Public Open Spaces Manager at Flintshire County Council confirming receipt of the Town Councils request for match funding provision of £5,000 to improve Gas Lane Play Area during 2013/14. The Council has been advised that the request will be given further consideration in February 2013.

116.4 The Council considered the correspondence received from Alan Roberts, Public Open Spaces Manager at Flintshire County Council confirming receipt of the Town Councils request to proceed with the original request to carry out general maintenance improvements at existing play areas for the 2012/13 period. Instruction will now be given for these works to be undertaken. In addition the Council considered the request for views on whether Hawthorn Avenue play area is still needed in the community following the Town Council's comments that residents prefer to play at Parkfields and that the estimated refurbishment costs for Hawthorn Avenue will be in the region of £40,000. It was agreed that in order to appreciate the local residents true views on the requirements of Hawthorn Avenue play area the town councilors for that ward would consult with the residents and report back their findings at the next meeting of the Town Council.

116.5 The Council noted the correspondence received from David Hanson MP advising that a meeting recently took place regarding the Mold Flood Alleviation Scheme, and unfortunately the County Council's work has been delayed due to issues around funding for the Authority. However, Welsh Water's contribution of £500,000 is still in place.

116.6 The Council noted the correspondence received from One Voice Wales advising of 2013 training programme available for town and community councils and also the Strong Roots Project – 'Green Futures' training programme to enable Community and Town Councils to fully understand the concept of sustainable development and how it relates to their communities.

116.7 The Council considered the correspondence received from Neal Cockerton, Head of Assets and Transportation at Flintshire County Council, seeking views on the review of speed limits on Flintshire's 'A' and 'B' roads conducted by the County. Councillor Chris Bithell requested that one area currently not on the list of considerations be reviewed for the introduction of a 30mph speed limit; this was the section of the A5119 from King Street to the Bridge Inn. Councillor Carol Heycocks requested that the section of the B5444 from Bromfield Lane to the roundabout be considered for a speed reduction. The Mayor also suggested that the section of the B5444 between Broncoed Lane and Grosvenor Street be considered for a speed reduction to 20mph. It was agreed that the observations be forwarded to Neal Cockerton, Head of Assets and Transportation at Flintshire County Council.

116.8 The Council noted the correspondence received from One Voice Wales, advising of the re-launch of Policy Consultation Volunteer responders, and seeking councillors who would like to join or remain in the consultation framework.

116.9 The Council noted the correspondence received from One Voice Wales providing details of all the grants that are currently available in Wales for Environmental Projects and that a copy of the document is available from the Clerk on request.

116.10 The Council noted the correspondence received from Paul Egan, One Voice Wales relating to the publishing of a new Welsh National Planning policy document.

116.11 The Council noted the correspondence received from North Wales Police providing details of a 'BikeRegister' scheme, which is a special bike marking scheme being promoted to try and reduce the number of bicycle thefts across North Wales.

116.12 The Council noted the response provided by the sub-group of members on the Welsh Governments Consultation Document: Vibrant & Viable Places.

116.13 The Council noted the correspondence received from Mike Harriman, One Voice Wales' representative on the Stakeholder Reference Group relating to the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010.

116.14 The Council considered the correspondence received from a resident of Mold regarding the introduction of Dog Control Orders in the County and her suggestion that the provision of more Dog Bins strategically placed where offending takes place together with the provision of a map showing bin locations would help. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the resident requesting any knowledge of locations where dog bins are required and to write to Steve Jones, Head of Streetscene requesting details of the policy for the placing of dog bins and advising him of the correspondence received from the Mold resident.

116.15 The Council noted the correspondence received from Groundwork North Wales providing information about the ways they can get involved with community groups.

116.16 The Council noted the correspondence received from Sandie Mewies AM, advising the Council of a statement made by Edwina Hart AM, Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science which confirms that the Welsh Government is to extend the Welsh Small Business Rate Relief Scheme into 2013/14.

116.17 The Council noted the correspondence received from Sandie Mewies AM, advising the Council that the Welsh Government is to develop a new tourism signing policy for major roads and consultants have been appointed to take the work forward.

116.18 The Council noted the correspondence has been received from Mr Steve Jones, Head of Streetscene at Flintshire County Council, advising that following the outcome of trials for dual use waste/litter bins, it is the intention of the County to use separate containers for each source of waste in the future.

116.19 The Council noted the correspondence received from Sandie Mewies AM, advising the Council of a statement made by Huw Lewis AM, Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage on developing a business case for the future delivery of the functions of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and Cadw.

Councillor Geoff Darkins left the meeting at 7.55pm.

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

117. BUDGET 2013/14

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing the estimates for the current year, the probable expenditure for the year together with estimates for the next financial year 2013/2014. The Council noted that the report included the third quarterly review of the current year's accounts with details of the petty cash expenditure, income and the bank / cash reconciliation as at 31st December 2012.

The Clerk reminded the Council that the Budget Sub-Group has monitored the expenditure and carefully considered the detail of the proposed budget.

Members considered the budget proposals and supported the continued financial support for the Bubblegum group despite the loss of Cymorth funding. It was agreed that a reduced service would be favoured to no service. Enquires would be made with Flintshire and Bubblegum to identify if the current funding of £4750 would be sufficient to provide a reduced service.

Members debated the likely additional funds required to develop the cemetery extension, and the options available to fund a loan.

Members recognised the need for an increase in the precept income and supported the original recommended increase of 4%. It was noted that should a loan be approved for the cemetery extension, approximately £5,600 per annum would be required to fund the repayments; this would result in a low projected balance at the end of the year 2013/14 but which, if necessary, could be covered by the Council's funds for the first year.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The quarterly reviews of general expenditure, petty cash expenditure, income and the bank reconciliation as at 31st December 2012 be noted and approved;
- b) The charges for use of the Jubilee Room are increased from 1st April 2013 to £9.00 and £14.50 per hour for Charities/Voluntary Groups and Non Charities respectively;
- c) The budget for 2013/2014 as proposed be approved; and
- d) A precept of £208,884 be approved for the year 2013/2014.

118. 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) Hafan Cymru | £50.00 |
|----------------|--------|

b) North West Cancer Research (Mold Branch)	£118.75
c) Mold and District Choral Society	£118.75
d) North Wales Deaf Association	£118.75
e) Shelter Cymru	£50.00
f) Urdd Gobaith Cymru	£118.75
g) Wales Dyslexia	£50.00
h) Home-start Flintshire	£118.75
i) Mold Players Amateur Dramatics Society	£118.75
j) Virgin Art	£118.75
k) The Masonic Fishing Charity	£118.75

In addition Councillor Gareth Williams made a kind offer to make up the shortfall to ensure that each Charity identified as receiving £118.75 would actually receive £120.00

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

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

The Council considered the previously circulated report detailing 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) A sub-group of councillors meet to consider the White Paper and prepare a response for consideration by the Town Council at its next meeting on 27th February 2013.

b) That the sub-group members would be Councillors Geoff Collett (Mayor), Andrea Mearns and Phil Thomas.

120. REPORT OF THE TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

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

The Town Centre Manager advised that he had spoken with the traders and enquired about the Christmas trade. He reported that 50-60% of traders had seen an improvement in trade compared to last Christmas, whereas 15-20% had experience a downturn in trade, with the remainder reporting similar trading for the same period.

Reference was made to the trading of Argos and the Town Centre Manager assured members that Argo is doing well, and it is not closing. However, he recognized that although Mold is doing well compared to other towns, trading is fragile, with four shops closing recently. He advised that the sale of Hamersley's had fallen through and Ron Hamersley had now begun to replace the diminished stock.

The Town Centre Manager reported on 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 the Town Partnership and the work relating to Destination Management, he advised members of a new marketing brand for the area, which would now be identified as North East Wales and not the Borderlands.

Reference was made to the continuation of the consultation period for the Daniel Owen Square improvements.

The Town Centre Manager sought sponsors for the auction which will be held during the Mayor's Charity Dinner.

Councillor Bryn Grew commented that comments had been made about the Christmas lights and traders had varying views. He asked if a Tourism Committee could be arranged to discuss any issues further. The Mayor agreed that a Tourism Committee meeting would be arranged.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

121. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Bob Gaffey had sought support for The Town Council to write to the Town's local representatives and Edwina Hart in Cardiff urging them to withdraw the proposal to increase business rates for charity shops in Wales.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) That the notice of motion was not supported by the Town Council.

122. NOTIFICATIONS OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

123. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Councillor Andrea Mearns advised Council that Robert Price from Cadwyn Clwyd would be supporting the appointment of a Local Produce Officer subject to 30% match funding.

Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that Mold Fairtrade would be having a wine tasting evening, and sought support to provide the use of the Jubilee room free of charge. This was agreed.

Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that the Pancake Race day would be on Tuesday 12th February this year, which falls during school half term, she asked for volunteers to help with setting up the Daniel Owen Square, or for assisting during the races.

Councillor Bryan Grew advised that together with Councillor Richard Brookes had attending the area One Voice Wales meeting, where they had received a presentation from the Post Office, which had advised of further investment into Post Offices, and improvements to Post Office services.

Councillor Bryn Grew advised that he had also attended the Larger Councils One Voice Wales meeting with the Clerk, where the Chair of the New Boundary Commission had given a presentation. Councillor Grew advised that the Boundary Commission would be working from the grass roots up, and aimed not to carry out a Local Authority review until the Local Authority had conducted a community review. This was welcomed by the Council.

124. 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.

125. 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.

126. PROPOSED CAR PARK POLICY – FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Council considered the previously circulated report prepared by the Town Centre Manager. In speaking to the report the Town Centre Manager referred to the conclusions and sought comments from the Council.

A suggestion was made by Councillor Gareth Williams that a small group of members together with the Clerk and Town Centre Manager request a meeting with officer from Flintshire to discuss Mold's views on the proposed policy introduction. Members supported this suggestion. In addition comments were made by Councillor Andrea Mearns, Chris Bithell, Bryan Grew and Robin Guest. All of whom agreed that Mold had previously agreed that car parking charges were required in Mold.

Resolved: It was resolved that a meeting would be sought with officers of the County Council and a small group of members to discuss the views of Mold.

127. BAILEY HILL LODGE.

The Mayor gave a brief update to members of the progress that had been made at a recent meeting with officers from the County Council. Councillors Robin Guest and Andrea Mearns who had also been present at the meeting added their observations and advised that regular monthly meetings would be held with officers to ensure continued progress.

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: 30th January 2013
--------------------------	---

MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
Councillor Andrea Mearns Councillor Bob Gaffey	Budget (financial support to Bubblegum).	Minute No. 117

SR/MINUTES/MTC/MTCMINS130130