**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 24th September 2014.

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: Carol Heycocks (Mayor), Brian Lloyd, Haydn Bateman, Richard Brookes, Ray Dodd, Bob Gaffey, Bryan Grew, Robin Guest, Phil Thomas, Anthony Parry, Geoff Matthias and Gareth Williams, The Clerk and Finance Officer, Town Centre Manager and Support Officer.

**ALSO PRESENT:** One member of the press (Leader).

**APOLOGIES**: Councillors: Chris Bithell, Andrea Mearns and Geoff Collett.

**59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

**60. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor advised she has had a busy and interesting few weeks:-

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| 24/07/2014 | Community Engagement Introduction Seminar, Town Hall |
| 25/07/2014 | St James Patronal Service |
| 01/08/2014 | opening Blues & Soul Festival |
| 02/09/2014 | Cottage Nursing Home BBQ |
| 03/08/2014 | Blues & Soul Festival |
| 25/08/2014 | Cilcain Show |
| 26/08/2014 | Supported Phil Thomas as he left for his sponsored walk to Llangollen |
| 30/08/2014 | Big Slow Breakfast, part of the Taste of Flintshire Food Month |
| 01/09/2014 | Nightingale House re 20th anniversary plans |
| 04/09/2014 | Blooming Mold presentation, Community Gardens  |
| 05/09/2014 | Mold Remembers, Mold Ex Servicemens Club |
| 06/09/2014 | WW1 Centenary Ploughmans Lunch, TA Centre Prestatyn |
| 08/09/2014 | Supported the Tour of Britain cycle race through the town |
| 12/09/2014 | Attended Best Kept Communities Awards Ceremony |
| 14/09/2014 | Leeswood Civic Service, Councillor J E Saul |
| 15/09/2014 | County Hall meeting re Big Budget |
| 19/09/2014 | Taste of Flintshire Awards, Food Festival Site |
| 20/09/2014 | opening of Mold Food & Drink Festival |
| 20/09/2014 | Smurfit Kappa Family Funday |
| 21/09/2014 | Mold Food & Drink Festival |
| 23/09/2014 | Support your local high street with Wales & West Housing, photo call in town centre |

**61. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 23rd July 2014 be received and approved.

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 18th August 2014 be received and noted.

c) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 21st July 2014 and 2nd September 2014 be received and noted.

**62. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

62.1 minute 49.1 PCSO’s - Councillor Phil Thomas informed the Council he had been unable to make contact with the PCSO on behalf of his ward and asked for an update on the deployment of PCSO’s from Inspector Sharon McCairn. Councillor Robin Guest suggested the Town Clerk ask for an update on the PCSO positions for the relevant wards.

**63. REPORT OF THE TOWN CENTRE MANAGER**

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

The Town Centre Manager informed the council that the gateway signs, tourist information points and town map are progressing well and will be delivered within timescales to meet the Cadwyn Clywd funding. Bailey Hill access statement is nearing completion. All current projects look to be delivered within timescales.

For Support Your Local High Street week, a photocall had been arranged in Mold on Tuesday 23rd September which had been very well attended by local businesses, traders and residents, including Wales & West Housing Association who came along with residents of Llys Jasmine.

The Time Capsule under the Daniel Owen statue was due to be uncovered within the next few weeks and when the date is confirmed, the information would be circulated to all members. The Town Centre Manager and Town Clerk are discussing with Nia from the town library ideas and opportunities for local school children to be involved in creating the new time capsule which is to be planted.

The results from the Visitor Survey will be discussed in the next tourism meeting.

Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water work on replacing the pipes in the town will commence on 18th October. It has been agreed they will not work on Saturdays but will work 6 days a week and include Sundays. Work will not be carried out on the High Street until the middle of January. Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water will be holding a drop in centre every Wednesday at Town & Country Estate Agents and will be available to answer any questions from businesses and residents with regards to the planned works.

Daniel Owen Square redevelopment is on schedule and the Town Centre Manager had received several positive comments about the current location of the street market from both traders and shoppers.

The Daniel Owen Festival will be held 18th – 24th October and itinery of events progressing well.

The Town Centre Manager informed members the annual Novemberfest event would be taking place at St Mary’s Church Hall on 7-9th November and if any members of the council would like to volunteer at the event, please speak to the Town Centre Manager.

Mold’s Festive Weekend will be held on 13th & 14th December and Interact Wales are also working on the programme which will be based around a Peter Pan theme.

Mayor’s Christmas Concert will be held on Monday 15th December at St Mary’s Church.

Thornton’s is re-opening in its old location in the Daniel Owen Precinct.

Councillor Robin Guest asked if a plan was available to show the public how the Daniel Owen Square will look when finished and if this could be put up on the railings which surrounds the redevelopment. The Town Centre Manager informed members, only the artist’s impression was available and this was currently on display on the Town Hall notice board and in the window of the Daniel Owen Centre.

Councillor Bob Gaffey asked if the Gold Cape would feature on any of the tourist information points, the Town Centre Manager confirmed the Gold Cape would be featured.

**Councillor Richard Brookes arrived at 7.00pm**

**64. MOLD BLUES & SOUL FESTIVAL**

The Town Centre Manager gave council an update on this year’s event and asked the council to support the festival for 2015.

All those involved with organising the event have concluded that for the first year Mold Blues and Soul festival was a resounding success, especially given the challenging circumstances that had to be overcome to make it happen. The event was supported by a large number of volunteers over the weekend. Where appropriate, professional services were provided by local companies, who also offered support / financial commission towards the event.

Not counting the organising group, 73 community volunteers came forward to provide 1130 hours of volunteer time, which equates to nearly £7500.00 of value at £6.50 per hour. This tremendous community contribution reflects the passion of the town to make the Blues and Soul Festival happen.

Nearly 1100 people attended over the weekend with the majority attending on the Saturday itself. The weather played an important part in limiting numbers attending.

The whole event passed without incident and the County Council was happy with the state of the venue field post the festival.

The organising group debrief meeting concluded the festival should remain true to its original intentions, has great potential for the town. Year 1 was a success, even though it has only just covered its costs, and requires at least 3 years effort and growth for the event to become established. Grant / sponsorship funding will be required for the next 2 years (at least). The Blues and Soul Festival can become a valued and sustainable asset to the town in terms of vibrancy and vitality. It has the potential for the future to generate revenue for other events and activities. Kendrick’s Field is the best location in Mold for events of this type in the town and the necessary infrastructure needs to be developed further.

The Town Council had received two complaints regarding the festival:-

**64.1 Complaint of Noise**

At the time of gaining the Premises License for Kendrick’s Field three local residents came forward with concerns and objections. Those concerns were addressed via the County Council Licensing Committee and also imposing conditions on the licence including; that events must be concluded by 10pm, no alcohol could be brought onto or leave the site and a maximum of 10 event days could be held per year.

The Festival organisers ensured that the above conditions were precisely kept, however were surprised to subsequently receive a letter from Flintshire County Council’s Pollution Control Section. Not only was noise monitoring equipment installed in a resident’s house prior to the event itself, but also the organisers were not informed of this fact until later. The Town Council has been asked to respond to the letter.

Event Sound Limited who provided the festival stage and sound services, undertook as part of their event Standard Operating Procedures, pre-event and during event sound checks and also provided a report on their sound monitoring activities. The monitoring was undertaken in the immediate vicinity of neighbouring properties to the side and on the boundary of Kendrick’s Field alongside Ruthin Road. The results showed that the background noise for the two properties were an average over 10 readings on 2 different days were 50.06dBA and 50.4dBA and alongside Ruthin Road 66.4dBA. During the event itself over 3 days noise levels over multiple readings were in-line with the levels reported by Flintshire County Council for the monitored property although understandably slightly higher alongside Ruthin Road.

Guidance for noise levels at concerts is included within the *Noise Council Code on Noise Control at Concerts (1995)*, which recommends that music concerts at venues similar to Kendrick’s Field should not have music noise levels of more than 15dB(A) over a 15 minute period, above the background noise level taken at a 1 metre distance from the façade of a sensitive building. Background noise levels should also be taken externally and not internally to any building.

The County Council Pollution Control Section have commented that the internal background noise levels before and after the event were approximately 40dBA, which equates to noise level experienced in a Library. The pertinent guidance suggests that monitoring should be external and not internal, which appears not to have been the case.

Of note, whilst one unidentified resident has obviously taken steps to bring-in the County Council’s Pollution Control Section in advance of the event, the nearest and most affected neighbour has chosen to write to the Town Manager stating advising that they had enjoyed the festival.

**64.2 Closure of footpath**

A complaint was received from the local Rambler’s Association representative just before the day of set up for the Festival, regarding the closing of a footpath leading from Llys Preswylfa through to the Maes Bodlonfa via the Ornamental Gardens and alongside Kendrick’s Field. The footpath was closed primarily for security reasons and also safety of pedestrians at the junction of the footpath with the main field entrance for vehicles to Kendrick’s Field. Notices were put up one week prior to the event advising of the closure and alternative pedestrian routes are available.

The closure was identified within the licence granted by Flintshire County Council for the use of the venue, but on receipt of the complaint the situation was checked out with the County Council’s Footpath Access Officer to be told that the Town Council’s actions were perfectly legitimate and legal as the footpath had never been designated by the Council itself. Since then however, the Ramblers Association have sought to have the footpath so designated which the County Council have agreed to approve as such. In future therefore, an acceptable alternative route has to be available and the Town Council will have to apply for a closure order in advance of the event.

Councillor Robin Guest suggested the Town Centre Manager meet with Flintshire County Council Pollution Control Section to discuss the complaint regarding noise levels and also suggested talking to residents, informally, regarding the festival. Councillor Phil Thomas suggested a discounted ticket for local residents as some residents had commented the admission price was too high for family groups. Councillor Gareth Williams suggested the level of financial support for the Town Council is discussed at the Budget Committee meeting and built into the budget for 2015.

 **Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) All members supported, in principal subject to wider survey of residents views, the festival going ahead in 2015;

b) The level of Town Council future financial support to be discussed in the budget review meeting;

c) The Town Centre Manager to arrange to meet with Pollution Control Section to discuss the noise complaint further.

**The Town Centre Manager left at 7.50pm**

**65. ONE VOICE WALES – AGM MOTIONS**

The Council considered the eight motions due for debate at the Annual General Meeting of One Voice Wales. Councillor Richard Brookes would be attending the AGM as the council’s representative.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

1. That the council would recommend motion 3. Caldicot Town Council, toll charge on the Severn River should be reduced and not abolished;
2. All other motions be noted

**66. ANNUAL RETURN & INTERMEDIATE AUDIT 2013/2014**

The Council considered the report of the Auditor and noted that there are no issues arising from the external audit of the accounts for the year 2013/14. The Council formally approved the Annual Return, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda, for return to the Auditor and final completion of the audit.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the Annual Return for signing by the Mayor and return to the Auditor.

**67. BEST KEPT COMMUNITIES COMPETITION**

The Council noted that Mold had been awarded first prize in the Best Kept Town Centre with a population of over 5000 category, and that the town had also entered Leadmill Bridge and St Mary’s Park Community Orchard which received the following observations:-

Leadmill Bridge - the judges noted that this was a new entry and as such very much a work in progress, they looked forward to seeing it in future years as it has matured.

St Mary’s Park Community Orchard – the judges noted this was a brilliant idea but the trees needed attention as they currently looked a little neglected.

Councillor Brian Lloyd informed Council that Bryn Gwalia Community Gardens had also won first prize in the Best Kept Community Garden/Wildlife area category.

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

**68. GUIDANCE ON SETTING LOCAL SPEED LIMITS**

The Council noted the information received from Sandy Mewies AM, providing information on a recent statement made by Edwina Hart AM, Minister for Economy, Science and Transport regarding guidance on setting local speed limits.

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

**69. MEMORIAL TREE PLANTING SCHEME**

The Council considered the previously circulated letter received from a local resident suggesting an introduction of a Memorial Tree Planting Scheme. Councillor Gareth Williams suggested this be handed over to the Cemetery Committee for consideration.

Councillor Phil Thomas had spoken with the resident and suggested the scheme could be incorporated into the green belt to improve the surrounding habitat. Councillor Robin Guest said consideration to the maintenance of the area needs to be considered.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to discuss further at the next Cemetery Committee meeting.

**Press left the meeting at 8.05pm**

**70. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

The Council considered the correspondence received from Alcoholics Anonymous making a request to attend a future Town Council meeting. Councillor Bryan Grew suggested future meetings with guest speakers in attendance should start at 6.00pm and should be limited to one guest speaker per meeting.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to make an invitation to the February meeting of the Town Council which would start at 6.00pm.

**71. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: DEVOLUTION, DEMOCRACY AND DELIVERY WHITE PAPER – REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Council considered the previously circulated information relating to The White Paper “Reforming Local Government” is the Welsh Government’s statement of intent about the future of local government.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) A sub-group of members: Councillors Richard Brookes, Bryan Grew and Gareth Williams would meet Monday 29th September to discuss and complete the consultation response form on behalf of the Town Council.

a) Delegated power is given to the sub-group to provide a response on behalf of Mold Town Council.

**72. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY OF ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS**

The Council considered the previously circulated information relating to Consultation papers seeking views and opinions on proposals to improve the availability of land for allotments, to protect land for allotments and improve opportunities for community growing have been received.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:-

a) A sub-group of members: Councillors Richard Brookes, Bryan Grew and Gareth Williams would meet Monday 29th September to discuss and complete the consultation response form on behalf of the Town Council.

b) Delegated power is given to the sub-group to provide response on behalf of Mold Town Council.

**73. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Notice of motion from Councillor Chris Bithell was deferred to the next meeting.

**74. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

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

**75. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Councillor Bryan Grew attended the One Voice Wales meeting, Future Generations Bill and local authorities have been asked to draw up a programme with guidance from Town and Community Councils.

Councillor Bryan Grew informed members that Sandy Mewies AM had announced she will be standing down at the next election and Councillor Grew asked the Town Clerk to write a letter of appreciation to Sandy thanking her for the support she has shown Mold Town Council over the years.

Councillors Brian Lloyd and Haydn Bateman attended the Community Council Police meeting at Mold Police Station led by Inspector Dave Jolly. Councillor Lloyd gave members a summary of the meeting which included information regarding crime statistics, which had gone down. Police cuts of approx £14 million nationwide would reduce the number of police on the beat. Flintshire currently had 8 Police Sergeants, 38 PC’s, 18 PCSO’s. Facebook was now being used more as an additional way to provide information to the community. Inspector Jolly confirmed he was happy to attend Town Council meetings with items on the agenda relating to the Police. Police grants where available, further information can be provided by PCSO’s.

Councillor Phil Thomas gave members an update on his sponsored walk from Mold to Llangollen which he carried out to raise funds for Bailey Hill Groundworks Appeal. Llangollen was chosen due to their Cittaslow accreditation and to cement the relationship between the two towns.

**76. 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.

**The Meeting ended at 8.20pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH MOLD TOWN COUNCIL’S**

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 24th September 2014** |

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| **MEMBER** | **ITEM** | **MINUTE NO. REFERS** |
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