**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 22nd October 2014.

**PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Two members of the press (Leader and Chronicle).

**APOLOGIES**: Councillors: Richard Brookes

**77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

**78. DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

The Clerk and Finance Officer reported Councillor Karen Hodgkinson had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office by Members.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Hodgkinson to Mold Town Council

**79. 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 |

**80. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) The minutes of the meeting of the council held on held on 24th September 2014 be received and approved.

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 29th July 2014 to be received and noted.

c) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22nd September and 13th October 2014 be received and noted.

**81. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

81.1 minute 62.1 The Town Clerk and Town Manager had met with Sergeant Mavis Evans who provided an update on PCSO deployment. Sergeant Evans confirmed there was currently 3 PCSO’s in Mold and a recruitment drive was in place.

Councillor Bithell confirmed he had been contacted by the PCSO for his ward and they would be meeting to discuss priorities for the ward.

81.2 minute 63 Councillor Bithell asked if a plan and information regarding the funding of the Daniel Owen Square development could be displayed as it was important to get the message across to people of how the re development had been funded. The Town Centre Manager confirmed he had made representation to Flintshire County Council regarding displaying a plan at the site and had been informed this would be an additional cost of £2,500 which was not in the original budget, but he would ask if the current architects plan could laminated and displayed.

81.3 minute 13 Entrance Signs – Councillor Bithell asked for an update on the signage project. The Town Centre Manager confirmed he had received the signage strategy from an independent consultant and would meet with the consultant and Flintshire County Council to discuss the report.

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

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

The Town Centre Manager informed the council many traders were experiencing an increase in shoplifting, with criminals from outside the area travelling to the town. The matter is being addressed by the Police and a special Shop Watch meeting had been arranged at the Town Hall on Tuesday 11th November at 10.00am with North Wales Police and CCTV representatives attending and all traders had been urged to attend.

A festive weekend has been planned, The Magic of Mold will take place in the town on 13th and 14th December with local theatrical group Interact Wales providing extracts from Peter Pan throughout the weekend, along with other festive performers and festive stalls. Interact Wales will also be carrying out a pantomime on the evening of the 14th Dec in St Mary’s Church Hall. The Mayor’s Christmas concert will take place on Monday 15th December with special guest performance from Richard and Adam Johnson.

The annual Novemberfest will take place on 7th, 8th and 9th November and a request for volunteers was made.

The Time Capsule under the Daniel Owen statue was not uncovered when they moved Daniel Owen Statue. Councillor Matthias has confirmed that Aerospace apprentices’ had kindly agreed to make the new time capsule. Nia from the town library is in discussions with the local school children regarding ideas of what to go into the new time capsule which is due to be buried early January.

The delay on the Daniel Owen Square regarding the granite not being delivered in time was under discussion at the highest level. The granite is now in transit and is due to start to be laid, first week in November. The Town Centre Manager has been given assurances that the square will be released back to the community the second week in December in time for the festive period and there will be a discussion regarding the placement of the street market will relevant persons.

Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water planned works on replacing the pipes in the town has now started in the town on New Street which is due for completion before the festive period starts. The rest of the works in the town will commence first or second week in the New Year. Traders have reported the works being carried out in the town have had an impact on trade. The Town Centre Manager confirmed he was working with Flintshire County Council on the signage strategy to address the issues surrounding signage to car parks when diversions are in place and he was also in discussions on how to get people back into the town, further details of which will follow.

The Town Centre Manager gave council an update on other projects;

Funding from Cadwyn Clwyd and the car parking revenue was funding the new Tourist Information Points (TIP’s), these had now been ordered and an image would be circulated to all members who were not on the Tourism Committee.

The new town map would be included on the TIP’s but this would also be available in other formats and would be put on the Town Council website when available.

Bailey Hill access statement was nearing completion and ready to be signed off.

Initial plans for the redevelopment of New Street car park had been received but needed to be finalised before release.

Councillor Williams asked if there was to be any changes to the car parking charges. The Town Centre Manager confirmed there have been discussions regarding reinstating the short term car parks.

Councillor Williams expressed concerns regarding the delay on the Daniel Owen Development and the significant impact on trade especially during the run up to the festive period which some traders relay heavily on the trade during November and December.

Councillor Mearns said she had spoken to several traders and it was distressing to hear the effects the works where having on their businesses. Better communication was needed in relaying information to the traders. The Town Centre Manager confirmed he was looking at setting up a database of contact details including email addresses to assist with communication to the traders and local businesses.

Traders and market traders had informed Councillor Mearns they would like to be involved in future discussions regarding the location of the street market when this was being discussed by Flintshire County Council. The Town Centre Manager had already spoken with Alison Bret from Flintshire County Council regarding the need to inform the traders of discussions.

Councillor Mearns raised concern regarding the rubbish in the bus station and the empty units which have a number of posters on the windows on Chester Street. The Town Centre Manager confirmed Streetscene had been working on tidying the bus station up that week. He had also spoken with Streetscene in regards to cleaning the canopy between the HSBC Bank and McColls.

Councillor Guest informed council he had received positive comments from residents and visitors regarding the current layout of the street market, however the downside was the strain on Milford Street and this would need to be considered in any future discussions regarding the market situation. Councillor Lloyd had received complaints from residents of Milford Street and had been in contact with the local Police to request cones are put down to restrict parking of non residents, however the Police had informed Councillor Lloyd that they could not enforce this as there are no parking restrictions in place on Milford Street.

Councillor Bithell suggested the issue regarding traffic on Milford Street needs to be addressed permanently.

Councillor Thomas said there was a displacement issue with King Street car park which is now no longer a short stay car park. There was an unanimous view from all council members that Meadow Place, King Street and Grosvenor Street car parks should be returned to short stay parking, this would be taken forward by the Town Clerk and discussed with Flintshire County Council.

Councillor Williams suggested the Town Council inform Flintshire County Council that they are now happy with the current situation regarding effect on trade.

The Town Centre Manager left at 7.30pm

**83. ACCOUNTS 2014/15 - HALF YEARLY REVIEW**

The Council considered the previously circulated report including the bank reconciliation, petty cash, income and the expenditure schedules that detail all amounts and invoices paid up to 30th September 2014.

Councillor Bithell requested the Budget committee review the rent on the Bailey Hill lodge. The Sub Audit committee was also asked to review financial regulations regarding the Town Council having a debit card.

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

**84. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION - THE PLANNING (WALES) BILL**

A number of Consultation Documents have been issued to accompany the Planning Wales Bill. Members are asked to consider the relevance of the previously circulated consultation documents and determine whether the Town Council should provide a response by 16 January 2015.

Councillor Bithell raised concern regarding the proposal to move big applications decisions to the Welsh Government and not remain with local planning authority. Following debate on this it was agreed the Planning committee would take forward.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the Planning committee would review and reply on behalf of the Town Council**.**

**85. PLAY EQUIPMENT**

Council were asked to respond to the previously circulated letter which had been received from a young resident of Mold requesting financial support from the Town Council to provide a basketball hoop in the local playground

**Resolved**: The Town Clerk would obtain a quote for the equipment for next discussion in next Town Council meeting.

**86. THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES - DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT**

To consider the attached draft annual report of the independent remuneration panel and prove representations by 27th November 2014.

It was agreed Councillor Grew would reply to ask why no care allowance for councillors had been included.

**Resolved:** Councillor Grew would respond on behalf of council.

**87. COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES**

Correspondence from Flintshire County Council has been received offering to “gift” a bench in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Great War, in time for remembrance services across the country. The County Council will purchase and arrange delivery, but the Town Council would need to take responsibility for installation and future maintenance.

**Resolved:** It was approved to accept and arrange for installation by the war memorial.

**88. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor Chris Bithell spoke to members regarding his notice of motion and requested the Council enters into negotiations with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in relation to their flood map designations for the Mold Area which currently show areas as being at risk of flooding despite flood prevention measures being provided to protect those areas**.**

**Resolved:** All members were in agreement and motion was passed and the Town Clerk requested to take forward.

**Councillor Guest left the meeting at 8.10pm**

**89. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

To note the attached report.

Councillor Parry raised concerns regarding planning application ADW/052208, erection of 22 dwellings on land at Upper Bryn Coch. The planning committee had previously informed Flintshire County Council of their concerns regarding highway safety and increase in traffic, in particular the route which would need to be taken by heavy duty vehicles which would go past Glanrafon School and would cause traffic issue during school opening and closing times.

Councillor Parry informed members that before planning had been approved, residents had received a letter from the contractor informing them of the commencement of work at the site.

**Resolved:** It was agreed the Town Clerk would write to the Planning department to object to the proposed route for heavy duty vehicles.

**90. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Councillor Mearns attended the Flintshire Local Food Project, Taste of Flintshire final meeting with the two consultants who had been contracted at a cost of £40,000. The consultants had generated £65,000 of media coverage and £40,000 extra funding. Highlights from the Taste of Flintshire included 1300 school children in Holywell being provided with a school meal from food locally sourced and under the school budget. The meal was attended by Welsh Government Minister. Three food supplies have now been asked if they would like to work with Flintshire County Council but would need accreditation first.

Councillor Mearns attended Parkfields, Bubblegum meeting and reported the group was now very successful with the ratio of children now exceeded the number of staff required and additional resource was required. Councillor Mearns asked that this be taken forward to the Budget committee for consideration to support a grant of £4,750, and an additional £400 to cover the increased costs. The Town Clerk was asked to circulate the report and take forward.

Councillor Mearns confirmed the Friends of the Bailey Hill had successfully raised £2,500 which was match funded to £5,000 and passed on her thanks on behalf of the group to all members, in particular Councillor Guest who had raised £900 at his Mayor’s ball and to Councillor Thomas who had carried out a sponsored walk to raise funds. Friends of the Bailey Hill fundraising was ongoing and there was a fashion show planned for 21st November at Theatr Clwyd.

Councillor Mearns also passed on thanks from the Daniel Owen Festival committee for the Town Council grant of £350.

Flintshire County Council would be carrying out planting Maes Bodlonfa on Thursday 30th October at 10am and at 12pm at St Mary’s Park if anyone would like to volunteer to assist. Sarah Slater from Flintshire County Council had offered fruit trees for the cemetery which had been approved by the cemetery committee.

Councillor Mearns informed members North Wales Training were looking for community work for unemployed people if anyone could assist. The Town Clerk was asked to circulate the email to council.

Councillor Grew had attended two One Voice Wales meeting and also confirmed he had been elected Chairman of One Voice Wales

**Councillor Grew left the meeting at 8.30pm**

Councillor Gaffey had attended the Daniel Owen Festival which was very well attended.

Councillor Thomas confirmed the first year of the Lead Mills project had ended and he had attended a meeting on 16th October with Sarah Slater from Flintshire County Council to consider how to move forward and any ideas from council would be welcomed.

**Councillor Williams left the meeting at 8.35pm**

Councillor Parry informed council he had recorded antiques road trip which will be televised and will help promote the town

**91. 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.

**92. 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.

**The press left at 8.40pm**

**93. MOLD TOWN PLAN**

Members considered the previously circulated report relating to the Mold Town Plan brief following the last meeting of the working group. Following a discussion on the proposals available it was agreed to note the details contained within the brief and provide delegated power to Mold Town Council members on the steering group. Following a number of concerns detailed in the report it was agreed Councillor Parry would follow this up and report to the next steering group meeting on 11th November.

**Resolved:** It was resolved:

a) That members noted the report.

b) Delegated power was given to the steering group.

c) Councillor Parry would report back to the steering group at the meeting on 11th November.

**94. DANIEL OWEN CENTRE**

Councillor Collett presented the consultant's report on the Daniel Owen Centre and provided members with a brief report of its content to consider the future relationship between the Centre and Mold Town Council. It was also confirmed the Daniel Owen Centre was on Flintshire County Council’s list of community transfers.

**Resolved:** It was resolved:

a) A special meeting would be set up to discuss Mold Town Council’s support of the Daniel Owen Centre

b) At the special meeting, Flintshire County Council’s list of community transfers would also be considered.

**The Meeting ended at 9.35pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 22nd October 2014** |

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