**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 28th January 2015.

**PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Steve Jones, Flintshire County Council Chief Officer for Streetscene and Transportation, Joanna Jones, Flintshire County Council Parking Services Manager and two members of the press.

**APOLOGIES**: Councillors: Gareth Williams, Richard Brookes and Karen Hodgkinson.

**115. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Andrea Mearns expressed an interest in agenda item 8 / Budget 2015/16 regarding Parkfields Junior Youth Club.

Councillor Geoff Collett expressed an interest in agenda item 8 / Budget 2015/16 regarding the Daniel Owen Centre.

Councillors Chris Bithell and Carol Heycocks expressed an interest in agenda item 9 / Financial Assistance regarding Virgin Art.

**116. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Mayor welcomed Steve Jones, Flintshire County Council Chief Officer Streetscene and Transportation and Joanna Jones, Flintshire County Council Parking Services Manager and invited Steve and Joanna to talk to members about the proposed new strategy of car parking in Mold and the wider area and the financial plan.

Steve Jones confirmed to members the net income from car parking, up to April 2015 would be returned to Mold Town Council as per previous agreement to be invested within the town, subject to the criteria set.

Steve Jones informed council due to Flintshire County Council budget cuts, Streetscene may be facing a £2.7m budget cut and are looking at a strategy for parking in each town and for parking income to match existing expenditure.

The current agreement with Mold Town Council regarding income from parking within the town is not sustainable and notice has been given to Mold Town Council this would not continue. The proposal would be for each Town Council to receive 10% of net, after Flintshire County Council costs had been covered, for the Town Council to spend as they see fit, within the set criteria.

Joanna Jones, Parking Services Manager will be managing each towns strategy and Mold will be first. There is currently a pilot scheme running regarding residential parking in Mold to supplement parking charges.

Joanna Jones explained to members briefly the new parking tariff strategy which included changing Meadow Place and King Street car parks to short stay only car parks and the waiting time on Grosvenor Street changed to restrictions from 8.00am – 6.00pm with 1 hour free parking.

There was a strong feeling within the council that on street parking restrictions should be changed to up to 5.00pm and not 5.30pm as proposed.

Councillor Geoff Collett asked if parking charges would be put in place at County Hall as this was a significantly large, free, car park. Steve Jones confirmed all options are being considered by Flintshire County Council.

Councillor Robin Guest expressed disappointment the previous agreement regarding Mold Town Council retaining 100% of the net income from car parking charges would not continue. Mold Town Council had schemes set aside for the revenue from car parking.

Steve Jones informed members the planned programme, once complete would be sent to the Town Centre Manager who would circulate to all members.

Councillor Andrea Mearns asked for the new car park signs to take into consideration the new signage strategy which Mold Town Council had received. Joanna Jones confirmed she had received the new signage strategy and this would be taken into consideration.

Councillor Andrea Mearns asked if the private land which Sainsbury’s had previously expressed an interest on had been considered within the parking strategy.

Councillor Chris Bithell asked Steve Jones if Flintshire County Council would be responsible for the improvement and maintenance of the car parks, Steve Jones confirmed this would be carried out by Flintshire County Council.

Councillor Geoff Collett said that Mold had a population of 10,000 but had a shopping population of 40,000 and Flintshire County Council were acting in an unfair way expecting Mold Town Council to take on the responsibility and maintenance of the public conveniences. Steve Jones confirmed the plan was to close one of the public conveniences, unless this was taken on by someone else but Flintshire County Council would remain responsible for the remaining public convenience on King Street.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

The planned programme of car park changes, once complete would be sent to the Town Centre Manager to circulate to all members.

**Steve Jones and Joanna Jones left the meeting at 7.20pm**

**117. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor advised members of her recent activities:-

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| Date | Event & Location |
| 02/12/2014 | Saltney Christmas Parade - on open top bus |
| 06/12/2014 | Coffee morning in aid of Bailey Hill |
| 07/12/2014 | Flintshire Chair's Charity Afternoon Festive Tea - Mancot Village Hall, incl Llwynegrin Singers |
| 11/12/2014 | Cottage Nursing Christmas party |
| 12/12/2014 | Save the Children Christmas jumper day with MP David Hanson |
| 13/12/2014 | Mold & District Choral Society Christmas concert, St Mary's Church, 7.30PM |
| 13/12/2014 | Mold Festive market |
| 14/12/2014 | Mold Festive market |
| 14/12/2014 | Carol concert at Llys Jasmine |
| 14/12/2014 | Interact Wales Peter Pan pantomime at St Mary's Church Hall |
| 15/12/2014 | Mayor of Mold Christmas Concert with Richard & Adam Johnson, St Mary's Church |
| 18/12/2014 | Sealand Community Council, Candle Lit Christmas Concert, at St Bartholomew's Church |
| 22/12/2014 | Llwynegrin Singers at Mold hospital & presents with Father Christmas, with MP David Hanson |
| 25/12/2014 | Bethesda Christmas morning service, to collect donation for the Alzheimer's |
| 31/12/2014 | New Year's Eve Party Connahs Quay Civic Hall, Connahs Quay council |
| 10/01/2015 | Llwynegrin Singers presentation evening, fundraising evening |
| 14/01/2015 | Airbus to meet apprentices making time capsule |
| 22/01/2015 | Peaceful protest in Daniel Owen Sq, Anti-Racism Rally |

**118. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on held on 26th November 2014 be received and approved.

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Special Council held on 9th December 2014 to be received and approved.

c) The minutes of the meeting of the Sub Audit Committee held on 24th November 2014 be received and approved.

d) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16th December 2014 be received and noted.

e) The minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on held on 8th December 2014 be received and approved.

**119. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

119.1 Minute 99.2 Councillor Mearns advised members Claire Halestrap would be carrying out a presentation at the Friends of Bailey Hill meeting on Tues 3rd February and would provide an update to members.

119.2 Minute 99.5 Councillor Bithell asked if the Town Clerk had written to Carl Sergeant regarding flood defence scheme, the Town Clerk confirmed a letter had been sent.

119.3 Minute 99.6 Councillor Bithell asked if the Town Clerk had received a reply from Andrew Farrow regarding Mold Town Council’s concerns about the access to the Upper Bryn Coch building plot, the Town Clerk advised a letter had been sent but no reply had been received to date.

119.4 Minute 109 The Town Clerk advised she had written to BCUHB to express councils concerns regarding the situation at Grosvenor Surgery, where no permanent Doctor was in residence.

119.5 Minute 109 Councillor Andrea Mearns confirmed that it had been decided not to proceed with applying for the green flag status for the Bailey Hill.

119.5 Minute 109 Councillor Bithell informed council that he had received concerns from some members of the public regarding the number of trees coming down and the shrub clearance at the Bailey Hill, they had expressed concerns regarding the impact on the natural habitat. Councillor Bithell suggested a notice was sent out to give reassurances that all works being carried out at the Bailey Hill, was under professional advice.

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

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

The works being carried out by Welsh Water on the High Street is ahead of schedule and is due to be completed 2 weeks ahead of schedule with works on Chester Street being completed the week after. Welsh Water had already moved onto Milford Street and traffic lights had been set up but there was an issue with congestion. Traders have expressed that their trade is suffering whilst works are being carried

The Town Centre Manager informed members he had secured funding from Welsh Water and Flintshire County Council for a marketing initiative for the town once the works had been completed. One initiative was a scratch card programme with prizes to spend money within the town.

Councillor Chris Bithell said Welsh Water should inform Mold Town Council of any changes to the schedule as works starting on Milford Street had taken everyone by surprise, he asked the Town Centre Manager to obtain a schedule of works from Welsh Water and to circulate this to members and to request Mold Town Council are updated of any changes to the schedule.

The Town Centre Manager had spoken to around 25 plus traders (independent and nationals) regarding the festive trade within the town, the response was mixed, but on average the response was that trade had not been too bad considering the disruption within the town (in relation to Daniel Owen Square development and Welsh Water works). The Thornton’s store which opened up towards the end of the year had said they had a good first festive period.

The Festive weekend, the weather had been bad and the turnout not very good, however the treasure hunt around the town and the pantomime had received a good attendance.

The market was now back on the Daniel Owen Square and the Town Centre Manager was in discussions with the markets team to discuss the layout the stalls with consideration of the new performance area.

The Daniel Owen Square is now open to the public, but we are waiting on the art work and the landscaping to be completed before it is official completed.

Councillor Heycocks mentioned there was a trail of oil on the square left after market day, the Town Centre Manager would take this forward with the markets office.

The meeting for traders had been well attended with over 30 people attending and Town Centre Manager would look at holding the meeting four times a year.

Councillor Mearns asked if there were minutes from the traders meeting. The Town Centre Manager confirmed he would circulate the notes which had been taken on the evening to members.

The Mayor and the Town Centre Manager had recently visited Airbus in Broughton to view the progress of the time capsule which is being made by Airbus apprentices and both had been very impressed with the apprentices and the time capsule. The time capsule would be formally presented to the council on the 5th February. It has been decided the time capsule would be buried within the planter at the back of Daniel Owen and encased in concrete.

A formal opening of the Daniel Owen Square would be planned, under the title Mold Celebrates and it was suggested to hold the opening around April time, further information would be provided to members as event plans progressed.

The Town Centre Manager had been approached by Flintshire County Council regarding the street lighting within the town. Flintshire County Council would replace the current street lights with standard lamps but if Mold Town Council would like more ornate street lighting, Mold Town Council would need to look at funding the difference. The Town Centre Manager has asked for further information so he could share with members to discuss.

The Tourism Committee had approved the Tourist Information Points (TIP’s) to be signed off and there was now a mock up of a TIP on the Town Centre Manager’s door to show members what the TIP’s will look like, the mock up was not exact as some detail would be amended slightly but members were welcome to come and view.

The Town Centre Manager informed members a special meeting was to be arranged for discussion of the car parking strategy and other projects including the town lighting under the tourism remit.

Councillor Andrea Mearns asked if pop up shops had been considered to occupy the empty units within the town, the Town Centre Manager confirmed this has been discussed previously with the unit owners but they were not in favour. However agreement had been received to produce a community window within one of the empty units.

Councillor Carol Heycocks asked if the roof under the walkway between the library and the Daniel Owen Centre was being looked at for repair, the Town Centre Manager confirmed repairs are being taken forward.

The Town Centre Manager left the meeting at 8.10pm

**121. BUDGET 2015/16**

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 2015/16. 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 2014.

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

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) The quarterly reviews of general expenditure, petty cash expenditure, income and the bank reconciliation as at 31st December 2014 be noted and approved;

b) The charges for use of the Jubilee Room increase from April 2015 to £10.00 and £15.00 per hour for Charities/Voluntary Groups and Non Charities respectively;

c) The budget for 2015/2016 as proposed be approved; and

d) A precept of £230,498.00 be approved for the year 2015/2016

**122. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The Council considered the report detailing the applications and recommendations from the panel for financial assistance. It was agreed to make contributions as follows:

1) Suitcase Theatre £200.00

2) Pinboard Writers £200.00

3) North Wales Deaf Association £150.00

4) Plas Drew Trust £200.00

5) Virgin Art, Mold £ 75.00

6) Mold Visionaries Social Group £100.00

7) Flintshire Disability Forum £200.00

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) The grants detailed above be approved;

b) The Town Clerk would amend the financial assistance application criteria for consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

**123. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS**

The Council considered the previously circulated report containing recommendations from the sub group in which the sub group had decided to group assets together for the expression of interest requests.

The Town Clerk is attending a two day course on Assets Transfer training which includes a module on completing the relevant request forms.

The Town Clerk asked all members of the council to review the asset transfer forms and inform the Town Clerk of any amendments which needed to be made.

**The Press left at 9.20pm**

The play area as St Mary’s Estate was requested to be added to the list of play areas.

**Resolved:** Members approved the Town Clerk to send the expression of interests to Flintshire County Council with the amendment made as stated.

**Councillor Matthias left at 9.25pm**

**124. PROVISION OF SALT BINS**

The Council considered the previously circulated report and were asked to determine where the salt bins should be provided, based on risk and potential danger.

There had been 6 areas recommended for salt bins and it was agreed the council would approve 3 additional salt bins this year and a further 3 in 2016.

Councillor Andrea Mearns suggested members contacted residents in each of the 6 suggested areas to see if they were happy to receive a salt bin, either this year or next as approved. It was agreed the 3 bins this year would be given on first come first served basis of when the Councillor for the ward, confirmed the requirement to the Town Clerk.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

1. Members approved the Town Clerk to purchase 3 salt bins this year with a further 3 to be purchased next year. Councillors would speak to residents at the suggested location and confirm back to the Town Clerk of requirements.

**125. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION**

Discussion regarding the previously circulated letter from the Welsh Government providing details of the National Transport Plan consultation was deferred to the next meeting.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that discussion was deferred until the next council meeting on 25th February 2015.

**126. MOLD FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

Correspondence had been received from Sandy Mewies AM providing an update on the Mold Flood Alleviation Scheme had previously been circulated to members.

**Resolved** It was resolved that members noted the correspondence.

**127. ART, CULTURE & EVENTS IN FLINTSHIRE**

Correspondence had been received from Beth Ditson, Community Events Officer at Flintshire County Council offering to attend a future meeting of Mold Town Council to discuss with members some of the art and cultural projects across Flintshire, with the possibility of supporting events / festivals planned by Town Councils.

**Resolved** It was resolved the Town Clerk would invite Beth Ditson to a future meeting.

**128. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY SUMMER PLAY SCHEME PROGRAMME 2014**

Correspondence had been received from Flintshire County Council regarding the play scheme programmes in Mold held at Parkfields and Gas Lane play areas and provided information on number of attendees to each scheme, for each week as well as other facts and figures for schemes across the county.

Councillor Robin Guest suggested the team leaders should write a short summary to be attached with the report as there was a lack of information in the current report as to why attendance figures had fallen each week.

**Resolved** It was resolved to note the report and the Town Clerk would take forward with Flintshire County Council councillors request for additional information for each scheme in future reports.

**129. AUDIT SUB COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members were asked to consider recommendations from the Audit Sub Committee held on 24th November 2014:-

129.1 The Town Council be recommended to approve the adoption of the Model Financial Regulations following consideration of the points listed in minute 6 of the Audit Sub Committee held on 24th November 2014

129.2 The Town Council be recommended to approve the adoption of the Model Concerns and Complaints Policy and act on the guidance on implementing it.

**Resolved** It was resolved that the recommendations be approved

**130. SCHOOL GOVERNOR REQUEST**

Correspondence had been received from St David’s Roman Catholic Primary School advising of a vacancy for a Minor Authority Governor and the school have requested a representative of the Town Council be elected as a Governor.

Councillor Robin Guest asked the Town Clerk to clarify the definition of “Minor Authority” with Simon Jones, Head Teacher of St David’s and whether this vacancy could be opened up to members of the neighbouring Community Councils as well.

**Resolved** It was resolved the Town Clerk would confirm the definition as requested and confirm back to council for consideration.

**131. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**Resolved:** It was resolved to exclude the public and press from the meeting in order to discuss a confidential matter

**132. MOLD TOWN PLAN**

Members were asked to consider funding the provision of a survey on the livestock market, the outcome of which will be used as evidence to develop the Mold Town Plan. Two proposals had previously been circulated for consideration along with a summary from the Town Plan Working Group.

Members were informed Councillor Robin Guest had been elected as Chair of Mold Town Plan Working Group.

The Town Clerk asked members to approve the request for the Town Clerk to have delegated power to agree to the survey.

**Resolved**: It was resolved to approve the Town Clerk to have delegated power to agree to the survey with the addition of an online survey to the cheapest tender.

**133. FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – CANDIDATE SITES**

Correspondence had been received from Flintshire County Council providing an interim map showing candidate sites in particular war, until the Register of Candidate Sites is published.

**Resolved** It was resolved that members noted the correspondence.

**134. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

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

**135. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

**Resolved:** Discussion was deferred until the next council meeting on 25th February.

**136. 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 10.15pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 28th January 2015** |

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| **MEMBER** | **ITEM** | **MINUTE NO. REFERS** |
| Councillor Andrea Mearns  Councillor Geoff Collett  Councillor Chris Bithell  Councillor Carol Heycocks | Budget 2015/16 (Grant for Parkfields Junior Youth Club)  Budget 2015/16 (Grant for Daniel Owen Centre)  Financial Assistance (for Virgin Art, at St Marys Church)  Financial Assistance (for Virgin Art, at St Marys Church) | 121  121  122  122 |

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