**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 25th February 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, Ray Dodd, Gareth Williams, Richard Brookes and Karen Hodgkinson, The Clerk and Finance Officer, Town Centre Manager and Support Officer.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jill Roberts, External Communications Manager Dwr Cymru and Sharon Blackall, Communications Assistant Dwr Cymru, Peter and David representatives from Alcoholics Anonymous and one member of the press.

**137. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

**138. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

The Mayor welcomed Peter and David, representatives from Alcoholics Anonymous. Peter gave a presentation on the Alcoholics Anonymous Group, which included statistics of drink related illness and incidents and the cost on the NHS, which was reported to be £2.5 billion last year, with 70% of weekly admissions to hospital casualties being drink related. David spoke to members about his own personal experiences and how Alcoholics Anonymous has helped him.

Following the presentations, Councillors asked a number of questions which Peter and David were happy to answer.

The Mayor thanked Peter and David for attending and sharing their own personal experiences with the council.

**Peter and David left the meeting at 6.30pm**

**139. DWR CYMRU/WELSH WATER**

The Mayor welcomed Jill Roberts and Sharon Blackall from Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water and invited Sharon Blackall to provide an update to members on the progress of the water pipe replacement works being carried out within the town. Sharon Blackall confirmed works on Milford Street would be completed by end of the week, work will then move onto Kings Street and Wrexham Street. Welsh Water’s weekly drop in session, held each Wednesday between 10am – noon at Town & Country Estate Agents had only received 3 enquiries to date. Welsh Water was also working closely with the Town Centre Manager on a marketing initiative to bring trade back to the town.

Councillor Richard Brookes expressed concerns that once work commenced on Wrexham Street this would cause a lot of disruption, especially for school traffic. Sharon Blackall confirmed Welsh Water was working closely with Flintshire Highways to manage the works on Wrexham Street for minimum impact. An education officer from Welsh Water had also visited the schools to keep them informed and all Welsh Water employees working in the area had been given additional procedures with regards to working in built up areas.

Councillor Gareth Williams asked Sharon Blackall to look into the Welsh Water generator which was being switched on before 7.00am at the Morris Garage site.

Jill Roberts stressed the importance of informing Welsh Water of an issue as soon as it arises, so they can look into it.

Councillor Robin Guest raised concern regarding Welsh Water working in more than one area at the same time. Jill Roberts confirmed discussions had taken place with Flintshire County Council Highways regarding this and they were looking at changing the plan of works to eliminate this issue.

Councillor Chris Bithell asked if notices could be made larger as it was felt some people were still not taking notice of planned road closures and works. Sharon Blackall confirmed for each section of work, a letter was being issued to all residents and business notifying them of work dates, prior to the commencement date as well as road notices.

**Jill Roberts and Sharon Blackall left the meeting at 6.50pm**

**140. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor advised members of her recent activities:-

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| 05/02/2015 | Met with Airbus Apprentices who presented the finished time capsule for the Daniel Owen Square |
| 07/02/2015 | Air Cadets (1378 ATC) dining in night, Padeswood Golf Club &.00pm |
| 14/02/2015 | Mayor of Holywell Town Council Charity Dinner at the Springfield Hall, 7.30pm |
| 17/02/2015 | Pancake race, Mold |
| 21/02/2015 | Mayor of Connahs Quay Civic Ball, Connahs Quay, 7.00pm |
| 24/02/2015 | Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint, judged window dressing re St Davids Davy |

**141. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on held on 28th January 2015 be received and approved.

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 2nd December 2014 to be received and noted.

c) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 19th January 2015 be received and noted.

d) The minutes of the meeting of the Cemetery Committee held on 9th February 2015 be received and noted.

**142. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

142.1 Minute 115 - Councillor Bithell asked the Town Centre Manager if the change in car parking tariff on Meadow Place car park (proposed to change to a short stay only car park) would be applicable to market traders on Wednesday and Saturday’s, the Town Centre Manager confirmed market vehicles would be able to stay all day.

142.2 Minute 119.5 - Councillor Mearns confirmed she will write the notice to notify members of the public about the works being carried out at the Bailey Hill.

142.3 Minute 120 - Councillor Phil Thomas asked if the event to celebrate the opening of the Daniel Owen Square would have a Welsh aspect and if information for the event would be bilingual, the Town Centre Manager confirmed it would.

142.4 Minute 120 - Councillor Carol Heycocks asked if the trail of oil on the square left after market day had been removed, the Town Centre Manager confirmed the area had been cleaned.

142.5 Minute 120 - Councillor Bryan Grew asked why market vehicles were being allowed onto the square as previously market vehicles were not permitted, the Town Centre Manager confirmed vehicles had not previously been allowed on the square due to the area surface being unstable.

142.6 Minute 120 - Councillor Geoff Collett informed members that a seat in the Daniel Owen Square had been damaged when a market vehicle had backed into it, this is the second seat to be damaged since the square was opened to the public.

142.7 Minute 120 - Councillor Chris Bithell informed members he had received complaints regarding market traders on Wednesday and Saturday using the seats and steps to display their goods.

The Town Centre Manager confirmed the Flintshire County Council Market department was currently reviewing procedures regarding market vehicles. The issue regarding skateboarders had also been raised with Nial Waller from Flintshire County Council. The snagging list from the square relating to the development was also being worked through and addressed.

The Town Centre Manager was meeting with the Police and health & safety Co-ordinators from Flintshire County Council regarding Public Order Legalisation for the Daniel Owen Square.

142.8 Minute 130 - The Town Clerk confirmed no one had put themselves forward for Minor Authority Governor at St David’s Roman Catholic Primary School. The school had not yet responded to the Town Clerk’s request for confirmation of the definition of “Minor Authority” or whether the vacancy could be opened up to members of the neighbouring Community Councils.

142.9 Planning Committee Minute 30.6 - The Town Clerk was asked to seek clarification regarding the name of the restaurant / public house which is being opened on Chester Road, Y Clogyn Aur Pen which translates to the Gold Cape as we already had a public house called the Gold Cape (Wetherspoons) within the town.

142.10 Cemetery Committee Minute 19 - Councillor Andrea Mearns asked members to consider volunteering on the dates which the Town Clerk had previously circulated.

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

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

The Town Centre Manager informed members the meeting which was arranged to discuss the car parking strategy did not take place, but there will be a document regarding the strategy which will be available in the next few weeks and will be sent to members for feedback and comments.

The Town Centre Manager confirmed he had requested the funding from the previous agreement regarding revenue from the car park charges, to continue until the car parking strategy changes county wide and not change on the 31st March.

The licensing review of Kendricks Field would take place on Friday 27th February and Councillor Robin Guest had agreed to speak on behalf of Mold Town Council. A draft code of practise for music / noise events within the town will be brought to the next council meeting for discussion.

The Town Centre Manager believes the locations for the Tourist Information Points (TIP’s) will be approved by Flintshire County Council Planning by end of the week. Councillors Andrea Mearns, Bob Gaffey and Chris Bithell were asked to go through the content of the TIP’s to sign off.

The annual spring clean will take place 27th – 30th March. On Tuesday 3rd March the environmental audit will take place around the town to look at areas that need attention during the spring clean. The steering group will meet at the Town Hall on Tuesday 3rd March at 5.30pm.

Mold has been shortlisted for the “Keep Wales Tidy” award and the Mayor, Town Clerk will go to Cardiff along with the Town Centre Manager on Monday 27th April.

There had been a proposal to give New Street car park a complete makeover, however Flintshire County Council have now confirmed funding will not be available for this, therefore the Town Centre Manager is putting together costs for a “quick” makeover and will provide to members for discussion.

The Nationwide Building Society has agreed to address the black gate at the side of their building, they will replace the broken gate and they are also looking into humane pigeon deterrents.

Councillor Chris Bithell made Council aware that some people were feeding the pigeons in the Daniel Owen Square which was leaving a mess and when wet, the bird feed could make the surface slippery.

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

**The Town Centre Manager left the meeting at 7.40pm**

**Press left the meeting at 7.40pm**

**144. BEST KEPT COMMUNITIES COMPETITION 2014**

The Best Kept Communities Competition letter had been received and previously circulated to members. The Town Clerk informed members she would once again be entering Mold town centre into the competition. Closing date for entries is Friday 29th May and the Town Clerk requested this information is passed onto any community groups or organisations who may be interested in entering the competition.

Councillor Brian Lloyd asked if the town’s cemetery would be able to enter, the Town Clerk confirmed she would speak with Janet Kelly regarding this.

The Town Clerk confirmed in certain circumstance, judges would accept a photograph of an area if area was at its best at a different time during the year, for example Lead Mills planting last year was not in bloom during the judging period last year.

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

**145. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE WHITE PAPER**

The white paper sets out proposals for reform in the following fields; local democracy, the roles and remuneration of elected members and senior officers, community governance and community councils, community rights, corporate improvement, service performance, scrutiny, audit, inspection and regulation and local government finance.

It is suggested a sub group of members meet to consider the document and prepare a response for consideration at the next meeting of the council. It was agreed the sub group would be Councillors B Grew, A Mearns, R Guest, C Bithell and G Collett who would meet, review and report back to full council.

**Resolved:** It was resolved:-

a) It was resolved to set up a sub group and Councillors B Grew, A Mearns, R Guest, C Bithell and G Collett all agreed and approved.

b) The sub group would meet, review and report back to full council

**146. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES - CONSULTATION**

The Finance Committee for the National Assembly for Wales is consulting on its enquiry into Consideration of Powers: Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. It was agreed the Audit Sub Committee would respond to the consultation on behalf of the Town Council with delegated power.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the Mold Town Council Audit Sub Committee would have delegated power to provide a response to the consultation on behalf of the Town Council.

**147. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION**

Information from the Welsh Government, previously circulated to members, had been received providing details of the National Transport Plan consultation.

Councillor Andrea Mearns informed members the Town Partnership steering group and Mold Cittaslow group had received and submitted a response for the area.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the response submitted by the Town Partnership steering group and the Mold Cittaslow group was approved sufficient and further response from Mold Town Council was not required.

**148. MOLD FLOOD MAP DESIGNATIONS**

The Council considered the previously circulated correspondence from the Welsh Government on behalf of Carl Sergeant AM, Minister for Natural Resources, providing a response to the Town Council’s recent enquiry.

Councillor Chris Bithell said the flood map locations was still causing an issue for some residents when selling property or obtaining home insurance.

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

**149. MOLD TOWN COUNCIL – CCTV INCIDENT STATISTICS**

The Town Clerk informed members a copy of the CCTV statistics for the period

April – December 2014 had been received and was available for members to view at the Town Hall office.

**Resolved** It was resolved to note the information.

**150. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY SUMMER PLAY SCHEME PROGRAMME 2015**

Correspondence had been received from Flintshire County Council advising of the financial provision for the scheme in 2015, together with advice on planning Playschemes from 2016 in the likely event that funding is no longer available.

The Town Clerk advised members that when further information was received from Flintshire County Council, members should look at setting up a working group to discuss the way forward for 2016.

**Resolved** It was resolved to note the correspondence.

**151. PROPOSED CESSATION OF TRADE WASTE COLLECTION**

The Council considered the previously circulated correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising that a review of its Trade Waste Service. It is likely that from April 2015 the County Council will no longer be providing this service and has provided council with an approved list of commercial waste collection providers that offer a similar service.

The Town Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for waste collection services

**Resolved** It was resolved that the Town Clerk would obtain quotes and report back to council.

**152. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CRITERIA**

During the last council meeting, Council was advised of proposed amendments to the financial assistance criteria and application form, proposed draft copy was previously circulation to members for consideration and approval.

Councillor Andrea Mearns requested question 10 was amended to include reference to the current year as well as previous year.

**Resolved** It was resolved to approve the draft form with the agreed amendment.

**153. FLINTSHIRE NATIONAL URDD EISTEDDFOD**

Correspondence had been received from the Secretary of the National Urdd Eisteddfod requesting financial support for 2016 Eisteddfod which will be held in Flint.

The Council has already approved £100 donation to the Eisteddfod for 2014/2015, however the target for Mold, Gwernymyndd and Pantymwyn is £30,000 and the secretary is asking the Council to consider providing a further contribution.

It was approved by members to contribute £1,375.00 which was the amount of underspend from the 2014/2015 financial assistance budget.

**Resolved:** It was resolved the Town Clerk would submit the agreed amount of £1,375.00 to the Eisteddod.

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

**154. PROPOSALS FOR LANDFILL DISPOSAL TAX**

The Council noted the previously circulated correspondence from Sandy Mewies AM, providing information from Jane Hutt, Minister for Finance and Government Business on the future consultations for proposals of Landfill Disposal Tax.

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

**155. NOTICE OF MOTION**

155.1 Notice of Motion from Councillor Bob Gaffey for Mold Town Council to become a member of The Campaign for the Preservation of Rural Wales, the annual membership fee is £20. It was suggested the Town Clerk check with One Voice Wales the legality of joining the organisation and to confirm with the Campaign for the Preservation of Rural Wales what members receive and benefits of joining.

Decision was deferred to the next meeting to allow the Town Clerk to report back on her findings.

**Resolved**: It was resolved to defer to the next meeting to enable the Town Clerk to obtain further information.

155.2 Notice of Motion from Councillor Anthony Parry for the council to agree to facilitate activities for the 70th anniversary of VE Day.

Councillor Andrea Mearns suggested we combine the celebration with the official opening of the Daniel Owen Square and to liaise with the Ex Servicemen’s Club in regard to any plans they may have celebrate VE Day.

**Resolved**: It was resolved to approve the notion of motion.

**156. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

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

**Councillor Gareth Williams left the meeting at 8.30pm**

**157. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Councillor Andrea Mearns attended the fruit tree planting at Mold cemetery on 29th January. 14 fruit trees were planted by students from Coleg Cambria, Councillor Geoff Collett and other volunteers. A further 5 fruit trees have been approved by the council to be purchased with money received from Tidy Wales funding.

Councillor Andrea Mearns on the 29th January, along with other members of the Community Asset Transfer Working Group met with Claire Budden and Ian Bankcroft. The next proposed date for the working group to meet is 23rd March.

Councillor Andrea Mearns attended the Friends of the Bailey Hill meeting on the 3rd February where access Harrison Design showed a proposed plan for the entrance, this will be circulated by the Support Officer to all members.

Councillor Andrea Mearns attended the Cittaslow AGM meeting on the 10th February and informed members the vacancy for Chair was still open.

Councillor Andrea Mearns organised and attended the annual Pancake Day races on 17th February which was a great success.

Councillor Andrea Mearns attended the Parkfields AGM on the 24th February and was asked by the Bubblegum Group to pass on their thanks to Mold Town Council for their continued support.

Councillors Chris Bithell and Haydn Bateman attended a car parking meeting at Flintshire County Council and information from the meeting was that parking restrictions A & B roads would be 8.00am – 5.30pm and not 5.00pm as council had proposed.

Councillor Bryan Grew attended the One Voice Wales meeting 25th February with the Town Clerk.

**158. 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 8.50pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 25th February 2015** |

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