**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 25th March 2015.

**PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Beth Ditson, Community Events Officer from Flintshire County Council and one member of the press.

**APOLOGIES**: Councillors Richard Brookes and Bob Gaffey

**159. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

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

The Mayor welcomed Beth Ditson, Community Events Officer from Flintshire County Council to the meeting. Beth informed members Flintshire County Council do not have a sufficient budget to offer financial help for events, but were available to support and offer advice to event organisers. Flintshire County Council held an event seminar in Holywell on the 24th March, which had been attended by Councillor Carol Heycocks and Mold Town Council Support Officer. Flintshire County Council had also issued an events guide which was available on line and in paper format, the guide contains help and advice on how to put on a successful event and covered all aspects of an event including Health & Safety, marketing, licensing and has a list of useful contact numbers.

Beth informed council she was currently putting together a list of funders and this will be available to all once complete. Community Chest grants were also available.

Beth asked members for suggestions on art and cultural opportunities / projects which the events office at Flintshire County Council could help with.

The Town Centre Manager mentioned the opportunity for performances within the Daniel Owen Square and that Mold Town Council should work with Beth and her team in sourcing suitable groups and performers as there would be opportunities to perform on market days, Wednesday and Saturdays as well as other days throughout the week.

Councillor Chris Bithell suggested Theatr Clwyd was contacted to encourage performers to come down to perform extracts of plays being held at Theatr Clwyd, this may help encourage more local people to attend the theatre.

Councillor Andrea Mearns mentioned a community window scheme. The Town Centre Manager had received permission to use windows of empty stores for display purposes only but had not had the capacity to take this forward. The windows could be used as exhibition space for community groups and for promotion of the town and Flintshire and Councillor Mearns asked if Beth could take forward.

The Mayor thanked Beth for attending.

**Beth Ditson left the meeting**

**161. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor advised members of her recent activities:-

|  |  |
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| Date | Event & Location |
| 26/02/2015 | Pancake Day race winners presentations, Spavens at 4pm with Andrea |
| 26/02/2015 | winners presentation Menter Iaith Sir y Flint re St Davids Day window |
| 12/03/2015 | Suitcase Theatre, America America Flint High School |
| 13/03/2015 | Chair of Flintshire Annual Dinner,Beaufort Park, 7.00 |
| 15/03/2015 | Civic Service of the Mayor of Sheringhan, Norfolk. |
| 20/03/2015 | High Sheriff of Clwyd dinner evening, 7.00 Coleg Cambria, |
| 24/03/2015 | FCC Events Guide event, Stamford Bridge Holywell |

**162. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on held on 25th February 2015 be received and approved.

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 23rd February 2015 be received and noted.

**163. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

163.1 Minute 142.5 - The Town Centre Manager confirmed he had spoken with the Markets Manager and confirmed market vehicles would no longer be allowed on the Daniel Owen Square.

163.2 Minute 143 - Councillor Heycocks mentioned members of the public were still feeding the birds in the Daniel Owen Square, resulting in seats being dirtied and the bird feed, when wet could make the surface slippery.

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

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

Planning permission had now been granted for the Tourist Information Points (TIPs) and details agreed. The TIPs would be arriving within 3 weeks ready for installation. The Town Centre Manager thanked all members for the work they had carried out on the TIP project.

The Town Centre Manager informed members he was currently in discussions with the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer regarding aPublic Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) on the Daniel Owen Square.

North Wales Police had informed the Town Centre Manager of a house closure on Milford Street due to anti social behaviour and this was a good example of the public working together with the police to eliminate anti social behaviour.

A meeting of the Blues & Soul Festival steering group had taken place and some funding had already been secured towards funding this year’s event.

The Mayor’s Dinner, Dance and Auction is to be held on Friday 8th May and auction and raffle prizes were being sought.

The Town Centre Manager asked for volunteers for the annual Spring Clean.

Councillor Andrea Mearns asked if in future the Town Centre Manager could prepare a written report for circulation before the meeting to give members time to prepare informed questions. The Town Centre Manager informed members a written report would be time consuming.

Councillor Gareth Williams requested members be added to the circulation list for the Town Centre Managers newsletter.

Councillor Bryan Grew suggested the Audit Committee review the procedures for the Town Council meeting and this would include a review on the Town Centre Manager’s report, whether verbal or written to be taken forward in future.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the Audit Sub Committeewould met to review the Town Council meeting procedures.

**165. VOLUNTARY CODE OF PRACTICE – CONTROL OF NOISE AT EVENTS IN MOLD**

Further to the complaint received from a member of the public regarding Kendricks Field, the Town Centre Manager had put together a Code of Practice, control of noise at events.

As part of the Code of Practice, a Noise Monitoring Officer would be appointed for events and would be responsible for monitoring noise levels. Councillor Geoff Collett had volunteered to become the Noise Monitoring Officer and suitable training on how to use the sound monitoring equipment would be provided to Councillor Collett.

The Code of Practice had previously been circulated to members for consideration and the Town Centre Manager asked members for approval to implement the Code of Practice, with the following amendments to be made to take into consideration the start time of the annual carnival:-

Operational Guidelines, item 12

a) Rehearsal and sound check times amended from 11.00am to 10.30 am

b) Time that music from concert or events permitted, amended from 11.00am to 10.30am

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the Code of Practice with the amendments being made regarding times to take into consideration start time of Mold Carnival.

**The Town Centre Manager left the meeting**

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

In last month’s meeting a sub group of members was approved to consider the document and prepare a response for consideration at the next meeting of the council. The sub groups have requested delegated power to provide a response to the consultation as response is required by the 28th April, which is before the next meeting of the Town Council.

Councillor Bithell thought that full council should debate on the response to the Welsh Government. The Town Clerk responded to inform that all members would be welcome to attend the next meeting of the sub group to join the discussions regarding the rest of the consultation as there were still 6 sections still to review.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve delegated power to the sub group to provide a response to the consultation.

**167. 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.

In last month’s meeting the Audit Sub Committee was approved delegated power to provide a response to the consultation on behalf of the Town Council.

Members were asked to note the responses provided by the Audit Sub Committee to the consultation questions.

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

**168. MOLD TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

Members were asked to consider the previously circulated report regarding proposed amendments to the current Town Council committee structure.

Councillor Bithell suggested this was discussed further at the AGM

Councillor Guest asked if changes to the standing orders should be made before agreeing on a committee chair. Committee members are chosen at the AGM and the chair for each should be selected after this date.

Councillor Mearns suggested a review on ex officio members as to whether they should be on all committee groups.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to discuss at April’s meeting of the Town Council

**Press left at 7.15pm**

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

Confirmation has been received from Flintshire County Council advising that trade waste service would end 31st March 2015. The Town Clerk has obtained quotes which had previously been circulated to members for consideration regarding appointing a new service provider to collect the Town Council’s trade waste.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve ASH as the service provider to collect the Town Council’s trade waste

**170. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION - PROPOSALS FOR LANDFILL DISPOSAL TAX**

The Wales Act 2014 sets out new fiscal powers for Wales and devolves a range of tax powers. The devolution of these powers will allow Welsh Government to develop an approach which is better suited to Welsh circumstances and priories.

It was approved Councillors Collett and Mearns would form a sub group with delegated powers to respond on behalf of the council.

**Resolved** It was resolved to approve the sub group with delegated powers to respond on behalf of the council.

**171. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – LAND TRANSACTION TAX**

The Wales Act 2014 paves the way for new tax powers to come to Wales, further strengthening the ability to manage its own financial affairs. This consultation sets out our proposal for a Land Transaction Tax to replace stamp duty land tax in Wales from April 2018.

It was moved for the Sub Audit Committee to have delegated powers to respond on behalf of the council.

**Resolved** It was resolved to approve the Sub Audit Committee with delegated power to respond on behalf of the council.

**172. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Following the Notice of Motion from Councillor Bob Gaffey in February’s meeting, the town clerk has obtained further information from One Voice Wales regarding the Town Council becoming a member of The Campaign for the Preservation of Rural Wales

Decision was deferred to the next meeting as Councillor Gaffey was not in attendance.

**Resolved** It was resolved to defer decision until the next meeting of council.

**173. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

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

**174. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Councillor Geoff Collett has attended the Daniel Owen Centre meeting (DOC) meeting and gave members an update on the situation regarding the public toilets funding. It had now been confirmed the public toilets would not be funded by Flintshire County Council after June 2015. Mold Town Council had previously agreed a grant to the DOC of £5,000 on the basis the toilets are kept open to the public, with the addition of the town council grant, the DOC now have sufficient funds to keep the toilets open until end of December 2015.

Councillor Collett asked members to think about a proposal to modify access to the toilets to allow direct access from the Daniel Owen Square, with a proposal that the responsibility/ownership of the toilets is then taken over by whoever will be responsible for the toilets in New Street car park.

Councillor Andrea Mearns informed members that following the Fairtrade Fortnight in Mold, Mold’s Fairtrade status was now confirmed for the next 2 years, 2015 – 2017.

Councillor Andrea Mearns informed members Parkfields would be hosting an event on the 21st April for all Delyn Election candidates to debate the key issues, Andy Leake from the Kings Christian centre had agreed to chair the evening which is open to all to attend and starts at 7pm.will be chaired by the pastor of King’s Christian Centre, Andy Lea awill be chaired by the pastor of King’s Christian Centre, Andy Leake will be chaired by the pastor of King’s Christian Centre, Andy Leake will be chaired by the pastor of King’s Christian Centre, Andy LeakA

Councillor Andrea Mearns had attended a meeting between Parkfields and Cytun on how to deliver Christian services from Parkfields.

Councillor Andrea Mearns informed members the memorial orchard was now completed. Also over a £1000 worth of plants/whips/wildflowers had been received from Tesco and requested a letter of thanks be sent to Tesco in Mold and to Judith Wright from Keep Wales Tidy on behalf of the Town Council.

Councillor Andrea Mearns had also attended a meeting regarding the livestock survey and met with Ian Bankcroft on the 18th March.

Councillor Andrea Mearns informed members the Blooming Mold competition was in progress.

Councillors Andrea Mearns and Phil Thomas had taken part in the Tesco volunteer days clearing rubbish from around the cemetery and hedges and along Tyddyn Street. A lot of rubbish seemed to have come from the cemetery and there was an issue with the lids of the cemetery bins being broken. It was moved to discuss the rubbish situation at the cemetery at the next Cemetery Committee meeting.

Councillor Bryan Grew informed members the Citizens Advise Bureau would be moving into Terrig House on the 1st May with an official opening ceremony at 11am and then open to the public 1-3pm if anyone would like to have a look around.

**175. 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 7.40pm**

**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 March 2015** |

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