**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 29th April 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, Richard Brookes and Bob Gaffey, The Clerk and Finance Officer, Town Centre Manager and Support Officer.

**ALSO PRESENT:** One member of the press.

**APOLOGIES**: Councillor Karen Hodgkinson.

**176. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Gareth Williams declared an interest in Agenda Item 17 regarding proposed contractor for hanging basket maintenance.

**177. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor advised members of her recent activities:-

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| 26/04/2015 | Scouts - St George's Day parade, 11am St Marys Church |
| 27/04/2015 | Tidy Wales Awards in Cardiff, Keep Wales Tidy |
| 01/05/2015 | Citizens Advice Bureau official opening at Terrig House, 11am |
| 02/05/2015 | Opening of the Virgin Art Exhibition, St Mary's Church |
| 08/05/2015 | Carol's Civic Ball, Plas Hafod |
| 10/05/2015 | 70th Anniversary of VE Celebration in the Daniel Owen Square |

**178. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

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

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

c) The minutes of the meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee held on 18th March 2015 be received and approved.

**179. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

179.1 Minute 166 – Councillor Chris Bithell asked if the response submitted by the sub group to the WelshGovernment, regarding the Reforming Local Government Power to Local People White Paper was available to view. The Town Clerk confirmed she would forward to members.

179.2 Minute 171 – Councillor Bryan Grew informed members that the questions on the WelshGovernment Consultation, Land Transaction Tax paper were very complex and suggested that the council did not respond on the basis they do not have the knowledge to provide a response due to the complexity of the questions and the deadline. It was resolved that the consultation paper would not be responded to.

**180. ELECTION OF MAYOR 2015/16**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that Councillor Brian Lloyd be elected Mayor for the forthcoming year 2015/16

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

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

The Town Centre Manager informed members work had started to take place at the Nationwide Building Society regarding clearing the black gate and bird excretion.

Work on New Street car park was due to take place soon, to tidy up the area and planting of the flower beds, which would include some herbs which would be free for people to pick.

The annual Mold Spring Clean, despite the weather, was a success with 620 plus volunteers taking part and over 1000 volunteer hours. 70% of the town was litter picked and over 200 bags of rubbish collected. There were some jobs which could not be carried out due to the weather and the Town Centre Manager appealed for volunteers to complete these tasks which included painting and staining, all equipment would be provided.

The Spring Clean message was spreading and the Town Centre Manager had met with members from the Caergwrle Community Action Group who were keen to take forward a spring clean in their village. Also Gwernaffield and Gwernymynydd villages had both borrowed the spring clean equipment to carry out their own village clean ups.

The Town Centre Manager thanked members who attended the Flintshire County Council car park strategy meeting for their strong representation on behalf of Mold Town Council.

The water mains replacement was now 3 weeks ahead of schedule and Welsh Water would be out of town within the next 10 days.

Mold Business Forum would be holding a business showcase on 4th June on the Industrial Estate, venue to be confirmed.

The Mayor’s Charity Dinner Dance and Auction was being held on Friday 8th May.

Councillor Andrea Mearns thanked the Town Centre Manager on behalf of the Town Council and the residents of Mold for all his hard work in putting together the spring clean.

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

**182. AUDIT SUB COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Council were asked to consider any recommendations from the meetings of the Audit Sub Committee held on 18th March 2015. The Council noted that the Standing Orders were approved in 2014 to reflect a revised Model Standing Orders prepared by One Voice Wales, and as there had been no further amendments recommended the Audit Sub-Committee had recommended the adoption of the existing Standing Orders for 2015/16. The Council also noted that the Audit Sub-Committee had also recommended the adoption of the existing Financial Regulations as they had only recently been significantly amended in January 2015.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

1. the existing Standing Orders be approved;
2. the existing Financial Regulation be approved;
3. the revised Financial Risk Assessment be approved;
4. the Investment Strategy and Financial Controls be approved.

**183. FINAL ACCOUNTS**

The Council considered the previously circulated report setting out the accounts of the Town Council for the year 2014/15 which included:

a) Summary Income and Expenditure Account;

b) Balance sheet;

c) Details of the Expenditure incurred within the year;

d) Summary of Expenditure and Income for 2014/15; and

e) Bank and Cash Reconciliation for the year.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the accounts be approved for audit.

**184. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: EXEMPTIONS TO THE COUNCIL TAX PREMIUM ON SECOND HOMES IN WALES**

The consultation seeks views on proposals for Welsh Ministers to exempt certain categories of dwelling from the additional Council Tax on second homes in Wales, the closing date for responses is 13th June 2015.

Councillor Gareth Williams suggested if members wanted to respond they did so individually rather than put together a sub group.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that if members wanted to respond they did so individually.

**185. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: EXEMPTIONS TO THE COUNCIL TAX PREMIUM ON LONG-TERM EMPTY HOMES IN WALES**

The consultation seeks views on proposals for Welsh Ministers to exempt certain categories of dwellings from the additional Council Tax on long-term empty homes in Wales.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that if members wanted to respond they did so individually.

**186. ONE VOICE WALES – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Town Clerk advised Council that correspondence had been received from One Voice Wales requesting motions for the 2015 Annual Conference. The Clerk added that Cwmbran Community Council were seeking support of a Motion they had prepared. The draft Notice of Motion wasto ask One Voice Wales to express its concern over the current uncertainty surrounding the future of Town & Community Councils and emphasize the need for a strong Local Council presence in any proposals for the future of Local Government Reform in Wales, with a clearly defined role for Town &Community Councils.

Following a discussion on the motion it was agreed that the Town Council would support such a motion, but suggested adding additional words to the end of the motion of “and how they will be properly funded”.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that Mold Town Council would support Cwmbran Community Council in their motion with a request for the amendment as detailed.

**Councillor Richard Brookes arrived at the meeting 7.00pm**

**The Press left at 7.00pm**

**187. MOLD TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

Members were asked to consider the previously circulated report regarding how the new committee structure may affect the Standing Orders and to agree on future requirement for Ex-Officio membership to committees of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Members were also asked to agree a revised committee structure for the new municipal year 2015/16 and to approve a Chair for each committee to serve a full municipal year.

**Resolved**: It was resolved to

a) Approve the proposed amendments to the committee structure.

b) Selecting a Chair for each committee was deferred until members of the committee were agreed at the AGM meeting.

**188. NOTION OF MOTION**

Following the Notice of Motion from Councillor Bob Gaffey in February’s meeting, the Town Clerk had obtained further information from One Voice Wales regarding the Town Council becoming a member of The Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales.

**Resolved** It was resolved to approve Mold Town Council to become a member of The Campaign for the Preservation of Rural Wales.

**189. 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.

**190. SID MATTHEWS COMMUNITY AWARDS**

The Council considered the previously circulated confidential report from the panel appointed to consider nominations for the Sid Matthews Community Awards 2015.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the report be approved and that the following awards be given:

a) For “Outstanding Voluntary Service by an Individual” – Susan Williams

b) For “Outstanding Voluntary Service by a Local Organisation” – Tandem Cymru

c) For “Outstanding Voluntary Service / Achievements by a Young Person”: Miss Lowri Barker

**191. PHOTOCOPIER AND HANGING BASKET CONTRACTS**

191.1 The Council considered proposals for the renewal of the Town Council photocopier contract.

Members considered the proposals for the photocopier contract. Following a number of questions raised by members, it was agreed to defer a decision until the next meeting to allow the Town Clerk to provide answers to member’s questions.

191.2 The Council considered proposals for the renewal of the Town Council hanging basket maintenance contract.

Members considered the proposals for the hanging basket maintenance contract. Following discussions, it was agreed the contract would be awarded to John Griffiths for the year 2015/16.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

191.1 To defer a decision regarding the photocopier contract until the next meeting to allow the Town Clerk to provide answers to members questions

191.2 To award the hanging basket maintenance contract to John Griffiths for the year 2015/16.

**192. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

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

**193. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Councillor Andrea Mearns attended the strategic assets meeting on the 20th April with Claire Budden and Ian Bancroft, also attended by Councillors Bithell, Parry and Heycocks.

Councillor Grew would be attending the One Voice Wales and Society of Local Council Clerks with the Town Clerk on 14th May and was open to all councillors to attend.

Councillor Parry reminded members about the 70th Anniversary of VE Celebration taking place in the Daniel Owen Square.

**194. 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 8.00pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 29th April 2015** |

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| **MEMBER** | **ITEM** | **MINUTE NO. REFERS** |
| Cllr. Gareth Williams | Agenda item 17. Renewal of the Town Council hanging basket maintenance contract. | 191 |

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