**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 30th September 2015.

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: Anthony Parry, Geoff Collett, Phil Thomas, Geoff Matthias, Andrea Mearns, Karen Hodgkinson, Haydn Bateman, Bryan Grew, Gareth Williams, Bob Gaffey, Carol Heycocks, the Clerk and Finance Officer and the Support Officer.

Also present: One member of the public.

**APOLOGIES**: Councillor Brian Lloyd (Mayor), Richard Brookes, Robin Guest, Ray Dodd, Chris Bithell and the Town Centre Manager

**60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

**61. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor’s recent activities:-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date | Event & Location |
| 31/7-2/8/15 | Blues & Soul Festival (3 days) |
| 14/08/2015 | Hafal's Awareness Day in Mold - further information TBC |
| 16/08/2015 | 70th Anniversary VJ Day, Mold |
| 23/08/2015 | Clubhouse 10 year anniversary party |
| 25/08/2015 | Mayor's Charity Concert at Theatr Clwyd |
| 02/09/2015 | National Youth Theatre at Theatre Clwyd |
| 05/09/2015 | Royal British Legion, VE Day Commemoration Ploughmans Lunch at Army Reserve Prestatyn |
| 11/09/2015 | Nightingale House Hospice 20th Anniversary thanks giving service at St Giles Church |
| 11/09/2015 | FCC Alyn & Deeside Room re Best Kept Communities Award - Mold first prize Town Centre |
| 13/09/2015 | Rev Kevin Horswell institution & induction at St Mary's Church, Mold |
| 14/09/2015 | Pen y Bont Farm, opening ceremony |
| 19/09/2015 | Opening of the 10th Mold Food & Drink Festival |
| 23/09/2015 | Wales & West Business Breakfast at Llys Jasmine 8.00-10am |
| 24/09/2015 | Tenovus Shop opening  |
| 27/09/2015 | Civic Service, St Mary's  |

**62. MINUTES**

 **Resolved:** It was resolved that:

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 22nd July 2015 be received and approved.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Cemetery Committee held on the 15th July 2015 be received and noted.
3. The minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Audit Sub Committee held on the 20th July 2015 be received and approved.
4. The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 2nd September 2015 be received and noted.

**63. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**Mold Town Council 22nd July 2015**

63.1 Minute 52 – Councillor Gaffey asked if there was an update on the request for parking permits for performers at the Town Hall car park. In the absence of the Town Centre Manager who was taking this forward, no update was available.

63.2 Minute 55 – Councillor Gaffey asked if there was an update regarding the illuminated fascia sign outside the Fat Boar, which Mold Town Council Planning Committee had previously submitted an objection to as the business was in a conservation area. The Town Clerk confirmed she had spoken with a member of Flintshire County Council Planning Department who said the application had been approved as the sign was not deemed to be glaring and was not too large. Members requested the Town Clerk speak to the officer with delegated power who approved the application for clarification, once the officer returns from holiday.

**Cemetery Committee 15th July 2015**

63.3 Minute 7 – Councillor Heycocks asked for an update on the request to introduce memorials for parents who experience the loss of a baby though miscarriage, with a gestation of less than 20 weeks. The Town Clerk advised she has received information from the recent Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management magazine which provides guidance on this issue, however the Clerk also confirmed a burial had recently taken place in Mold Cemetery of a child lost through miscarriage.

**Policy and Audit Sub Committee 20th July 2015**

63.4 Minute 9 – The Town Clerk confirmed she had received a quote for the provision of a robust Internal Audit for 2015/16 and this would be brought to the next meeting of the Policy and Audit Sub Committee for discussion.

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

The Town Centre Manager submitted a written report in his absence which was circulated to members.

Visitor Information Points (VIP’s) - nine were now in place around the town and have been widely appreciated. The Town Centre Manager had also received an enquiry from another town regarding the Visitor Information Points expressing an interest in carrying out similar within their town. There had been an issue with orientation of the units as directional arrows weren’t where they were supposed to be, however suppliers have acknowledged the mistake and will address the matter. The Town Centre Manager was now looking at additional VIP’s for Love Lane car parks and some wall mounted ones in key locations.

Parking Revenue Projects – the Town Centre Manager had received confirmation from Flintshire County Council regarding the size of the Town Investment Fund (£142,000) but had not yet received the actual new level of funding to be expected. The Town Centre Manager expressed a view of the Town’s deep dissatisfaction at the decision to remove funding opportunity for town centre investment to Flintshire County Council, with little if any acknowledgement or acceptance of the argument put forward that the town serves a Flintshire population of 60,000 and not the 10,000 within its boundary. The town needs to have a revenue source if it’s to continue to meet its role as the main visitor destination town for the County, which does not appear to have significant acceptance or support from the key decision makers within the County Council, given their dire financial circumstances and enforced austerity measures.

Projects themselves are now being rolled out with the Flintshire County Council Street Scene team reporting to the new Community Development and Regeneration Committee.

New Street car park makeover has commenced and will continue over the following weeks. New ticket machines are being introduced across Flintshire car parks over the coming months and this is being co-ordinated with the New Street makeover. There is going to be a significant de-cluttering of signs around the town.

Daniel Owen Square booking procedure is now in place and has been agreed with Flintshire County Council. The Support Officer is managing and liaising with interested parties. The formal opening of the Daniel Owen Square is taking place on Thursday 22nd October in the morning as part of the Daniel Owen Festival activity and the Time Capsule will be “laid to rest”, The Town Centre Manager passed on his gratitude to Councillor Andrea Mearns for taking this project on.

Trading was still fragile and the Town Centre Manager expressed concern about the potential to lose CC Viyella on the High Street. This is a profitable store and has come about following a dispute between the CC Viyella Management and the new owners of the premises who wish to impose a significant rent increase. The store is an important destination in the town for many visitors. Good news in that The Dolphin has been purchased and is to be transformed into a quality small boutique hotel / restaurant over the next 12 months.

The Town Centre Manager has secured agreement for the lead North Wales Business Rates Valuer from the Valuation Office Agency to come to Mold and meet with Traders in November. He is hopeful that Flintshire FSB will also attend for what will be an important opportunity to get an update about the changes being proposed for the town’s traders. The Town Centre Manager was also looking at doing something in Mold for Small Business Saturday with the FSB on Daniel Owen Square in December.

The Santa Dash on Sunday 13th December is being developed and now open for entries. the Support Officer has the lead for event and proceeds from the event will go to the Mayor’s charity.

A marketing initiative has now been introduced working alongside NWN Media and Connection Magazine using funding from Welsh Water and County Council for visitors to come to experience Mold and enjoy complimentary afternoon tea. The initiative has gained support from several café/restaurants.

Mold Mico Brewery was on schedule to open in Earl Road at the end of October.

Novemberfest arrangements are well underway for this popular and successful event. The Town Centre Manager asked members to underwrite the event, however he was confident this will purely be for accounting purposes as last year the event raised nearly £3,000.00.  Councillor Bryan Grew was collating volunteer names for the event and will propose agreement for underwriting – maximum exposure £1,500.00.

Councillor Geoff Collett raised concern regarding the cost of Mold Town Council taking responsibility for the Daniel Owen Square and performance area and asked for reassurance that Mold Town Council would not be liable for costs incurred by other organisations / users of the square. The Town Clerk confirmed the costs involved for the council was a minimal amount of admin time from the Support Officer and it was in our benefit to take responsibility of the booking system. The booking form does state all applicants will be responsible for any costs incurred.

Councillor Carol Heycocks informed members that a stall on the market was selling machetes and asked the Town Clerk to speak to the Markets Officer to ensure they are removed from sale.

Councillor Gareth Williams suggested a written report regarding income and expenditure was provided for all Town Council events. The Town Clerk confirmed she would include event information in the quarterly finance report.

Councillor Andrea Mearns asked for confirmation of how much money was raised by Novemberfest 2014 and suggested if there was £1,500.00 then this should be used to underwrite this year’s event.

**65. NORTH WALES BLUES AND SOUL FESTIVAL**

Members considered the previously circulated report from the Town Centre Manager regarding the North Wales Blues and Soul Festival in which the organising committee ask for the Town Council’s support to hold the festival next year, specifically to agree staff time contributions and financially underwriting the event.

In the absence of the Town Centre Manager, Councillors Geoff Collect and Bryan Grew spoke on behalf of the Blues and Soul organising committee and informed members the festival will take 3 to 5 years to become established nationally. When established (as per other towns) it will become financially sustainable and add to the town’s and wider Flintshire economic vitality and vibrancy, however grants / sponsorship funding will be required for the next 2 years (at least).

Councillor Collett said the biggest issue had been late decisions, resulting in acts being announced and camping information released late. Forward planning was needed and announcements need to take place as soon as possible.

Councillor Williams said that the festival was too expensive for local residents and more concessions were needed on the field. Councillor Collett confirmed the committee had looked at the pricing structure and compared to other Blues and Soul festivals, the price was very reasonable and they had received no complaints regarding the entry price from people who had attended. The committee was also looking at holding a number of fundraising events throughout the year to raise additional funds and this may allow for the ticket price to be reduced. Councillor Grew added that early planning will allow for better publicity and understanding of what the festival is about.

Councillor Williams asked if the issue regarding lighting had been addressed, Councillor Collett confirmed this had been discussed at the debrief meeting, along with the need for more concessions and food wagons.

Councillor Mearns suggested the festival was a day too long and would it be better to have a two day festival (Friday evening and all day Saturday) and build the audience numbers and once established introduce a third day. There was also concern within the town of the noise from the festival carrying on for three days.

Members raised a number of other concerns, including the date of the festival, which historically, the first weekend in August was always a wet weekend. Following discussion, members agreed in principal to support the event in 2016 on the basis the concerns raised where addressed by the committee.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the Council supports in principle, the organising of the festival based on the concerns of members being addressed.

**Councillor Bryan Grew left the meeting at 7.30pm**

**66. FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – SETTLEMENT SURVEY**

As part of the preparation of the Local Development Plan, the County Council must put together a robust evidence base on which to base sound policies and proposals. Over the last few months, Officers have been assessing the level and range of facilities in settlements and are now seeking Town & Community Councils input into the work.

Members were asked to consider the previously circulated document and use local knowledge to establish whether the information recording is accurate.

Councillor Mearns made several observations of missing or incorrect information which the Town Clerk was asked to forward to the County Council:-

Surrounding settlements of Mold – Gwernaffield, Treuddyn, Leeswood, Pantymwyn, Cilcain, Bryn y Baal and Mynydd Isa need to be added to the list.

Communities centres – St Mary’s Church Hall (King Street) needs to be added

Places of worship – Salvation Army (Wrexham Street) and Religious Society of Friends (Grosvenor Hall) need to be added.

Pre School Nursery – Stepping Stones has closed and needs to be removed from the list.

Outdoor play facility / area – Mold Tennis Club and the Bowling Club need to be added.

Civic Offices – Mold Town Council, Town Hall, Earl Road needs to be added.

Convenience Store – One Stop on Elm Drive needs to be added.

Public Houses – Glas Fryn, Pen y Bont and the Fat Boar need to be added and the The Dolphin which has closed, needs to be removed.

Petrol Filling Station – King Street Roundabout petrol station needs to be added.

Employment – Amcor is now Mondi Packaging and needs to be amended on the list.

Broadband – Mold now has Super-fast Fibre Broadband

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the Town Clerk would provide Flintshire County Council with the observations from members.

**67. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – DRAFT DIRECTIONS TO THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION WALES**

Members considered the previously circulated document which sought views on the detail of the Draft Directions, including thoughts on council size and the ratio of the electors for each elected member.

Members agreed a sub group be set up to work on the Draft Directions, Councillors Grew, Collett, Bithell, Mearns and Guest.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the Sub Group would prepare a response for approval at the next meeting of the Town Council.

**68. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – DRAFT STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015**

Members considered the previously circulated document. The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, now and in the future. The main purpose of the guidance is to help public bodies to respond positively to the duties and powers they now have under the Act.

Members agreed a sub group be set up to work on the Draft Directions, and the Clerk would contact members following the meeting to confirm the make-up of the group.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the Sub Group would prepare a response for approval at the next meeting of the Town Council.

**69. POLICY AND AUDIT SUB COMMITTEE RECOMENDATIONS**

Members considered the recommendations from the Policy and Audit Sub Committee meeting held on 20th July 2015, regarding the Financial Risk Assessment and improving full Council meetings:-

69.1 Financial Risk Assessment, recommendations:-

* The debit card having a limit of £300 cash withdrawal per day;
* The PIN number only being know by the Town Clerk;
* The PIN number being placed in a sealed envelope and provided to the Mayor should anything happen to the Clerk.

Members discussed the recommendations provided. The recommendations regarding the financial risk of the Town Clerk Town Clerk possessing a debit card on behalf of the Town Council were approved.

69.2 Improving full Council meetings recommendations:-

* That minutes and information arising should be approved/amended on block without the need to go through a set of minutes page by page;
* The Town Centre Manager continue with a verbal report;
* That members should be concise with the information they share;
* That the Mayor provide a printed list of activities for the month and make verbal reference to specific activities of interest only;
* The introduction of an additional Council meeting in January.

Members discussed the recommendations provided. Recommendation regarding approving / amending the Council minutes on block was approved.

Members disagreed with the recommendation for the Town Centre Manager to continue with a verbal report and members requested a written report from the Town Centre Manager to be submitted prior to the meetings and for this become part of the agenda documentation.

Councillor Williams proposed that all members provide a written report of relevant meetings attended and for group meetings where more than one member of Council attends, it was agreed one person from the meeting would submit as part of their meetings attended and state members who were present. It was agreed members would provide the information to the Town Clerk to become part of the agenda documentation.

Members approved the Mayor provide a list of activities for the month and make verbal reference to specific activities of interest only.

Regarding the introduction of an additional Council meeting in January which was proposed to reduce the duration of January’s meeting, as previously this has finished late, due to there being no December meeting and the addition of budget proposal which forms part of the agenda, Councillor Thomas suggested the January agenda is prioritised with only essential items being added to allow sufficient time for budget discussions.

Councillor Collett suggested the date of the January meeting is moved forward to the second week of January to allow sufficient time between the meeting and budget setting.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that members approved the following changes:-

1. The recommended Financial Risk Assessment amendments;
2. Information arising should be approved/amended on block without the need to go through a set of minutes page by page;
3. The Town Centre Manager provide a written report as part of the agenda documentation;
4. Members provide a written report of relevant meetings attended as part of the agenda documentation;
5. The Mayor provide a list of activities for the month and make verbal reference to specific activities of interest only;
6. The meeting of full Council in January be moved to second week in January from 2017;

**70. SYRIAN REFUGEES**

A request has been received from a member of the public asking if the Council are doing anything to support the refugees from Syria.

Councillor Heycocks informed members that her Church congregation had received advice from the Church that it was no longer recommended to send clothing donations. Councillor Collett informed members he had personally collected clothes but had been informed by the collection point that they were no longer taking clothes and blankets as they had been inundated with donations. It was suggested by members that clothing already collected could be donated to the Salvation Army for the homeless in the UK.

Councillor Mearns had a number of recommendations on how the Council could help the refugees;

1. Write to Flintshire County Council to confirm the Council’s support of the Welsh allocation of refugees and work with the County Council to draw up a proposal of how the Council can work with faith organisations and aid agencies to assist the crisis.
2. Write to David Hanson MP urging that once the Welsh allocation of refugees is approved, the refugees are able to come to the UK as soon as possible. Also ask for David Hanson’s support for local Syrians who have family members in refugee camps and to offer assistance with the legal aspects of bringing family members to the UK. Also request financial assistance with accommodation costs for refugees coming to Mold.
3. Council to assist refugees once in the town with accessing services.
4. Write to the Welsh Government to urge that local government be at the heart of providing response.
5. Donations of clothing could be stored in an empty office at County Hall ready for refugees when they arrive.

**Resolved:** It was resolved for the Town Clerk would take forward the recommendations and write to the relevant parties.

**71. FUTURE TRANSPORT INVESTMENTS IN NORTH WALES**

Members considered the previously circulated correspondence from Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AM, Minister for Economy, Science and Transport providing details of future priorities for transport in North Wales.

Councillor Mearns expressed disappointment that no funding had been identified for active travel routes in Flintshire and asked the Town Clerk to write to Edwina Hart.

**Resolved:** It was resolved for the Town Clerk would write to Edwina Hart to ask for consideration for active travel routes in Flintshire.

**72. MOLD TOWN PLAN SURVEY**

Members considered the previously circulated report on the recent Livestock Market survey carried out by People & Places on behalf of Mold Town Council to assist in the development of the Mold Town Plan. Members agreed the survey results should be shared with the public via the Mold Town Council website, social media and press release.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the report and release the report to the public.

**73. ONE VOICE WALES – AGM MOTIONS**

Members considered the previously circulated information from One Voice Wales regarding the motions due for debate at the Annual General Meeting which Councillor Bryan Grew will attend representing the Council’s views on the motions.

Members supported all the motions with the exception of motion 9 from Un Llais Cymru regarding the increase of the membership, uplifted by 3% for the financial year 2016-17. Members disagreed with this motion, which is also above the rate of inflation.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to support motions 1-8. Councillor Bryan Grew will speak on behalf of members regarding motion 9, increase of membership cost which the council does not agree with.

**74. ANNUAL RETURN & INTERMEDIATE AUDIT 2014/15**

The Auditor has now completed the external audit of the Town Council’s accounts for the year 2014/15 and has indicated there are no issues arising for the council to consider.

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

**75. BEST KEPT COMMUNITIES COMPETITION**

The Mayor and the Town Clerk attended the Flintshire County Council Best Kept Communities Awards. Mold was awarded first prize in the Best Kept Town Centre with a population over 5000 category. The Town also entered Leadmill Bridge and St Mary’s Park Community Orchard into the Best Kept Community Garden / Wildlife Area category and both received positive comments from the judges.

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

**76. NOTION OF MOTION**

76.1 Councillor Phil Thomas asked for the Council to support a review of the security at the Bailey Hill Lodge.

76.2 Councillor Bryan Grew asked members to support the purchase of civic regalia for the Mayors’s Consort and Deputy Mayor.

 **Resolved:** It was resolved:

1. That Members did not agree with the motion to purchase civic regalia for the Mayor’s Consort and Deputy Mayor, but would be happy for a sponsor to be sought to cover the cost of purchase.
2. That Members supported the motion and the Town Clerk was asked to make enquires with Security Firms and make recommendations to Council.

**77. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

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

**78. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

No meetings attended

**79. 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.

**80. 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.

**81. MOLD CARNIVAL – CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS**

Members considered the previously circulated response from Mold Carnival Committee relating to the concerns raised following the last carnival.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the response received and for the Town Clerk to reply on behalf of the Town Council to the complainants. It was also noted to inform the fairground not to bring fish as prizes at the Christmas Light Switch on.

**The Meeting ended at 8.50pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 30th September 2015** |

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