**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 24th February 2016.

**PRESENT:**

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

Also present: Andrew Lightfoot Streetscene Supervisor for Flintshire County Council

**APOLOGIES**: Councillors Ray Dodd and Richard Brookes

**141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

**142. STREETSCENE SUPERVISOR**

The Mayor welcomed Andrew Lightfoot, Flintshire County Council Streetscene Coordinator for Mold who gave members an update on the street cleansing services in Mold.

Andrew informed members that as of 1st January 2016 there is a zero tolerance policy on litter and it is high priority for Flintshire County Council to enforce the new policy with regards to general littering, dog fouling, fly tipping and chewing gum which is not disposed of correctly, with on the spot fines of £75.00. More bins have been placed around the town, including stub trays on top of bins and additional ashtrays. Streetscene are now working with local food outlets asking them to encourage customers to dispose of litter correctly. New signage regarding littering will also shortly be up around the town.

Since the enforcement there had been a number of fines issued and also prosecutions, including some which have gone to the magistrate courts.

Andrew informed members that discussions where still taking place with regards to Parking Attendants being given the power to issue on the spot fines for littering, but the decision regarding this was imminent.

Councillor Bithell asked whether the policy was being enforced in the evenings as there was an issue with dog fouling on public playing fields, in particular on Victoria Road and Lead Mills from members of the public walking dogs in the evenings.

Andrew informed members that night enforcement was currently under discussion but hidden cameras are currently in place to assist with identifying offenders.

Councillor Williams raised an issue with litter on the streets after recycling collections and after high winds, in particular around Gladstone Street area and he asked whether in this area litter could be picked up by hand as it was difficult to get a machine down the roads due to parking.

Andrew confirmed the issue with recycling litter had been raised with Senior Management and is being addressed.

Councillor Lloyd asked what could be done with regards to littering on private land such as the area behind the Red Lion public house. Andrew confirmed this was an issue but they were looking at issuing letters to inform that Streetscene, as a one off, would clear the litter but afterwards this then becomes the responsibility of the businesses to keep clean, with the possibility of fines if this is not addressed.

A demonstration of a chewing gum removal machine was taking place on 2nd March and Andrew informed members they were welcome to attend. If the demonstration is successful, Andrew would seek permission to purchase the machine.

From the parking revenue projects, Andrew confirmed the signage scheme was two thirds completed, improvements on New Street car park was also under way and will be completed by end of March 2016.

In New Street car park there are currently no identifiable walkways for pedestrians and the Town Manager informed members he had asked Andrew to ensure this was a high priority for Streetscene, in particular, putting an identifiable walkway from the alleyway at the Glanrafon end of the car park through to Bethesda Chapel.

Councillor Lloyd informed members a resident had complained about the drainage issue at Aldi and McDonalds, sewerage is coming up from the drain on a regular basis. Andrew informed members he was in discussion with the relevant parties to look at resolving the issue.

Members expressed their thanks to Andrew and his team and commented that there had been a significant difference in the street cleansing since Andrew took on his role.

**Councillor Carol Heycocks, Haydn Bateman and Robin Guest arrived at 6.30pm**

**Andrew Lightfoot left the meeting at 6.30pm**

**143. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members noted the previously circulated diary of the Mayor’s recent activities since the last meeting of the town council.

The Mayor and the Town Clerk had attended the meeting with North Wales Police, held at the Town Hall which had been very well attended by other town and community councils. He had attended the Llwynegrin Singers presentation evening in which it was announced the choir would be finishing, and expressed his thanks to Llwynegrin Singers who over the years had raised over £40,000 for local charities. The Mayor requested a letter of appreciation be sent to Llwynegrin Singers from the council. The Pancake Day races was once again very well attended and good fun and the Mayor thanked everyone who helped with the organisation. The Mayor’s charity dinner had raised nearly £2,000 for the Stroke Association and the Mayor expressed his thanks to members who attended and supported the event.

**144. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 27th January 2016 be received and approved.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 25th January 2016 and 3rd February 2016 be received and noted.

**145. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**Mold Town Council 27th January 2016**

Minute 126 – Councillor Bithell asked the Town Manager if he had received further update regarding the PCSO’s. The Town Manager informed members that Mold currently had 3 PCSO’s and he would speak to Sergeant Evans regarding the current structure of the community policing team and report back to members. The Town Clerk was asked to invite the Sergeant Evans and the PCSO’s to the next meeting of the council in March.

Minute 126 – Councillor Bithell asked if an update had been received from Andrew Farrow, Flintshire County Council’s Chief Planning Officer regarding the flood alleviation scheme. The Town Clerk confirmed no response had been received.

Minute 126 – Councillor Guest asked the Town Manager if he had received feedback regarding council’s concerns about the deadline in which the revenue for the “Town Investment Fund” projects had to have commenced by, which was 31st March 2016. The Town Manager confirmed he was in discussions with Steve Jones Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) at Flintshire County Council and was awaiting an update. Councillor Guest asked the Town Manger to let members know if there was an issue as members who were County Councillors would raise this at County meetings.

Minute 134 – Councillor Bithell asked if there had been an update received following members request for attendance levels at the Bubblegum Group. Councillor Mearns confirmed the Parkfields Management Committee was pursing the request and awaiting a reply.

**146. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER**

Members noted the previously circulated report from the Town Manager.

The Town Manager advised members projects using the “Town Investment fund” were progressing well. A meeting of the Community, Development & Regeneration Committee was arranged for Wednesday 9th March at 6.00pm.

In preparation for the Spring Clean which is taking place from the 18th to 21st March, the Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) had been arranged for Tuesday 1st March starting at 9.30am and members were welcome to join. The Town Manager asked members to let him or the Support Officer know of any grot spots around the town which could be addressed as part of the spring clean. The Town Manager thanked Councillor Hodgkinson who had volunteered to carry out admin support over the weekend.

The Town Manager was pleased to share the news that confirmation had been received that CC Viyella had signed a new 6-year lease and therefore would not be closing the Mold store.

The event on Thursday 18th February with the Principal Valuer for Wales and local businesses and traders had been well attended. It was a very informative meeting with findings from the Welsh Government ratings review indicating that Mold is likely to see a drop in rateable values (RV’s) of between 15% and 25% for retail premises and 10%-15% for office space, which is in-line with other similar towns. Prime sites (High Streets) are seeing a greater reduction in RV’s than secondary sites & smaller units which appear to be holding up better to market forces. Some towns in Wales have seen a reduction of up to 50% in RV’s whilst out of town sites have seen increases in RV’s, which reflects the changing nature of shopping. A draft report is due to be published in April, once received the Town Manager will circulate to members.

The Town Manager informed members that for the last 2 years Flintshire County Council had provided a grant to the town’s Blues & Soul Festival, however this year they would not be contributing. At the next meeting of full council, the Blues & Soul committee would be submitting a request for financial support from the Town Council.

The Blues & Soul committee are organising a fund raising event at St Mary’s Church Hall on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th June, further details to follow.

The Town Manager and the Town Clerk had attended a meeting with Flintshire Tourism Association regarding the North East Wales Ambassador scheme and they had been asked if the Town Council would be interested in becoming ambassadors, further information regarding this scheme will be provided to members once the Town Manager receives.

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

**The Town Manager left the meeting at 7.00pm**

**147. INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT**

Members considered the previously circulated interim internal audit report.

On the basis of the internal audit work carried out, the outcome from the auditor was that controls are in place and adequate and effective for the purpose intended, subject to four areas of recommendation:-

1) General reserves – the auditor recommended a formal reserves policy should be established that’s sets the required level of general reserves to be carried forward year on year.

2) Mayor’s charity account – it was not necessary to have a separate account for the money raised from the Mayor’s events for their chosen charity, as this money is identifiable under a separate heading at the end of the year.

3) VAT registration – the council should review current categories of income and determine which are non business, exempt, zero and standard rated for VAT, then classify each income source as recurring or one off. It is recommended that the council write to the HMRC for advice regarding whether VAT registration is required.

4) Novemberfest event – alcohol sales at the Novemberfest event should be separated from other income, such as ticket sales as alcohol is a vatable item. Also events where tickets are sold, entrance price may be vatable. It is recommended that the council write to the HMRC seeking advice.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the information and for the Town Clerk to work with the Policy and Audit Committee on the recommendations and write to the HMRC seeking advice on VAT registration.

**148. TOWN PLAN CONSULTATION - COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS**

The Council considered the previously circulated report provided by the consultants Allies & Morrison following the consultation event at the end of November 2015.

The Town Clerk informed members there was a Mold Town Plan Steering Group meeting to be held on Monday 29th February.

Councillor Mearns asked for the presentation which is being shown at the meeting on Monday to be sent to members prior to Monday so they can view and prepare any questions they may have. The Town Clerk will speak to Allies & Morrison to request the presentation is sent.

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

## **149. PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PARTICPATIONS FOR THE NATIONS DEVELOPLEMENT FRAMEWORK**

The National Development Framework (NDF) will be a national land use development plan and will set out the Welsh Government’s social, economic and environmental spatial planning objectives for the next 20 years. The consultation concerns the first stage in the process of preparing the NDF, the preparation of the Statement of Public participation. The deadline for comments is 25th April 2016.

Members agreed the Planning Committee respond on behalf of the council.

**Resolved:** It was resolved the Planning Committee respond on behalf of the council.

## **150. URDD NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD SIR Y FFLINT 2016**

Members considered the previously circulated correspondence from Urdd Gobaith Cymru seeking additional financial support for this year’s Eisteddfod in Flint.

After consideration by members, it was agreed not to increase the grant as £100 had already been approved in the budget and £1300 had been awarded last year as Mold Town Council’s contribution to this year’s Eisteddfod in Flint.

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

## **151. CREATE YOUR SPACE**

Members considered the previously circulated report from Councillors Thomas and Mearns on the progress in responding to the Big Lottery funded project “Create your Space” and in identifying a lead body for the project. Councillors Thomas and Mearns are seeking support from the Council in taking this project forward in partnership with the North Wales Wildlife Trust.

Members supported the project, based on clarification of how this will be funded after 7 years.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to support the project, based on clarification of how this will be funded after 7 years.

## **152. HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND APPLICATION – BAILEY HILL**

## Members considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council relating to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application, stage one, for the Bailey Hill. Members were also asked to approve the draft reply letter from the Mayor to Ian Bancroft Chief Officer at Flintshire County Council confirming Mold Town Council’s commitment to provide £5,000 for matching funding the Heritage Lottery Funding application for stage one of the Bailey Hill development.

Councillor Mearns informed members that Eira Hughes from the Friends of Bailey Hill group had been extremely helpful during the preparation of the HLF stage 1 application and also thanked the Town Clerk for her support with the project.

Councillor Guest reminded members that the profit from the rental of the Bailey Hill Lodge had previously been agreed to be used to benefit the Bailey Hill and lodge and the Town Council would not profit from any rental income. Councillor Mearns thanked Councillor Guest for reminding members of this and all members reconfirmed their approval.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to support the letter from the Mayor to Ian Bancroft and for profit from the rental of the Bailey Hill Lodge to be used to benefit the Bailey Hill and lodge.

**153. NOTIFICIATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

**Resolved**: It was resolved to note the report and approve the recommendations.

**154. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

No information was provided by members

**155. 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 7.30pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 24th February 2016** |

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