**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 29th June 2016.

**PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Inspector Jon Bowcott and PCSO Kelsey Evans from North Wales Police and one member of the press.

**APOLOGIES**: Councillors Geoff Matthias and Geoff Collett.

**30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest.

**31. FLINTSHIRE AGAINST BUSINESS CRIME**

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Jon Bowcott and PCSO Kelsey Evans from North Wales Police who would be sharing information with members regarding the introduction of a new radio link system through Flintshire Against Business Crime (FABC).

Inspector Bowcott passed on apologises from Charlie Warr from FABC who had been unable to attend the meeting.

Inspector Bowcott informed members FABC would commence across Flintshire from August 2016 and would be run similar to Chester Against Business Crime (CABC) which has been operating successfully for some time and has seen a reduction in retail theft and in-store violence. Flintshire businesses are invited to attend a FABC meeting to see how the system works and to speak to members.

FABC will operate a digital radio system and have an information sharing intranet for businesses and retail outlets across Flintshire who join. Enforcement officers and Police will also carry the linked radios. FABC information meetings for all members will be held monthly. All members would be asked to sign Data Protection agreement. Businesses will pay a subscription fee to join FABC. Members benefits include:-

* A 24 hour radio network where businesses (including pubs, takeaways, petrol stations) are in direct contact with each other, CCTV Control and Police
* An exclusion scheme for persistent offenders - banned from one, banned from all
* Photographs of active offenders
* Monthly information sharing meetings
* Access to the National Business Intelligence System (NBIS)
* Access to a secure members only intranet providing intelligence, offender images and updates on what is happening in Flintshire.

The radios also have a record button, which can be used to record offenders, this can then be used in evidence.

The Town Manager informed members, he currently chairs the Mold Shopwatch meetings which is well attended by retailers within the town. As part of FABC, the Town Council will also have a linked radio, which can be used at events.

Inspector Bowcott, on behalf of FABC, asked members to support the scheme in Flintshire and asked for consideration in FABC’s request for £1,000 grant from Mold Town Council towards set up costs. A further £20,000 would be available to FABC from the previous radio contract slush fund, this will also go towards the set up costs.

PCSO Evans informed members the scheme in Flintshire was being well received by businesses and they had received expression of interest from 49 business in Mold itself. Inspector Bowcott informed members FABC would be self-funded within 12 months and was a not for profit organisation.

The Town Manager told members he supported FABC grant request as Mold will benefit from the system being in place. FABC intranet system is approved by the Data Protection Commissioner and images where no further charges have taken place, would be removed after 28 days.

Councillor Mearns asked if the future of the CCTV provision based at County Council was a consideration and if there had been any update as to the future of the service. The Town Clerk confirmed this was still being reviewed and no further update had been received. Inspector Bowcott said as part of the FABC scheme Flintshire CCTV would have a linked radio and CCTV would operate as normal and he had not been informed otherwise.

Members moved to support the request for £1,000 to be given to Flintshire Against Business Crime.

**Resolved**: Members supported request to grant £1,000 to Flintshire Against Business Crime.

**Councillor Robin Guest arrived at 6.25pm**

**Inspector Jon Bowcott and PCSO Kelsey Evans left the meeting at 6.30pm**

**32. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members noted the previous circulated Mayor’s diary. The Mayor informed members his charity concert would take place on Wednesday 24th August at Theatr Clwyd.

**33. MINUTES**

 **Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on held on 25th May 2016 be received and approved;

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 8th June 2016 be received and approved;

c) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1st June 2016 be received and noted;

**34. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

34.1 Minute 16 a– Councillor Bithell informed members there was still conflicting signage on the upper High Street (Church side) as to parking times.

34.2 Minute 16 – Councillor Bithell asked if an update had been received as to who owns the garden in front of the Town House, 24 High Street. The Town Manager informed members he had received confirmation this was privately owned.

34.3 Minute 16 – Councillor Parry informed members he had received further complaints regarding the mess the pigeons are causing, whilst nesting between the Nationwide and Muka Hair Salon since a hole has been cut in the protective wire. The Town Manager informed members he had spoken with the Proprietor of Muka Salon and she was taking this forward with the landlord to resolve.

34.4 Minute 16 - Councillor Parry asked the Town Manager to make Streetscene aware of the overflowing bin at the rear of Wrexham Street, near to the Salvation Army. The Town Manager informed members he had spoken with the Streetscene Co-ordinator and this would be addressed.

34.5 Minute 16 – Councillor Gaffey asked if there was an update regarding the overhanging branches on the Bovril path. Councillor Mearns confirmed the branches had now been cut and Councillor Lloyd confirmed he had met with the Police and Streetscene to discuss the issue and that the anti social behaviour had quietened down in that area.

34.6 Minute 18 – Councillor Mearns asked the Town Manager if there had been any information regarding Cadwyn Clwyd funding since the Brexit announcement. The Town Manager confirmed at the last Leader meeting, a Welsh Government Representative confirmed Leader funding would continue to be available whilst Britain remained a member of the EU and during the period of exit.

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

Members noted the previously circulated report from the Town Manager. The Town Manager expressed his thanks to Councillor Bateman and Councillor Gaffey who assisted pupils from Maes Garmon with community planting.

The Town Manager informed members the planting in New Street car park had been completed. Regarding the footpath improvements, the Town Manager informed members the slurry seal work was due to commence the week after the 10th July.

The Blues & Soul committee have received lots of positive comments regarding this year’s festival and there will be a local resident offer of £2.00 off the ticket prices and ‘Local Friday for a Fiver’ evening which will take place on the first night of the festival.

The Celtic Fayre Christmas market was currently under discussion and a consultation day with traders has been arranged for Wednesday 13th July.

Councillor Williams asked the Town Manager if he could address the roundabout at the bottom of Chester Street with the relevant parties, as the roundabout is deemed ‘ugly’ and considered an eyesore. The Town Manager confirmed he was in discussions with the Flintshire County Council landscape team to see how this could be improved.

Councillor Lloyd asked the Town Manager to address the condition of the listed frontage of the former Black Lion Hotel on the High Street which is now the property of BM Bargains as plaster on the pillars and canopy is starting to crumble and is a danger to members of the public. The front windows of the building are also broken and paint work needs repair. The Town Manager confirmed this had been addressed with management of BM Bargains on a number of occasions, but very little had been done. Members suggested the issue be addressed with Flintshire County Council and the Town Manager confirmed he would formally write to Flintshire County Council to ask them to take forward and resolve. Councillor Grew suggested the Town Manager also formally write to BM Bargains head office.

Councillor Williams asked if there had been any interest in the empty unit since CC Viyella had closed. The Town Manager confirmed he had approached 6 nationals who are looking for property in the area, and he had promoted the town and availability of suitable units to them.

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

**The Town Manager left the meeting at 7.05pm**

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

Correspondence had been received from One Voice Wales requesting Motions for the 2016 Annual Conference, which must be received by Friday 1st July 2016. Motions must reflect a national issue or problem and each motion must be accompanied by a short explanatory note (up to 150 words). In the May meeting of the Town Council it was agreed to defer the discussions until June meeting of full council and the Clerk advised any motions which members would like to put forward for discussion in June are emailed, with accompanying explanatory note to the Clerk to be sent out with the June agenda.

Councillor Bithell put forward a motion: One Voice Wales calls upon the UK Government to ensure that sufficient funds are made available at a national level in Wales to replace the EU funds which could be eventually lost as a direct consequence of the Brexit vote in the referendum. This is to ensure that Local Authorities, organisations and other groups in Wales will be able to continue to bid for much needed funding for local projects for community and environmental improvements as we have in the past under the EU.

Members supported the motion.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to support Councillor Bithell’s motion and for the Town Clerk to forward to One Voice Wales

**37. FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) KEY STAKEHOLDERS FORUM**

An invitation from Flintshire County Council has been made via One Voice Wales to have a representative on the LDP Key Stakeholder Forum. Nominations should be made to One Voice Wales by 18th July 2016. An election for a representative will be held at the next Wrexham/Flintshire Area Committee meeting on 19th July 2016.

Members moved for Councillor Mearns to represent Mold Town Council.

**Resolved:** It was resolved for Councillor Mearns to represent Mold Town Council.

**38. MOLD TOWN COUNCIL – ANNUAL REPORT**

Members were asked to consider the previously circulated annual report for the Town Council for the municipal year 2015/16. Following discussion and due to amendments to the report since circulation, members agreed to defer until the July meeting to give members time to review.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to defer discussion until meeting of the Town Council in July.

**39. COUNTRYSIDE EVENTS BOOKLET**

Members noted previously circulated correspondence received from Flintshire County Council following recent concerns raised by the Town Council over the publication of the Countryside Events booklet. Councillor Mearns suggested inviting Flintshire County Council Countryside Services to a Town Council meeting with a view to how to work together on future publications.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to invite Council Countryside Services to the September meeting of the Town Council.

**40. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

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

**41. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

**Councillor Phil Thomas**

Members noted the previously circulated report from Councillor Thomas regarding submission made to the Big Lottery Fund initiative ‘Create Your Space’.

The aim of the programme is to support projects that will ‘conserve, create or improve outdoor spaces within a specific community’, which fits closely with the aim of the Mold Green Band.

Following the meeting on 24th February 2016, a Working Party was set up including representatives from the North Wales Wildlife Trust and the Wild Flowers and Footpaths group set up by Mold Town Council, with  FCC’s Ecologist and Biodiversity Officer acting in an advisory capacity.  The North Wales Wildlife Trust was the designated Lead Body.

Closing date for Stage 1 applications was 31 March 2016 and a submission was made within that timeframe. The working party has now heard their application has been successful and has been selected to progress to stage 2, supported by development funding of up to £20,000. The £20,000 will be spent on the development stage.

Councillor Mearns informed members only three projects in Flintshire have been awarded the funding of which, Mold was one of them. Councillor Mearns expressed her thanks to Councillor Thomas who had worked extremely hard on the application.

**Councillor Andrea Mearns**

Members noted the previously circulated report from Councillor Mearns regarding the Bubblegum Club at Parkfields since the new providers of the service had taken over. There had been a number of issues since the change over, which the service providers were working on to resolve. A quarterly report on the progress of the Bubblegum Club would be provided by Cllr. Mearns to members.

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

**42. 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 7.50pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 29th June 2016** |

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