**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 20th July 2016.

**PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Katie Wilby Transport and Logistics Manager from Flintshire County Council and Jessica Pritchard Technical Officer for Transportation at Flintshire County Council.

**APOLOGIES**: Councillors Geoff Matthias, Carol Heycocks and Richard Brookes.

**43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Karen Hodgkinson declared an interest in Agenda Item 8, Financial Assistance regarding Flintshire & Wrexham Online Watch Link.

Councillor Bryan Grew declared an interest in Agenda Item 8, Financial Assistance regarding Mold Food and Drink Festival.

**44. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

The Mayor welcomed Katie Wilby and Jessica Pritchard. Katie introduced Jessica and informed members Jessica, who had previously worked as a travel planning

coordinator for TAITH, had a strong background in community transport and will be the Senior Officer supporting Town and Community Councils on the community transport project along with Mike Jones and Michelle Hampson from Flintshire County Council (FCC).

Mold Town Council have previously expressed an interest in becoming a lead partner for Community Transport. Katie confirmed she had received 20 expressions of interest from other Town and Community Councils of which 5 have expressed an interest in taking a lead role, these are Mold, Buckley, Hawarden, Connah’s Quay and Queensferry.

The next stage is to set up a steering group and two members of Mold Town Council are requested to join the group. The steering group will take responsibility for organising information drop in events, mapping the transport network, communication and understanding the demand. The first working group meeting is to be scheduled within the next three months. There will be a toolkit available to help Town and Community Councils to put together an action plan and terms of reference. Flintshire County Council will provide resources to help with advertising and printing costs.

Katie informed members that FCC were looking at other transport needs such as school buses to see if these could be incorporated into the Community Transport plan. FCC have been awarded a local transport grant of £145k to spend on community hubs. The setting up of the hubs are a priority as the grant needs to be spent by the end of March 2017. Katie has also applied for a Rural Development capital funding of £160k which would be spent on set up costs, ie: purchase of vehicles.

The Community Councils at Hope, Treuddyn and Llanfynydd  have expressed an interest in working with Mold Town Council on the project.

Councillor Williams asked Katie if there was any cost to the Town Council in becoming a hub and asked for confirmation regarding on going costs. Katie confirmed that until the steering group had been set up and mapping had been done, she was unable to confirm.

Councillor Bithell asked if Community Transport scheme was running in different counties, Katie confirmed Monmouthshire have a very good scheme and Flintshire had based their scheme on Monmouthshire’s.

Councillor Bithell asked if Welsh Border Community Transport who currently run the community car had been contacted to see if they would be participating, Katie confirmed she had been in touch with them and at the moment they were unable to commit due to current workloads.

Katie confirmed to members that there was potential for income from school buses under Section 22, Community Bus Permits.

Councillor Mearns commented that it was in the Town Council’s interest as a service town to run community transport and transport should be run on request to reduce the number of empty vehicles.

Councillors Bob Gaffey and Bryan Grew put themselves forward for the steering group, members supported the request.

**Resolved**: Members approved for Councillors Bob Gaffey and Bryan Grew to join the steering group.

**Katie Wilby and Jessica Pritchard left the meeting at 6.30pm**

**45. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor congratulated the Town Clerk on passing her Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) and is now one of approximately fifteen Town Clerks in Wales who have the qualification from the 735 Town and Community Councils.

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, with special guest performers Beau Dermott and Jodi Bird from Britain’s Got Talent.

**46. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on held on 29th June 2016 be received and approved;

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 27th June 2016 be received and noted

**47. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

34.1 Councillor Bithell asked if the conflicting parking times sign on the upper High Street (Church side) had been addressed, the Town Manager confirmed signage in their area had been addressed.

34.3 Councillor Bithell suggested discussing with Streetscene a long term solution to the ongoing issue of pigeons and pigeon excrement. Councillor Parry informed members he and Councillor Williams would be mending the hole which had been cut in the wire mesh at the side of the Nationwide. Councillor Mearns suggested the issue is taken forward by the CDR Committee to look for a resolution. Members moved for the CDR Committee to take forward.

35. The Town Manager confirmed he had written to Flintshire Conservation Officer regarding the condition of the listed frontage of the former Black Lion Hotel on the High Street. Councillor Lloyd suggested that the Town Manager also contact BM Bargains Head Office as it was their property and they should be responsible in rectifying.

36. The Town Clerk confirmed Councillor Bithell’s motion requesting One Voice Wales to secure a guarantee from Central Government that the availability of community funding will remain post Brexit, had been accepted based on a seconder from another Town Council.

41. Councillor Lloyd asked for an update on the Bubblegum meeting which had taken place with Inspector Bowcott and the Headmaster from Bryn Gwalia regarding recent issues. Councillor Mearns informed members the meeting was also attended by Management from Parkfields and Groundforce (who deliver the Bubblegum service). During the meeting a number of proposals were discussed including changing the age range for the Bubblegum sessions. The Headmaster from Bryn Gwalia had said that anti-social behaviour was also happening within the school and on the estate. Councillor Grew suggested that Councillors from the ward are invited to the next meeting.

**48 REPORT OF THE TOWN CENTRE MANAGER**

Members noted the previously circulated report from the Town Manager.

The Town Manager informed members the gateway signs would be completed next week and installed mid August. The Daniel Owen Lighting 2nd phase would be started on 31st July. The additional visitor information points were now installed.

The Town Manager informed members he had written to Flintshire County Council regarding the snagging list on the Daniel Owen Square as the completion of the electrics on the square was still outstanding.

The slurry sealing of the pavements would commence 31st July and all businesses would be informed.

The Euro football fanzone was a great a success, the cost was £2,043.00 but with contributions from food/drink and donations the actual cost to council was £1,258.00

The Blues & Soul committee was looking for stewards particularly on the Saturday and Sunday. The Town Manager and Charlie Broadhurst (Event Sound) had met with the Daily Post in Llandudno which had been very positive regarding support for the Blues & Soul and future events.

The Town Manager informed members Mrs Thomas shoe shop at the top of the High Street had been sold but there was no confirmation as to what would be opening.

Councillor Guest asked if there was any update on the renovation of the Dolphin. The Town Manager informed members the developers were looking at potential tourism grants and they had consulted with planners regarding the formal application going in October. They estimate approximately 12 months to develop.

Councillor Bithell asked for an update on the Bridge Inn, Councillor Parry confirmed work had started on the old pub.

Councillor Gaffey asked if there was any update on the Bryn Awel development. Councillor Parry informed members that this was now back up for sale.

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

**Councillor Bateman left the meeting at 7.00pm**

**49. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The Council considered the report detailing the applications and recommendations of the Panel for financial assistance. It was noted that the Town Council had previously approved in April’s meeting, £1000 to Mold Food and Drink Festival.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the report with the amendment of the Mold Food and Drink Festival as per April’s agreement.

**50. VAT REGISTRATION QUERY**

Members considered the previously circulated response from HMRC following enquiries made as to whether the Town Council should become VAT registered based on activities carried out by the Town Council. The Town Clerk asked members for approval to attend a one day training event on VAT in September to enable her to be more informed before a decision is made. Councillor Grew suggested it would also be beneficial to speak to VAT Accountants

**Resolved:** It was resolved for the Town Clerk to attend VAT training event.

**51. IBEACON NETWORK PROJECT / OPEN CALL: RED TELEPHONE BOX REGENERATION PROJECT**

Members considered the previously circulated information regarding Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham Local Action Groups new LEADER project; red telephone box regeneration project.

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

**52. MOLD TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT**

Members considered the previously circulated Town Council annual report for the municipal year 2015/16.

Councillor Bithell requested the figures for the number of men who attended the Buckley & Mold Lions prostrate screening is added to the report. He also requested members contact information is added along with the committee’s members are on.

Councillor Grew suggested the population figure should be taken from the 2011 census.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the report with the additional amendments as discussed.

**53. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**53.1** Councillor Grew asked members to consider purchasing civic regalia for the Mayor’s Consort to allow for recognition when attending civic events and suggested an amount of £100.00 to be spent. Councillor Bithell said that Mold Town Council Consort was the only Consort in the area that wore no recognition.

Councillor Mearns did not support the request and considered the need for recognition to be dated.

Councillor Guest suggested an amendment to the motion, and would support if no cost was involved, he suggested contacting local art colleges to ask if students would be able to produce regalia or speak to businesses seeking sponsorship.

It was agreed for the Town Clerk to make enquiries with local arts schools and approach business regarding sponsorship.

**53.2** Councillor Gaffey asked members to consider a way forward with regards to the recent criticism of the Council’s bilingual policy and approach and take into consideration that much of our public communication has to be sent to Welsh translator. The Council needs to have an open discussion to explore the issues and determine the practical implications including the cost, time and most importantly how we best represent the entire community of Mold.

The Town Clerk informed members they had received two official complaints following the Fanzone in June, complaining about the council’s decision to broadcast the football on ITV with English only commentary, an official response to these complaints is required within 30 days.

**Councillor Dodd left the meeting at 7.45pm**

Following a lengthy debate members agreed to suspend the use of social media until a solution is found that all posts from the Town Council can be bilingual.

Following concerns regarding the treatment of staff by some members of the public, it was agreed the Policy and Audit Committee would ensure there was a policy in place that covers abusive confrontations with staff.

Councillor Gaffey suggested meeting with representatives from the community to discuss the way forward. Councillor Williams suggested asking Selwyn Evans from Siop y Siswrn if he would be liaison to bring the meeting together and it was agreed Councillors Parry, Gaffey, Grew, Guest and Thomas would attend the meeting to represent Mold Town Council with Selwyn inviting members from the community.

**The Town Manager left the meeting at 8.45pm**

**53.3** Councillor Bithell informed members he had been approached by residents from his ward concerned about racism and xenophobia and asked members to declare their support and give reassurances to residents from other countries now living in Mold.

All members agreed racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country or our town. Mold Town Council condemns such acts unequivocally and will work with partners and other organisations to prevent and combat such acts and reassures all those living here that they are valued and respected members of our community.

**Resolved:**

53.1 It was resolved to approve the motion with an amendment to zero cost to the council.

53.2 It was resolved to arrange a meeting with members of the community to discuss public communication.

53.3 It was resolved to support the motion.

**54. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

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

**55. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

**Councillor Andrea Mearns**

Members noted the previously circulated report from Councillor Mearns regarding two meetings she had attended.

**Monday 18th July** Councillor Mearns attended Create Your Space meeting along with Councillor Thomas, members from North Wales Wildlife Trust and Create Your Space Learning and Support regarding partnership agreement and to share ideas and for the Learning and Support team to understand the Mold project better.

**Tuesday 19th July** Councillor Mearns attended the Bailey Hill Lottery Fund stage 1 meeting. Flintshire County Council in partnership with Mold Town Council and Friends of the Bailey Hill group has received a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Parks for People award to improve the Bailey Hill. The initial HLF support and development funding of £43,900 will enable detailed work on conservation, interpretation, activity planning and governance of the site. A project manager will be appointed.

It has previously been agreed by members that Mold Town Council would match fund £5,000 for phase 1 of the project.

The Town Clerk asked members to show recognition to Councillor Mearns who had been working extremely hard on the Bailey Hill project.

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

**56. 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 8.50pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 20th July 2016** |

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| **MEMBER** | **ITEM** | **MINUTE NO. REFERS** |
| Cllr. Hodgkinson  Cllr. Grew | Agenda item 8  Agenda item 8 | 49  49 |

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