**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 28th September 2016.

**PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Tom Woodall Access & Natural Environment Manager from Flintshire County Council and one member of the press.

**APOLOGIES**: Councillors Geoff Collett and Richard Brookes and the Town Manager.

**57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

**58. COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES**

The Mayor welcomed Tom Woodall Access & Natural Environment Manager from Flintshire County Council (FCC) who had been invited to the meeting following the recent concerns expressed by members following the publication of the Flintshire County Council Countryside Events booklet which did not feature any Mold events.

Tom thanked members for inviting him and gave a brief overview of his current and previous role during his 16 year employment with FCC. Tom explained the events booklet is an annual list of events run by the Rangers team and they were now looking into working with partners to enable a broader approach to events in the County. Tom said he is aware Mold Town Council already run a successful events programme without the help of FCC, however Tom and his team were open to working with the town council to develop events and assist with promotion of events taking place in open spaces / green band areas.

Councillor Bithell suggested as Mold was an urban area, there had been some misunderstanding as to what the booklet was representing as other urban town events had included.

Councillor Mearns asked Tom, as he is currently involved with Greenfield Valley, if he would be interested in getting involved in the Bailey Hill project. Tom confirmed his team are involved in projects relating to countryside, open spaces and bio diversity in general but he personally could not commit to the Bailey Hill project at this moment in time.

Councillor Mearns congratulated Tom and his team on Wepre Park which was looking fantastic at the moment.

Councillor Williams suggested it would be appropriate for FCC to acknowledge all the work which Mold Town Council carry out to promote the town and area. Councillor Williams suggested FCC need to be forward thinking and look at the bigger picture when it comes to decisions regarding some events, such as the Tour of Britain cycle race stage 4 race which started in Denbigh this year, it was believed that Mold was suggested as the town to hold the stage start but rejected by FCC. Councillor Williams also mentioned the proposed festive market and location, which had the potential to significantly increase the footfall into the town during the festive period.

Councillor Guest proposed the Town Clerk write appropriately to the Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council regarding the cycle race and festive market.

Councillor Lloyd asked Tom to discuss with Natural Resource Wales the Alyn river as there was a number of branches and other items in the river which need to be cleared. If the river was cleared this would encourage birds to come back to the river. Tom confirmed he would talk to colleagues regarding the clearing of the river.

Tom confirmed to members he looked forward to working with them more closely in the future.The Mayor thanked Tom for attending.

**Councillor Thomas arrive at 6.10pm**

**Tom Woodall left the meeting at 6.35pm**

**59. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members noted the previously circulated Mayor’s diary. The Mayor informed members Afternoon Tea with Ruth Madoc had been a successful event and during the afternoon he had received a promise from a guest of £1000 for a defibrillator for the town. The Mayor had also been informed by management at Soughton Hall that they would be hosting a Christmas fayre on Sunday 4th December with all proceeds going to the ‘Save a Life’ appeal.

Councillor Mearns suggested the Town Clerk write to the Mold Food and Drink Festival committee on another successful event and to congratulate the volunteers on all their hard work.

**60. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on held on 20th July 2016 be received and approved;

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Cemetery Committee held on 13th July 2016 be received and noted;

c) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 18th July, 22nd August and 5th September 2016 be received and noted;

d) The minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Audit Committee held on the 12th September 2016 be received and approved;

**61. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Minute 44 - Councillor Grew informed members he and Councillor Gaffey had attended the community transport steering group meeting and an email had been circulated to members asking for their comments which they will take back to the next meeting. At some stage in in the future, the steering group will carry out surveys in Mold regarding community transport.

Minute 47 - Councillor Bithell asked for the ongoing issue regarding pigeons be added to the CDR Committee agenda meeting 11th October.

Minute 47 – Councillor Mearns along with members of the Mold Town Partnership, the Town Manager and a Conservation Officer from Flintshire County Council had recently walked around the town looking at properties which needed attention and the former Black Lion Hotel (now BM Bargains) was noted to require attention and added to the list, which was a sliding scale of properties based on urgency.

Minute 47 – Councillor Gaffey asked if a date had been set for the next Parkfields meeting, Councillor Mearns confirmed no date had been set.

Minute 48 – Councillor Parry asked for the Town Manger to inspect the slurry seal which had recently been put on pavements as it was already showing some signs of wear in certain parts. Councillor Lloyd mentioned a number of residents had complained about the slurry seal around the trees on the High Street. The Town Clerk informed members the Town Manager had recently carried out an inspection with the contractor and Streetscene Supervisor and an update would be available at the next full council meeting.

Minute 50 – The Town Clerk confirmed she had attended a VAT training course and would report to members at the next full council meeting as she had not had sufficient time to put together a report following the training.

Minute 53 – Councillor Grew asked if the Town Clerk had made enquiries regarding regalia for the Mayor’s Consort. The Town Clerk confirmed this was ongoing.

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

Members noted the previously circulated report from the Town Manager and raised a number of questions to be noted in the Town Manager’s absence:-

Councillor Bithell asked why the gateway signs were delayed, Councillor Mearns confirmed during installation they had come up against utilities which had caused the delay but the bases were now installed. The Town Manager in his report confirmed the signs would be completed within the next 2-3 weeks.

Councillor Mearns informed members that during the Planning Aid Wales meeting which she attended with the Town Clerk and Councillor Parry, they were shown examples of public communication from Welshpool Town Council regarding developments and projects such as the revenue projects, these are communicated via public notices, social media, press etc and she thought this was something Mold Town Council could adopt. Councillor Bithell suggested adding to the town annual report.

The Town Manager report informed members that Welsh Water would be undertaking mains replacement in Bryn Garmon area; West View, Bryn Garmon to Clayton Road and Harrowby Road week commencing 21st October 2016 through to 6th January 2017, however, the Town Manager had requested the work to be postponed until January 2017 and the Town Clerk confirmed she had received confirmation from Welsh Water that they will postpone and will forward the email received from Welsh Water to members. Councillor Bateman confirmed to members work would not be carried out in West View or Clayton Road, Welsh Water would only be carrying out work in Bryn Garmon and Harrowby Road.

Councillor Bithell informed members he had received lots of positive comments regarding the visitor information points and that they had been very well received.

Councillor Mearns gave members an overview of the Daniel Owen Festival programme which runs from the 15th through to the 22nd October, events include a lecture by art historian Peter Lord ‘The place of Richard Wilson in the history of landscape painting’ on 20th October, a choral concert and guided walks as well as a new beer being launched by Hafod Brewery in celebration of Daniel Owen.

Councillor Lloyd informed members that two advertising banners had been put on the railings of King Street car park and asked if the ruling regarding advertising banners had changed as it was his belief no banners advertising businesses or events could be put on the railings. The Town Clerk confirmed she would make enquiries with Flintshire County Council.

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

**63. HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND – PROJECTS STEERING GROUP**

Members considered the previously circulated communication from Flintshire County Council requesting three nominated representatives from the Town Council to join the steering group for the Heritage Lottery fund for the Bailey Hill. Members approved Councillor Mearns and Councillor Gaffey and the Town Clerk represent the Town Council on the steering group.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve Councillor Mearns, Councillor Gaffey and the Town Clerk represent the Town Council on the steering group.

**64. ACCOUNTS 2016/17 – QUARTERLY REVIEW**

Members considered the previously circulated report of the accounts 2016/17 – quarterly review relating to the income and expenditure for the Town Council as of 30th June 2016.

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

**65. ANNUAL RETURN & INTERMEDIATE AUDIT 2015/16**

Members considered the previously circulated report from the Auditor who has now completed the external audit of the Town Council’s accounts for the year 2015/16. On the basis of its review, in its opinion, the information contained in the Annual Return is in accordance with the proper practices and no matters have come to its attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The Town Clerk went through with members the recommendations from the auditor: -

a) an increase in fidelity insurance is recommended – the Town Clerk confirmed this had been arranged.

b) it was recommended that the Christmas lights be added to the asset register – the Town Clerk confirmed they had now been added to the asset register.

c) the general reserves amount is recommended to be increased – this had already been discussed and approved during budget setting for the year.

d) query regarding whether the Council should charge VAT on some income – the Town Clerk had received recommendations regarding the council becoming VAT registered.

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

**66. POLICY AND AUDIT SUB COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members considered the previously circulated recommendation from the Policy & Audit Sub Committee meeting held 12th September 2016 regarding an amendment to the Financial Regulations.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the recommendation.

**67. FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN - WORKSHOP**

Members considered the previously circulated correspondence from Flintshire County Council inviting two representatives from the Town Council to attend one of the three Local Development Plan consultation workshops taking place.

Members agreed Councillor Parry and Councillor Gaffey would attend to represent the Town Council.

Councillor Mearns suggested the town plan could be adopted by the County Council in their supplementary planning guidance.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve Councillor Parry and Councillor Gaffey to represent the Town Council at the workshop.

**68. WILD ABOUT MOLD**

Members considered the previously circulated draft agreement between North Wales Wildlife Trust and Mold Town Council relating to the Big Lottery Create Your Space grant. Roles and responsibilities where not in the agreement as these would be developed over time.

Councillor Guest asked if recommendations received from Neville Howell would be taken forward regarding inviting additional groups such as the garden club and Rhydymwyn and Nannerch Community Councils to become involved in the project. Councillor Mearns asked the Town Clerk to email Nia Jones (North Wales Wildlife Trust) with the contact details for the additional groups.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the draft agreement and for the Town Clerk to sign on behalf of the council.

**69. MOLD NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES**

Members considered the previously circulated communication from Flintshire & Wrexham Online Watch Link Association asking for funding for a ‘No Cold Calling’ watch scheme for 20 houses occupied by older/vulnerable residents around the Elm Drive area of the town. Costs identified for this would be £285.00

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve a donation of £285.00 to Flintshire & Wrexham Online Watch Link Association.

**70. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – FLOOD AND COASTAL EROSION COMMITTEE CONSULTATION**

The Environment Act 2016 granted Welsh Ministers the power to make regulations to abolish the current Flood Risk Management Wales (FRMW) Committee and establish a new Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee. The intention is for this new committee to have a wide advisory role covering all flood and coastal risk management in Wales. To undertake this task effectively, it is important that its governance, representation and links with other organisations are fit for purpose.

Views are sought on key aspects of the new committee to ensure that it can deliver on its aim. Closing date for responses is 3rd November 2016.

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

**71. THE ROLE OF THE STREETSCENE COORDINATOR**

Members considered the previously circulated correspondence from Steve Jones Flintshire County Council Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation) providing information on the purpose and priorities of the role with the service.

Within the correspondence it was suggested by Steve Jones that the Coordinator attend frequent Town Council meetings to ensure all issues or concerns are dealt with in a speedy manner. Councillor Bithell suggested inviting the Coordinator to every other meeting and it was proposed he should attend the November meeting of full council.

Councillor Mearns suggested inviting Steve Jones to attend a full council meeting to update members on the asset transfer funding. The Town Clerk confirmed she had a report to present at October’s meeting regarding asset transfer funding.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to invite the Streetscene Coordinator to November meeting of full council.

**72. MOLD TOWN COUNCIL – CCTV INCIDENT STATISTICS**

A copy of the CCTV statistics for the period April – June 2016 has been received and is available at the Town Hall office for members to view.

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

**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 Grew and Councillor Gaffey will attend representing the Council’s views on the motions.

Members debated motion 6 from One Voice Wales regarding the increase of the membership fee by up to 3% for the financial year 2017-18 and also debated the amendment to the motion from Barry Town Council asking for the One Voice Wales membership fee not to be raised above inflation, which at the time of the motion was 0.3%

Following a discussion, members supported the One Voice Wales motion number 6 to increase the membership fee up to 3%.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to support all the motions and for Councillor Gaffey to speak on behalf of members at the One Voice Wales AGM.

**74. BEST KEPT COMMUNITIES COMPETITION**

The Mayor and the Town Clerk attended the Flintshire County Council Best Kept Communities Awards. Mold was awarded third prize in the Best Kept Town Centre with a population over 5000 category and third prize for the Best Kept Community Garden / Wildlife Area category receiving £50 prize money for each category.

It had been commented by the judges that the Daniel Owen Square planters looked bare and Councillor Lloyd suggested spending the prize money on plants for the Daniel Owen Square, Councillor Parry suggested asking the plant market stall to donate plants for the area. Councillor Bithell suggested discussing the planters in the Daniel Owen Square with Steve Jones from Flintshire County Council Streetscene.

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

**75. ADVICE TO COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS ON WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

Members considered the previously circulated information from One Voice Wales, ‘advice to Community and Town Councils on working with young people’ to assist councils who wish to engage further with young people.

Councillor Bithell stated that Mold Town Council was ahead of the game and had been holding Youth Council and Primary School Council meetings since 2010, although there had not been any meetings recently.

The Town Clerk suggested setting up a working group from the Youth Council Committee on how to take this forward. Councillor Grew suggested including other youth groups such as Youth Clubs and other organisations. It was agreed that members would set up a working group to include a member from each ward plus the Mayor and the Youth Council to look at ideas and find ways to involve the young people of the town.

It was agreed Councillors Grew, Hodgkinson, Bithell, Williams and Parry be on the working group.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to set up a working group to meet and discuss ideas on how to engage young people of the town

**76. SCHOOL GOVERNOR REQUEST**

Correspondence has been received from St David’s Roman Catholic Primary School advising of a vacancy for a school governor. The school are asking for a representative from the Town Council to be elected as governor.

Councillor Thomas confirmed he was happy to discuss the vacancy with the school.

**Resolved:** It was resolved for Councillor Thomas to discuss the vacancy with the school.

**77. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor Anthony Parry – that this Council consider the current provision of litter bins in Mold, particularly on Chester Street and the High Street.

Councillor Parry informed members that there was only one bin on Chester Street through to the High Street/Earl Road junction.

It was suggested contacting Flintshire County Council to replace the 2 bins which had previously been removed from Chester Street and look at filling in the gaps where bins are missing on the High Street.

**Resolved:** It was resolved the Town Clerk would contact Flintshire County Council to request they replace the missing bins and review where needed.

**78. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

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

**79. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

**Councillor Bryan Grew**

A meeting between representatives from Mold Town Council and the Welsh speaking community had taken place on Tuesday 27th September. The meeting was chaired by Selwyn Evans from Siop y Siswrn and it had been a very constructive meeting. Further meetings would be planned in the New Year.

**Councillor Andrea Mearns**

Wild About Mold project would be holding a number of events in Mold on Saturday 22nd October and a program for the day was given to members. Councillor Mearns asked members to consider volunteering during the day.

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

**80. 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 8.05pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 28th September 2016** |

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