**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 26th October 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 Collett, Geoff Matthias, Carol Heycocks and The Clerk and Finance Officer and Town Manager.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sharon Jones Cluster Delivery Manager from Communities First, Flintshire County Council, Andrew Lightfoot Streetscene Coordinator, Flintshire County Council, Stephen O Jones Chief Officer Streetscene and Transportation, Flintshire County Council and one member of the press.

**APOLOGIES**: Councillor Gareth Williams and the Support Officer.

**81. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

**82. COMMUNITIES FIRST**

The Mayor welcomed Sharon Jones Cluster Delivery Manager from Communities first, Flintshire County Council (FCC) who had been invited to the meeting following the recent statement from Welsh Government that Communities First would end in 2017.

Sharon thanked members for inviting her and gave a brief overview of her current role as Cluster Manager which she had held since January 2016. She advised that this had been the first Council meeting she had attended since the announcement that Communities First would end in 2017. She advised that Communities First would end on 31 March 2017, and there would then be an exit strategy up to December 2017. There will be a further statement from Welsh Government in January 2017 following the budget confirmations, so there was currently no further information available. Sharon advised that she had met with the Chief Officer Community and Enterprise that day to work through the budget availability for next year, and how best to manage the service. She will be identifying what currently works well within Communities First and ensure it is correct for the community.

Sharon went on to provide some information on some positive aspects of the service including school engagement, Family Learning Signature working with families, Enterprise and Entrepraunership schemes in schools to help identify different options for employment, Community Education on the likes of Food Hygiene. In addition the Job fair in Connah’s Quay had 310 jobs on offer, and 700+ people came to the Job’s fair. There had been pop up Job Centres in the street markets together with employment courses through Delyn Safety which had been well attended. The Entreprise Club run by ABC from Mold which supports families through the medium of Welsh, and the Build Future course had helped some individuals into permanent employment.

Councillor Gaffey asked if there is likely to be anything new for 2017. Sharon advised that there wasn’t, but she does hope to carry on with some form of service to support the community such as support for employment.

Councillor Lloyd asked how many staff were currently employed within Communtiies First and Sharon advised that there were up to 18 within Flintshire but over 800 throughout Wales.

Councillor Guest asked if there were outcome measures for the service. Sharon gave details of the targets which included employment, qualifications, registration of self employment all of which were based on Learning Health and Prosperity. They were measured in a quarterly basis and sent to Welsh Government. In the past 18 months to 2 years the service had met the targets.

Councillor Bithell suggested the service had also been an enabler through their work with other organisations such as Delyn Safety, so some services could still carry out in the absence of Communities First. Sharon agreed, and added that such training could carry on.

**Sharon left the meeting at 7.05pm**

**83. STREETSCENE AREA COORDINATOR**

The Mayor welcomed Andy Lightfoot, Streetscene Coordinator from Flintshire County Council (FCC). Andy thanked members for the invitation and gave an update on activities within the town relating to Streetscene. He advised that the new pay machines for the car parks would be installed from next Monday, with the one on New Street car park to first to be done, others will follow. He had received a quote for the cleansing of the bus station and Daniel Owen Precinct. The culverts and gulley cleaning had commenced to help with flood defences. Andy advised that the recent work on the slurry sealing to pavements in the town had a few items outstanding and he had been in contact with the contractor who will address the issues. Andy advised that he was looking at alternatives for around the tree bases to protect them, and is looking to have planters around the bases to help with the growth. He advised that the gateway signs should all be installed by the end of the week and he was looking at options for a base for each of them to help prevent damage from strimming.

Councillor Bithell gave details on his experiences with tarmac up to tree bases which is done in the London area and does not seem to damage the trees, as with those on Earl Road. Councillor Mearns raised the concern that since the repair work to the water mains there will not be the same available water for trees, as there was previous to the repair works. Andy took a number of issues to address raised by members including street lighting on Clayton Road, the clearing of rubbish from the river Alyn and the issue of shrub maintenance on the Daniel Owen Square.

Following a query from Council Bithell relating to the maintenance of the Square the Town Manager confirmed that the electrical contractors had now been awarded the work to address all the electrical issues on the Square.

**Andy Lightfoot left the meeting at 6.35pm**

**84. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor provided members with details of his movements over the last month.

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| **Date** |  | **Event & Location** |
| 29/09/2016 | Helen Stapleton funeral | St Mary's Church |
| 30/09/2016 | Coffee Morning at Reid Roberts (Macmillan) | Chester Street |
| 06/10/2016 | North West Cancer Research fundraising lunch | St Mary's Church Hall |
| 07/10/2016 | Kings Christian Centre, completion of restoration |  |
| 12/10/2016 | Buzz AH annual show at Theatr Clwyd |  |
| 15/10/2016 | Coffee Morning Daniel Owen Centre (Daniel Owen Festival) |  |
| 15/10/2016 | Official opening of Daniel Owen Festival incl wreath laying ceremony  | Daniel Owen Square |
| 16/10/2016 | Wreath laying on Daniel Owen Grave | Mold Cemetery |
| 18/10/2016 | Young Writers awards evening | Clwyd Room, Theatr Clwyd |
| 19/10/2016 | Brownies coming to Town Hall to see the Mayor |  |
| 22/10/2016 | Wild About Mold Events, incl official opening & Medieval re enactment on Bailey Hill |  |

**85. MINUTES**

 **Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on held on 28th September 2016 be received and approved;

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 5th October 2016 be received and noted;

c) The minutes of the meeting of the Community Development and Regeneration Committee held on the 11th October 2016 be received and approved;

**86. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Mold Town Council

86.1 Minute 58 – Councillor Guest asked if an update had been received from FCCrelating to the Tour of Britain staging not being in Mold. The Town Clerk confirmed that she had spoken with the Chief Officer for Streetscene and Transport who had advised her that he would instruct his officer to make and expression of interest early for the staging to commence in Mold for 2017. Councillor Guest suggested seeking a response as to why the staging did not being from Mold in 2016.

86.2 Minute 62 - Councillor Bithell asked for a letter of congratulations be sent to the organising committee of the Daniel Owen festival for such a successful festival once again.

86.3 Minute 73 – Councillors Grew and Gaffey gave an update following their attendance to the One Voice Wales AGM, and confirmed that all the motions were supported. Councillor Grew expressed his interest in the visit by Mark Drakeford Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government at the AGM which had been extremely positive relating to the Wales Local Government Reform for Town and Community Councils.

86.4 Minute 76 – Councillor Bithell asked if there had been any progress with St David’s Primary school on the appointment of a school governor. Councillor Phil Thomas advised that he had had some initial discussions with the school but nothing had yet been agreed.

Community Development and Regeneration Committee

86.5 Minute 9 Pigeons – Councillor Thomas advised that it had been agreed to contact the RSPB for advice, and Councillor Bithell added that Graham Connor would also be happy to provide advice.

Planning Committee

86.6 Minute 21.5 – Councillor Bithell advised that the proposed development would all be council housing.

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

Members noted the previously circulated report from the Town Manager and raised a number of questions:-

Councillor Grew spoke in support of the Blues & Soul Festival, advising members that the event is a 3-5 year plan, and this year has shown a surplus. He asked members to support the continuation of the event for a fourth year.

Councillor Collett raised a valid point when he advised members that they are not currently recording volunteer hours, which is very important. The Town Manager agreed, adding it was important to record volunteer hours for all events.

Councillor Mearns advised that the Potato Day event in February will need adding to the events calendar.

Councillor Guest expressed his disappointment that the Festive market would not be held this Christmas, and wondered what competition the street market would have faced. Councillor Bithell added that Mold is a historic market town, and the town currently bucks to trend with austerity thanks to the street market. He suggested that we need to be careful we do not affect the market, and that it would need to be handled carefully and sensitively. He hoped that given more time it may be possible to arrange something for next year.

Councillor Guest asked the Town Manager if he had any information on the old Shoe Shop in Upper High Street. The Town Manager confirmed that it would be retail with residential upstairs.

Councillor Mearns expressed her concern on the current condition of the Bridge Inn, with large windows broken. The Town Manager suggested he would speak with the County Council to confirm whether the site is dangerous.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the report and approved the continuation of the Blues & Soul Festival for a fourth year.

**88. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS PROVISION**

Members considered the previously circulated report from the Town Manager. The Town Manager advised members that it was important to address the areas identified by the contractor on health and safety ground. The Clerk provided options to members on how the additional costs of £10,000 could be found from exiting budgets. Councillor Grew suggested that it was very important to have the Christmas lights on in the town, Councillor Guest agreed and suggested that the funds should be found predominately from in years savings from the Pension budget with the remainder sourced from Earmarked Reserves of the future purchase/rent for Mold Town Council.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the reallocation of the existing budget and Earmarked reserves as suggested above to source the £10,000 required to carry out the works on the Christmas lighting for 2016/17.

**89. ACCOUNTS 2016/17 – HALF YEARLY 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 September 2016.

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

**90. VAT REGISTRATION**

Members considered the previously circulated report of the Town Clerk. The Clerk sought permission to appoint a consultant to advise the Town Council on VAT registration and the potential business activities of the Town Council. The cost of the service would be in the region of £375.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the Town Clerk would appoint the VAT consultant at a cost of approximately £375.

**91. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT – FEBRUARY 2017**

Members considered the previously circulated consultation on the draft Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the draft Annual Report.

**92. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS**

Members considered the previously circulated correspondence from Flintshire County Council inviting four representatives from the Town Council to attend a consultation event on Public Engagement on Tuesday 8th November 2016.

Members agreed Councillor Bryan Grew, Andrea Mearns, Anthony Parry and Bob Gaffey would attend the consultation event.

 **Resolved:** It was resolved to approve Councillor Bryan Grew, Andrea Mearns, Anthony Parry and Bob Gaffey would attend the consultation event.

**93. BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES**

Members considered the previously circulated correspondence from the Boundary Commission providing initial proposals for changes to Parliamentary constituencies in Wales. Councillor Grew spoke to members reminding them that they had previously responded to consultation on this matter and had supported the Labour Party proposals, and the current proposals are in line with the Town Councils original views.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to accept the current proposals

**94. WINTER MAINTENANCE**

Members considered the previously circulated correspondence from County Council on the 2016/17 Winter Maintenance programme.

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

**95. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Members considered the previously circulated correspondence relating to consultation on the Strategic Options on the Local Development Plan. It was agreed that a working group would consider a response on behalf of the Town Council.

**Resolved:** It was resolved Councillors Andrea Mearns, Anthony Parry, Bob Gaffey, Brian Lloyd and Haydn Bateman form a working group to provide a response on behalf of the Town Council.

**96. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

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

**97. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

**Councillor Andrea Mearns**

Councillor Mearns provided information on the recent Daniel Owen Festival and all the events that were carried out during the week. She thanked the Town Council for the financial support and the help of members and officers.

Councillor Mearns advised members on the current progress of the Bailey Hill Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), advising that Harrison Design and Development consultants had now been appointed to deliver stage one.Cadwyn Clwyd has also agreed to fund a feasibility study for the new gentle gradient walkway from the entrance to the Inner Bailey for £6,000 inc VAT with £3,000 match from funds set aside for the HLF application by the Town Council. The Garden of Remembrance by the Cenotaph is looking neglected and could potentially be a more informative space and fitting memorial to the men named on the Cenotaph. There have been initial talks with David Hanson MP and Vivien Williams of Flintshire War Memorials about an application to HLF for 1914-18 funding for a public consultation, design and feasibility study.

**Wild About Mold** – To inform the public about the project and gathering their ideas there have been Market stall in Daniel Owen Square on 1 October; medieval re-enactment on Bailey Hill on 22 October; meetings and site visits with NWWT.

**North East Wales Food Forum** – There has been an initial meeting with Donna Hughes and Gwyn Rowlands, at Cadwyn Clwyd, and Jane Clough, Debbie Handley (Mostyn Kitchen Garden), and Ceri Lloyd Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, to map out the present situation with local produce in Flintshire, Denbighshire and Wrexham, and the potential for development in the three counties. This directly builds on the Flintshire Local Food project in 2014/15.

**Flintshire Tourism Association** meeting – Councillor Mearns had represented the Town Council and was able to update members on Mold activities. There was Plenty of interest in the value of local produce to the visitor economy.

**Place Planning Conference** - with the Clerk and the Mayor in Colwyn Bay. The Clerk gave a presentation on the Mold Town Plan to a full house, which was well received. Key messages from the conference:

* Place plans need community buy-in and to sensitively address the key issues specific to the town. There is no one-size-fits all solutions
* Help and guidance is available from government funded organizations, like Planning Aid Wales
* Action plans are a good way of showing what a council is doing and plans to do. Consult on items, have deliverable milestones, let people know when the projects have been achieved, keep them informed / involved along the way eg Welshpool example.
* Town Plans can be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance, which is a tier down from the status of LDPs, but still carries weight in the planning process.

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

**98. NOTICE OF MOTION**

98.1 Councillor Andrea Mearns spoke to her motion seeking support to agree the combining of Mold Town Partnership Action Plan and the evolving Mold Town Plan Action Plan to create one focused document which would be available for the public to view on the Town Council website. Members agreed to support her motion.

98.2 Councillor Andrea Mearns spoke to her motion seeking support from Mold Town Council to make further enquiries with Flintshire County Council on the feasibility of Kendrick’s Field being enclosed to make it suitable for dogs. Following a number of concerns from member on the implications of this it was decided that the Town Council would not support the motion.

19.3 Councillor Geoff Collett spoke to his motion seeking support from Mold Town Council to make representations to Flintshire County Council for traffic management on Victoria Road. Members agreed to support his motion.

 **Resolved:** It was resolved to:

1. support the combining of the Town Partnership Action Plan with the Mold Town Plan Action Plan;
2. Not support the feasibility of Kendrick’s Field being enclosed to make it suitable for dogs;
3. Contact Flintshire County Council to seek traffic management on Victoria Road.

**99. 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.

**100. 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.

**101. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER (ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY MODELS)**

The Clerk invited Steve Jones the Chief Officer for Streetscene and Transportation to join the meeting. Members considered the previously circulated report by the Town Clerk. The Clerk provided some detail to the report, asking members to consider the options available to the report. Steve Jones provided members with some additional information and offered his support to the Clerk and Town Council should the Town Council wish to pursue option three on the report.

 **Resolved:** It was resolved to:

1. Instruct the Town Clerk investigate the feasibility of an alternative delivery model for a package of services;
2. Ask Flintshire County Council to consider deferring the closure of the Public Conveniences in Mold to allow time for the feasibility to be carried out;

**The Meeting ended at 9.00pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 26th October 2016** |

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| **MEMBER** | **ITEM** | **MINUTE NO. REFERS** |
| None |  |  |

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