

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held virtually on-line over video conferencing 6pm Wednesday 26th May 2021.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Sarah Taylor (Mayor), Haydn Jones (Deputy Mayor), Trevor Arnold, Haydn Bateman, Chris Bithell, Teresa Carberry, Geoff Collett, Bryan Grew, Robin Guest, Karen Hodgkinson, Brian Lloyd, Tim Maunders, Andrea Mearns, Anthony Parry and Gareth Williams.

Officers: Ian Jones Town Clerk and Finance Officer, Jane Evans Events and Community Engagement Officer, Jo Douglass Business and Regeneration Officer.

Also Present: One member of the public and the press.

13. APOLOGIES: None

ABSENT: Councillor Geoff Matthias.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2021

Members received presentations on Christmas lighting from the following companies:

Martin Avill from Lite Ltd,
Rob Hollingworth from The Festive Lighting, and
Daniel Campbell from Blachere.

Members considered the different options to the improvements and enhancements to the Christmas lighting. A number of questions were raised by Members to the companies presenting on the lighting options regarding pricing and longevity. It was agreed that a sub group be formed to review the options with expertise from Mega Electrical to advise on the technical details.

RESOLVED: That a sub group be formed consisting of the Mayor Cllr Sarah Taylor, Deputy Mayor Cllr Haydn Jones and Councillors from each Ward as follows: Anthony Parry, Chris Bithell, Brian Lloyd and Gareth Williams and a representative from Mega Electrical as appropriate.

16. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor provided an update to the engagements listed, and reported that unfortunately the Official opening of the Waffle Box had been delayed as they were not quite ready so this would be postponed. The Mayor reported that to date she had visited over 60 businesses in the town in person and had presented them with a card to thank them for their support and commitment to the town and operating under such difficult circumstances. As a result of this more businesses have

signed up to accept the TotallyMold Vouchers and several environmental issues have been raised and these will be taken up Flintshire County Council Streetscene. On the 25th May, the Mayor attended the Mold Plastic Reduction Community Conversation on Food and Drink Packaging, which was also a celebration of Mold Plastic Reduction's second birthday. The presentations clearly showed the scale of the waste from food and drink packaging and some of the solutions for dealing with it – it was a very interesting and informative evening. The Mayor also reported that it had not been possible to contact the Red Lion via telephone to make an appointment to discuss the fencing so arrangements are being made to visit them in person.

6.30pm Councillor Hodgkinson left the meeting.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That:

- a) The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 28th April 2021 and the Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 12th May 2021 be received and formally approved as correct records;
- b) The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 10th May 2021 be received and noted.

18. JOINT REPORT OF THE BUSINESS & REGENERATION OFFICER AND EVENTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

Members considered the previously circulated report from the Business & Regeneration Officer and Events & Community Engagement Officer.

The Business and Regeneration Officer reported that the Town Clerk had shared details of the SMART town pilot proposal earlier in the week, following on from a meeting with Flintshire County Council Regeneration team in response to the submission of project suggestions.

It was explained that a SMART town is essentially using electronic methods and sensors to collect data, which in turn can be used for marketing, resource allocation and improves in operations. A dashboard of anonymous data would be produced giving an insight into footfall levels, length of stay and number of visitors to the town and Welsh Government had announced a package of support and that this provided an exciting opportunity for the town.

Ways to capitalise on adding value to the offer of businesses had also been explored. A suggested way is to explore in interest in a 'dog-friendly town'. Dog ownership has increased dramatically through the pandemic and this had resulted in escalating purchase price of puppies and unfortunately, theft of dogs. As a result, more people were inclined to have their dogs out with them and we have seen 'dog-friendly' business premises posts on social media. The view is to explore if there is an interest and to then use in promotional material for the town.

The Business and Regeneration Officer also reported that she was in receipt of a list of suggestions and projects for Mold on behalf of Wrexham Street traders. It was explained that some initiatives such as the continuation of the TotallyMold Vouchers had already been approved and others such as Christmas lights were currently being

discussed but discussions were ongoing with Flintshire County Council Regeneration team.

There were reports of issues regarding the Big Issue seller. A new Big Issue seller had allegedly been resorting to begging rather than selling and there had also been reports of litter, this was being addressed by the local PCSO's.

Councillor Lloyd asked if the cones on the upper High Street could now be removed and if Officers could address this with Flintshire Streetscene.

Councillor Arnold asked if grants could be utilised to install electric charging points for vehicles. The Business and Regeneration agreed to look into the availability of grants and discuss with Flintshire County Council Car parking regarding provision.

RESOLVED: That

- (i) support be given to the progress of an action plan and the pilot for a SMART Town in Mold;
- (ii) support be given to explore 'dog friendly Mold'; and
- (iii) the updated report be noted.

19. ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT 2021/22

Members considered the previously circulated Risk Assessment Schedule for 2021/22. The Town Clerk outlined the changes to the schedule which were highlighted in the red text within the report. The Town Clerk agrees to clarify the section on Insurance.

RESOLVED: That the updated Risk Assessment Schedule for 2021/22 be approved and adopted.

6.30pm Councillor Williams left the meeting.

19. ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2021/22

Members considered the previously circulated Annual Investment Strategy. The Town Clerk advised that currently there is very little interest on any investments. Members discussed that it was important to obtain the best return on the investments and that an agenda item to be placed on the next Policy and Audit Committee to review.

RESOLVED: That

- (i) the Annual Investment Strategy 2021/2022, be approved and adopted; and
- (ii) an item be placed on the next Policy and Audit Committee Agenda to review the best return on investments and the adoption of the Annual Investment Strategy 2021/2022.

20. CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS 2021/22 – MATCH FUNDING SCHEME.

Members considered the previously circulated letter from Aura Leisure & Libraries regarding the match funding for the Maes Bodlonfa Play area which had been identified via a play area inspection scheme as a category 3 (needing some improvements).

Councillor Mearns reported that Maes Bodlonfa was designated a ‘destination park’ but had suffered from a lack of maintenance and there was limited equipment for older children. There was also an issue with toilet facilities close by as the nearest toilets in New Street toilets are due to be closed.

The Mayor acknowledged the difficulty in maintaining all the parks and equipment and suggested that this request for better maintenance be mentioned with the agreement of match funding and agreed to speak to the relevant officer within Aura regarding the ongoing maintenance.

RESOLVED: That Members agreed to support the match funding of the Children’s Play areas 2021/22 along with a request for better maintenance of the equipment and environment.

21. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Members considered the previously circulated information regarding Planning decisions.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

22. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Councillor Carberry informed Members that she had attended a Town and Community Councils Members Remuneration Webinar which was arranged to inform the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. The webinar established the principle that being a Town/Community Councillor should not be a financial burden to the individual. Representation was being made to the HMRC with regard to the tax paid on the basic £150 allowance and to consider an uplift in the travel allowance of 45p per mile. It was further noted that very little in Care Costs or loss of earnings had been claimed.

RESOLVED: The information to be received and noted.

23. ACCOUNTS / PAYMENTS

The Council considered the schedules previously circulated.

Month 1 Community Bank account CB1 £37,869.76

Councillor Grew enquired that if the Blues and Soul Festival was able to go ahead this year, they had requested the allocated £2,000 from last year that was not utilised due to the pandemic. The Town Clerk stated that this had now gone into general reserves and therefore a formal resolution would be required to allow this to be paid. Also as this item was not on the agenda for this meeting it would need to be an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That

(i) the schedule of payments be approved.

(ii) an item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for consideration of an additional £2,000 over this year’s contribution towards the Blues and Soul festival.

The Meeting closed at 8.05pm

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MOLD TOWN COUNCIL'S
CODE OF CONDUCT**

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL		DATE: 26 May 2021	
MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS	

Mayor's signature: Date:

SHAREDDRIVE//MINUTES/MTC/MIN210526