**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Mold Town Council Community, Development & Regeneration Committee held on Wednesday 16th September 2015at Mold Town Hall.

**PRESENT**: Councillors: Brian Lloyd (Mayor), Andrea Mearns, Geoff Collett, Karen Hodgkinson, Phil Thomas, the Town Clerk and Finance Officer, Town Centre Manager and Support Officer.

**1. APOLOGIES:** Councillors: Chris Bithell, Richard Brookes and Anthony Parry. **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

**3. MINUTES**

To receive and approve the minutes of the last Community, Development & Regeneration Committee meeting held on Tuesday 2nd December 2014.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Community, Development & Regeneration Committee held on Tuesday 2nd December 2014 be approved as a correct record.

**4. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING**

Members considered the previously circulated quotations from two companies providing quotations for replacement of the Christmas Lights in the town, one was offering a hire price and the other a purchase price.

The Town Clerk went through with members the details of both quotations and informed members the company offering a purchased price had since offered a further 15% discount.

Mold Town Council have a budget of £10,000 for replacement of the Christmas Lights.

Following discussions it was proposed to purchase the Christmas lights rather than enter into a hire agreement and the Town Clerk was given delegated power to purchase within budget, but to include the recommendation from members that three trees in Daniel Owen Square to be wrapped with lights. The Town Clerk would also ask the company for recommendations of lighting for the canopy.

Members also agreed that in February 2016, with the remaining budget the Town Clerk was to look at purchasing new festoons and lighting for the canopy.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that Town Clerk have delegated power to purchase Christmas lights within budget and to include the recommendation from members.

**Councillor Phil Thomas arrived at 6.20pm**

**Town Clerk and Finance Officer left at 6.50pm**

**5. TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

Members discussed proposals on how to ensure effective communication and engagement with residents of Mold, including using social media, council website, Mayor’s engagements, work of the council and general communication.

The Town Centre Manager suggested 2-3 members of the CDR Committee and 2-3 members of the Policy and Audit Committee work on an effective communication and engagement strategy. Councillor Mearns and Councillor Hodgkinson put themselves forward for the sub group. Councillor Mearns suggested the strategy should include; what Mold Town Council does, objectives and services, future of public services and key messages / announcements.

The Town Centre Manager suggested members email the Town Clerk with their suggestions on how effective communication and engagement with residents of Mold can be carried out and members who are absent from this meeting be informed of the proposal.

Councillor Mearns suggested Mold Town Plan Action Plan is put on to the council website and a section on the Mold Town Partnership is included.

Councillor Thomas informed members all residents will receive a leaflet regarding the Mold Town Plan once available.

Councillor Mearns suggested an annual Mold written report, which has not been produced for a few years due to workload capacity, is reinstated.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that a sub group be set up with members from the CDR Committee and members from the Policy and Audit Committee work on an effective communication and engagement strategy. All members of the CDR committee to be contacted to confirm whether they wished to be involved or not.

**6. NOTICE BOARDS**

Members were asked to consider requirements to replace the current Council notice boards in the town which are situated by the Bus Station off King Street, New Street by the pedestrian crossing and at the top of the Daniel Owen Precinct outside McColl’s, which are in need of repair.

The Town Centre Manager asked the Support Officer to obtain quotes for suitable replacements which should include a section which members of the public can add notices to and also look at areas around the town suitable for notice boards.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the Support Officer would obtain quotes for replacement notice boards and look at suitable locations and report back to members at the next meeting.

**7. RETAIL AND TRADING ISSUES**

The Town Centre Manager gave members an update on trade within the town. Country Casuals on the High Street, which is owned by CC Viyella is due to close down, but this is not due to profitability but due to the lease costs being increased substantially by the Landlord.

The Town Centre Manager was in talks with the Valuation Office Agency regarding rateable values to see if any assistance can be given to small business / traders within the town.

A community window could be set up in Unit 7, Daniel Owen Precinct. Councillor Mearns suggested contacting Virgin Art to add to the display as well as display boards from Mold Town Council and Clwyd Theatr Cymru.

The Town Centre Manager had discussed at the last traders meeting a marketing initiative idea regarding a scratch card proposal, which would be funded by money received from Welsh Water but the idea was not supported by the traders who attended the meeting. A new initiative was being introduced in October which would be a voucher offering free tea or coffee and a slice of cake in participating cafes and restaurants around the town, this would be promoted by NWN Leader, Standard and Mold Connections Magazine as well as Mold Town Council.

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

**8. ON GOING PROJECTS**

The Town Centre Manager gave members a verbal update on the current projects including the signage strategy, Gateway Signs, Visitor Information Points and the Mold Town map.

The Visitor Information Points were now installed around the town, although the orientation (directional arrows) was not correct but this was being rectified by the contractors -IS Group.

The town projects budget was £140-145k which had come from previous car park revenues via a Flintshire County Council agreement.

The Gateway signs had been costed at £12,500 to supply and install.

The Town Centre Manager was looking at all signs across the town with regards to using the same colour format for all with the plan to rationalise signage across the town. The Town Centre Manager had delivered the strategy to Flintshire County Council to cost up.

Many of the current street lights were in need of repair and the Town Centre Manager had submitted a proposal to replace the County standard units with heritage lighting.

The canopy on the High Street between the HSBC and McColl’s was to be repaired and maintained by Flintshire County Council.

On-going projects cost was estimated to be £93-95,000 which would leave approx. £40-45,000 in the budget.

Councillor Mearns suggested improvements need to be made to New Street car park for pedestrians and Councillor Collett suggested the lighting in the car park also needed to be addressed, especially at the bottom of the car park / the long stay area. The Town Centre Manager was in discussion with Steve Jones Head of Street Scene, Flintshire County Council regarding New Street car park maintenance and revenue.

Work on the Mold town map was in progress and the Town Centre Manager asked members to go through the details on the map to check the accuracy. Once completed the town map will be available in a number of formats, including electronic and hard copy.

The Town Centre Manager informed members he was now on the Local Action Group of the Rural Development Programme for Flintshire. The Local Action Groups will have the responsibility of overseeing and directing the distribution of the European LEADER funds for rural Flintshire.

The LEADER approach is associated with local empowerment through local strategic development and resource allocation.  The LEADER programme will focus on 5 themes listed below:

1. Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources
2. Facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains
3. Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services
4. Renewable energy at Community level
5. Exploitation of digital technology

The LEADER Programme is funded by the Welsh Government and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.  The indicative funding allocations for Flintshire is £2.463 million.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the information and members to confirm details of the new Town map.

**9. DANIEL OWEN SQUARE**

The Town Centre Manager informed members a booking procedure was now in place for the Daniel Owen Square and performance area which was being co-ordinated via the Town Council by the Support Officer.

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

**10. PRIDE IN OUR TOWN**

Members discussed ideas on how to encourage pride within the town. Councillor Mearns suggested introducing a Street Champions scheme which other towns have in place. To encourage volunteers, with rewards for volunteer hours and to make more use of the existing volunteer groups such as FLVC, CAIS and Keep Wales Tidy to help implement the scheme.

Councillor Thomas suggested scything could be carried out in some areas, which is a more peaceful and environmentally friendly than strimming. He has been trained in scything but would need a refresher course to enable him to offer training to volunteers.

The Town Centre Manager informed members that a Mold Business had offered a £500 contribution towards an annual Pride in Mold competition, which could include for example, the best shop front.

Ian Williams from Street Scene was keen to work with the Council to pursue other opportunities such as Wales in Bloom and environmental projects etc.

Councillor Mearns said she believed there was quite a bit of interest from members of Cittaslow Mold to work on Pride in Mold type projects.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the information, Cllr Mearns would discuss options and interest with her Cittaslow contacts and the Committee would discuss ideas at the next meeting.

**11. EVENTS**

The Town Centre Manager gave members an update paper on the use of promotional banners within the town following Flintshire County Councils decision to remove a number of advertising banners. (copy attached)

The County Council has now agreed to allow a period of transition for the Town Council during the main event season for 2015, providing they make a commitment to comply with the law regarding placement and size for the future.

Mold Town Council has been asked to identify 4 or 5 locations for larger banners to be displayed which the council will seek planning consent for which will incur an application fee. This will also need to be in agreement with the location owner for any banner. Once planning consent is approved, the Town Council could allow other organisations to use the same locations provided we comply with any conditions placed on the consent, for example, the total number of days the site was used.

The Council will also be required to modify the dimensions of the banners used to meet the legal size requirements and are displayed in other locations that the County Council agree do not pose a danger to road users.

The Town Centre Manager was asked to confirm with Flintshire County Council Planning Officer the timescale for an application, how long consent was valid for and the cost per application.

Members discussed a number of locations for banners;

1. Bailey Hill railings
2. St Mary’s Church railings
3. King Street car park – Church wall at the back
4. Bethesda Chapel, New Street
5. Daniel Owen Square
6. Wrexham Road – by the Leader office

Councillor Collett suggested, once the cost of the application was confirmed, contacting other organisations who advertise their events around the town, to ask them to consider contributing to the cost, ie Mold Food and Drink Festival.

The next event on the calendar was the Daniel Owen Festival which is taking place from 17th October through to 23rd October and will include the official launch of the Daniel Owen Square and burying of the time capsule which was taking place on Thursday 22nd October 10.30am to 11.30am.

**Resolved:** It was resolved the Town Centre Manager would confirm the details of the planning application for banners at the next meeting

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **TOURISM COMMITTEE** | **DATE: 16th September 2015** |

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

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