**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Mold Town Council, Meeting of Community, Development & Regeneration Committee held at 5.30pm on Tuesday 10th July 2018at Mold Town Hall.

**PRESENT**: Councillors: Geoff Collett (Chair), Karen Hodgkinson (Mayor), Tim Maunders (Deputy Mayor), Andrea Mearns, Teresa Nickson, Chris Bithell, Anthony Parry, the Town Manager, the Support Officer and Martin Jones, John Reynolds and Liz Litherland.

**1. APOLOGIES:** Councillor Robin Guest.

**ABSENT**: None
 **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Collett, Hodgkinson and Bithell declared an interest regarding agenda item 10 Public Conveniences in relation to the public conveniences at the Daniel Owen Association Centre.

**3. MOLD TOWN PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Collett introduced John Reynolds, Martin Jones and Liz Litherland, members of the former Town Partnership, to be co-opted onto the Community, Development & Regeneration Committee (CDR).

Councillor Collett informed members as the CDR committee has delegated powers, any co-opted members would not have a voting right but obviously could express any views that were at variance with Town Council elected members. Members moved to co-opt John Reynolds (former Chair of Partnership and Chair of Mold Business Forum), Martin Jones (prominent local businessman) and Liz Litherland (Churches representative) onto the Community, Development & Regeneration Committee.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to appoint John Reynolds, Martin Jones and Liz Litherland onto the Community, Development & Regeneration Committee.

**4. MINUTES**

 **Resolved:** It was resolved that:

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Community, Development & Regeneration Committee meeting held on 18th January 2018 and the Special Meeting of the Community, Development & Regeneration Committee held on 21st March 2018 be received and approved.

**5. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Councillor Bithell expressed concern that there was no improvement on the pigeon situation on Daniel Owen Square and suggested involving Kingdom Security to issue fines to people seen to be putting pigeon food out on the square. Councillor Mearns asked if any letters had been issued to those seen feeding the pigeons, the Town Manager confirmed he was not aware of any letters being issued. Following discussion members agreed that letters to those found feeding pigeons should be issued first before any action is taken regarding issuing littering fines. The Town Manager agreed to follow up with Streetscene, as to whether Streetscene Operatives and other FCC staff were issuing out letters as previously agreed.

Councillor Bithell asked for an update on the Railway Station interpretation panel, the Town Manager confirmed it had been received and Flintshire County Council were currently liaising with Tesco regarding installation date. Once a date had been agreed the Town Manager would invite members and the press for a photograph to publicise the panel.

**6. STREETSCENE UPDATE**

The Town Manager gave members an update on the Streetscene activities within the town.

The street lighting upgrade on New Street car park had now started and work was progressing. The Town Manager confirmed he was awaiting an update regarding the resurfacing of the car parks. The issue with the condition of Daniel Owen Square, including potential slit-drain blockages, had been raised with Andrew Lightfoot - Streetscene Supervisor and he had confirmed he had referred this on to the relevant department.

Councillor Parry commented about the two bent poles which are in New Street car park, they have been taped awaiting repair for a number of months, with no work being carried out. The Town Manager confirmed he had taken this forward with Streetscene.

Councillor Mearns said that the chain of command had deteriorated within Streetscene and suggested Mold Town Council write to the head of Streetscene to express their concerns and put in a recommendation that the structure is looked at, as the current situation is not working, the Streetscene Supervisor no longer has the authority to instruct Streetscene operatives to carry out work. Councillor Bithell said that on one occasion the Streetscene Supervisor had raised a works ticket 17 months ago and the work had still not been carried out due to the current process and resource within Flintshire County Council.

The Town Manager confirmed that as far he is aware, there is no maintenance programme for public space nowadays within FCC and this now should be taken up at senior County level. Councillor Bithell confirmed he would contact Steve Jones - Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation, requesting a meeting onsite to look at the issues and condition of the town with members.

**Resolved:** It was resolved for Councillor Bithell to contact Steve Jones regarding an onsite meeting and confirm date to members.

**7. FORMER TOWN PARTNERSHIP ACTION POINTS**

To discuss and adopt outstanding items of business from the former Town Partnership.

Civic Pride - John Reynolds provided members with a brief background and update on the Town Partnership item Civic Pride. Chris Rees Jones Conservation Officer for Flintshire County Council (FCC) was carrying out an audit on the town’s historic buildings and any repairs needed. He had still to report back on findings. Members suggested inviting Chris Rees-Jones to provide an update at the next CDR Meeting on the audit carried out on town’s buildings and any proposed way forward.

Un-adopted roads – John Reynolds informed members that the Town Partnership had previously raised concern with Flintshire County Council (FCC) regarding the condition of some of the un-adopted roads within the town and especially on new housing estates and the industrial estate.

Mr Reynolds had received information from FCC that some of the road works on new housing estates had not been completed to FCC standards and therefore remain unadopted as FCC will not adopt the roads until they are up to standard. Evidence suggested that some housing developers would pay a required “bond” as a guarantee against works not being satisfactory completed, but then either walk away preferring to lose the bond due to associated costs being higher than the bond itself or even go into liquidation so avoiding any future responsibility. This was now resulting in an increasing number of unadopted roads within the town. Mr Reynolds presented members with a map which he had received from FCC showing all adopted and unadopted roads within the town, which members noted was rather concerning for the future.

Members suggested FCC Planning Department should insist developers meet FCC standards as part of planning approval on new developments, and be barred from further projects within Flintshire unless they do so. The legality of this step was not known however. Following discussion members agreed to invite Andy Farrow Head of Planning or a suitable representative from Flintshire County Council to the next CDR meeting to discuss further.

Dementia Friendly Town – Mr Reynolds explained to members that the Town Partnership had been exploring the broader issues in relation to Mold as a dementia friendly town; for example; what resources are needed to help cope with the demand on the community facilities due to the growth of dementia, within the community. He suggested asking members to help identity where there are issues within the community and to discuss with him directly on how members can help.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to;

1. Invite Chris Rees-Jones, Conservation Officer for Flintshire County Council to the next meeting to provide an update on the audit carried out on town’s historic buildings;
2. Invite Andy Farrow Head of Planning, or a suitable representative from Flintshire County Council to the next CDR meeting to discuss the growing problem of unadopted roads within the town.

**8. POTENTIAL FOR PUBLIC FORUM MEETINGS**

This agenda item was deferred to the September meeting of full council as previously agreed by the CDR committee.

**6.45pm Councillor Chris Bithell left the meeting**

**9. BUS STATION UPGRADE**

Members considered the previously circulated design for the cycle shelter at the bus station. The Town Manager confirmed the design in the handouts is shown as galvanised frame, however the actual shelter will be in line with the colour scheme for Mold information points and gateway signs.

Members raised concern regarding potential for vandalism and the Town Manager confirmed he would ask the question as to how durable the structure was.

Members agreed that clear panel ends where needed but did not want the Town Council logo to be printed and suggested a bilingual welcome message.

The Town Manager confirmed he would advise Flintshire County Council accordingly.

**Resolved:** It was resolved for the Town Manager to inform Flintshire County Council of members comments in relation to durability against vandalism, clear ends with bilingual welcome message.

**10. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

The Town Manager provided members with an update on the proposals for public conveniences provision in Mold. He confirmed that as far as the Town Council is aware, the New Street car park public conveniences would be closed by Flintshire County Council (FCC) at the end September / beginning October 2018. It was understood that Mold Bus Station public conveniences would be kept open as part of the transport hub. Councillor Collett informed members that FCC had given Holywell Town Council a promise that FCC would pay for the upkeep of that town’s public conveniences in Holywell for a further 2 year period.

DANFO, the consultants who have been appointed by Mold Town Council to carry out the review on the public conveniences provision in Mold, had informed the Town Manager that they no longer had the automated counters needed to facilitate a review on the use of public conveniences. The automated counters could be purchased at a cost of £720 +vat and DANFO would look at purchasing them back (at a reduced rate) from the Town Council once the count had been completed if this is what the Town Council wished to do.

Councillor Mearns suggested volunteers are asked to carry out a count on the use of all 3 public conveniences within the town; New Street car park, Bus Station and the Daniel Owen Centre and suggested asking community volunteers and members to help, putting together a rota schedule. Councillors Mearns, Maunders and Nickson confirmed they would volunteer and also Liz Litherland agreed to participate.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that;

a) Councillor Collett to investigate the circumstances of Holywell keeping their public conveniences being maintained by FCC for a further two years;

1. To receive and consider the DANFO report on public convenience provision in the town in due course, and;

c) To seek volunteers to carry out a count on the use at the three public convenience locations within the town.

**11. TRADERS FORUM**

Members considered the previously circulated summary report from the Town Manager following a recent traders’ forum with Mold Town Council and Senior Officers/Members of Flintshire County Council (FCC).

Members agreed that the report accurately reflected the Forum comments and outcomes and sought agreement for the report to be forwarded the Senior Officers/Members of FCC in attendance. It was agreed that the Town Council needed to take prompt action on the matter and that a special meeting of the CDR committee would be convened, to which the same County Council representatives would be invited to provide comments and seek follow up actions on matters of concern, before the end of August. Other members of the Town Council would be invited in view of the contentious nature and significant local interest of the issues under consideration. This would allow a meaningful response to be provided to a follow-up traders meeting, promised by end of September / early October.

Councillor Mearns suggested speaking to the marketing companies in the town to ask for advice on how best to market Mold, within the Town Council’s control.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to circulate the Town Managers summary report and for a special meeting of the CDR committee to be held before end of August with Senior Members of Flintshire County Council who had attended the traders forum. It was also resolved to invite other members of the Town Council to attend.

**7.20pm Councillor Hodgkinson left the meeting**

**12. TOURIST INFORMATION POINTS (TIP’s)**

Following reports of damage to the tourist information points (TIP’s) in the town, the Town Manager informed members he would ask the Caretaker to carry out a review and report on damage to the TIP’s which would need to be repaired. Members approved repairs to be carried out following the Caretakers report.

The Town Manager suggested that future repairs would need to be budgeted for and therefore would require a suitable maintenance budget to be created.

**Resolved:** It was resolved for a review and report on damage to the Tourist Information Points to be carried out and repairs to be undertaken. For future repairs, a budget would need to be created by the Town Council.

**Meeting finished at 7.40pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **Community, Development & Regeneration Committee**  | **DATE: 10th July 2018**  |

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| **MEMBER** | **ITEM** | **MINUTE NO. REFERS** |
| Councillors Collett, Hodgkinson and Bithell | Public Conveniences  | Minute 10 |

Chairman’s signature: ………………………………………… Date: ……………………

WORD/MINUTES/CDR/MIN180710