**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of Mold Town Council, Meeting of Community, Development & Regeneration Committee held at 5.00pm on Tuesday 9th October 2018at Mold Town Hall.

**PRESENT**: Councillors: Geoff Collett (Chair), Karen Hodgkinson (Mayor), Tim Maunders (Deputy Mayor), Teresa Carberry, Chris Bithell, Anthony Parry, Robin Guest, the Town Manager, the Support Officer and Martin Jones, Rachael Byrne and Liz Litherland.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Gareth Williams

**13. APOLOGIES:** Councillor Andrea Mearns and John Reynolds.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**15. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Community, Development & Regeneration Committee meeting held on 10th July 2018 be received and approved.

**16. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Councillor Bithell confirmed he had arranged a meeting with Steve Jones Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation Flintshire County Council for the 6th November to discuss the ongoing maintenance issues within the town and invited the Town Manager and Councillors Parry, Collett and Mearns to join the meeting.

Councillor Hodgkinson raised concern regarding the waste (soil, foliage etc) which is being left by the flower stall on Daniel Owen Square after the street market, which was going into the drainage on the square and causing blockages. Rachael confirmed she would take this forward with the market supervisor.

Councillor Guest suggested as the transport panel (on Chester Street) had now been installed for some time that a public unveiling was no longer needed, the Town Manager confirmed he would discuss with Tom Woodall, Flintshire County Council.

Regarding the actions outstanding from the former town partnership, neither Chris Rees-Jones, Conservation Officer Flintshire County Council or Andrew Farrow, Head of Planning Flintshire County Council had been able to make the meeting, it was therefore agreed to extend the invitation for them to attend January’s meeting and carry the action points forward.

**17. TOWN TRADING**

Members considered the previously circulated notes from the town trader’s meetings held on 5th July and 24th September. The Town Manager informed members that a positive outcome following the meetings, was that Flintshire County Council had reverted the short stay parking time back to 3 hours (from 2 hours) and this change had been welcomed by traders, members and visitors to the town. Flintshire County Council will undertake a 6 monthly review and the Town Manager suggested Mold Town Council feed into this review by providing comments and observations.

5.20pm Martin Jones joined the meeting.

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 all the town car parks.

Councillor Collett requested an action to record footfall within the town as it was believed footfall was in decline. Councillor Guest suggested that there was a need to know why the footfall was down. The Town Manager advised that whilst footfall was important, other performance factors was also needed if any meaningful analysis and conclusions were to be drawn. He informed the committee that the only reliable data available currently, was that of car park use which is indicating a reduction of circa 8% of parking tickets issued, although there had been an increase in numbers of tickets issued again (July & August) more latterly. He was also exploring opportunities identified of a selected number of shops providing “anonymous” trading performance.

Councillor Maunders suggested approaching traders to ask for transaction figures which could be monitored and this would provide a good indicator of trading patterns. Martin Jones confirmed he had previously supplied transaction figures to the previous Town Manager and would be willing to do so again.

Rachael Byrne informed members that Flintshire County Council Business Development would support an investigation into the cost of collecting performance data / footfall figures and would consider a 3-way funding approach between Flintshire Markets, Flintshire Tourism and Mold Town Council. Rachael confirmed that she, along with the Town Manager, would look at methods and costs involved.

The Town Manager confirmed that service providers within the town such as nail bars, hair dressers and barbers are doing well and the new businesses which had recently opened (CJ Butchers and the Phone Shop) had reported a good first few months trading.

Rachael informed members that Flintshire County Council Market team and traders were carrying out a lot of promotion to attract people to the street market and town through a series of marketing initiatives such as of short promotional films, social media, street walk interactive map and also using sites such as Tripadvisor. The street market traders where due to hold a meeting on 9th October regarding a festive event, but this has been postponed to a further date due to illness. Councillor Collett said that it was important that everyone works together on this. Martin Jones agreed and said that there was a lot of independent shops in Mold who may be interested in being involved.

**Resolved:** It was resolved for Rachael Byrne and the Town Manager to look at methods of better understanding town performance and costs involved.

**18. ENVIROMENTAL PROJECTS**

The Town Manager provided members with an update on the environmental projects within the town.

The bus station improvements where underway and this was being carried out with funding received from Welsh Government.

The Town Manager informed members that the town investment fund (a percentage of town car parking revenues) was circa £30k currently and held by Flintshire County Council. He said that the Town Council position has always been that this money should be used for town enhancements / additional works and not for general maintenance. Car parks in the town are not currently being maintained to a good standard however and FCC had expressed a desire to use this money for general repair which was being resisted by the Town Council. The Town Manager said that members need to put forward suggestions on what the investment fund could be spent on and discuss how to move this forward with Flintshire.

Councillor Bithell informed members that the Old Chapel on Chester Street had now been demolished and area fenced off. The land is not owned by Flintshire County Council but privately owned and he was not aware of any long term plans for this site.

The Town Manager advised that the new infrastructure introduced by the Town Council, especially the Visitor Information Points and Gateway signs needed a maintenance budget to keep them in good order as damage and wear and tear was arising. Whilst exact amounts are not known and could vary, he proposed an initial budget be set for CDR infrastructure maintenance of £2-3k to cover the costs involved. Councillor Bithell suggested this should also include maintenance and cleaning of the towns art work. Members approved the suggestion of a budget proposal and this is to be referred to the Budget Committee for consideration.

**Resolved:** It was resolved for;

1. Members to consider and put forward suggestions on what the town investment fund (held by FCC) could be spent on and discuss how to move this forward with Flintshire County Council.
2. CDR Infrastructure Budget request of £2-3k referred to Budget Committee for consideration

**19. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) FEASIBILITY STUDY**

The Town Manager provided members with an overview of a Business Improvement District (BID) proposal and invited members to attend the meeting on 14th November where further information about the BID feasibility study would be provided by the appointed consultants, the Mosaic Partnership. The potential of a BID for Mold would be discussed with businesses in the town 1) to explore if Mold businesses would be interested in working towards a BID introduction 2) benefits and potential costs 3) the next stages.

The Town Manager informed members that there are over 300 BID’s in the UK and it is very successful in many areas. BID is run by the businesses for the businesses. Anyone who pays business rates in the town would be subject to a levy, including Mold Town Council and Flintshire County Council. Rachael Byrne informed members that Flintshire County Council (working alongside Mold Town Council) had received funding from Welsh Government for the feasibility study to be carried out and this would be completed by The Mosaic Partnership by 31st March 2019. The funding from Welsh Government will also cover the costs for the ballot stage of the process, should the feasibility stage prove favourable.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the information and the Town Managers’ involvement at this stage and await further developments with interest.

**Meeting finished at 6.30pm**

**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: 9th October 2018** |

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| **MEMBER** | **ITEM** | **MINUTE NO. REFERS** |
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Chairman’s signature: ………………………………………… Date: ……………………

WORD/MINUTES/CDR/MIN181009