**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of Mold Town Council, Meeting of Community, Development & Regeneration Committee held at 5.30pm on Tuesday 15th January 2019at Mold Town Hall.

**PRESENT**: Councillors: Geoff Collett (Chair), Chris Bithell, Anthony Parry, Andrea Mearns, Robin Guest, the Town Manager, the Support Officer and Martin Jones.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Officers from Flintshire County Council: Barry Wilkinson Highway Network Manager, Mandy Lewis Development Manager Development Service, Sue Thomas Highways Development Control Manager, Chris Rees-Jones Conservation Officer and Andrew Lightfoot Streetscene Area Coordinator.

**20. APOLOGIES:** Councillors Karen Hodgkinson (Mayor), Tim Maunders (Deputy Mayor), Teresa Carberry, and John Reynolds, Rachael Byrne and Liz Litherland.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**22. MINUTES**

 **Resolved:** It was resolved that:

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Community, Development & Regeneration Committee meeting held on 9th October 2018 be received and approved.

**23. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

**24. CIVIC PRIDE (FORMER TOWN PARTNERSHIP ACTON POINT)**

The Chair welcomed Chris Rees-Jones Flintshire County Council Conservation Officer to the meeting. The Town Manager gave members a brief background on the agenda item, which was an action point from the former town partnership group were a group had looked at the historic buildings within the town and carried out a survey to establish those that needed improvement. Chris Rees-Jones informed members that the Conservation team at Flintshire had carried out a more detailed survey on over 300 buildings within the town and he produced a number of photographs to show members.

On behalf of Flintshire County Council (FCC) he had applied for funding from the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI), offered as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), confirmation of whether the application is successful is due to be received end of January.

Chris confirmed that previously FCC have offered property owners between 65-90% grant funding for works to be carried out on historic buildings within the conservation area. Councillor Parry said that the decline of the High Street due to online shopping, where would traders find the money to carry out the repairs, if not funded by 100% grant.

Councillor Bithell suggested property owners / retailers should be encouraged to make use of upstairs space by renting out for residential or other business use. This would help with the maintenance of the property and also help solve housing issues.

Councillor Bithell informed members that neither Flintshire County Council or Mold Town Council had received funding from the Welsh Government for improvements to historic/listed buildings for over 9 years and suggested that members write to the Welsh Government to request financial support. Mandy Lewis Development Manager said that she would confirm who members should write to and would also propose suggested wording but suggested that members await the outcome of the THI bid before writing.

The Town Manager asked Chris Rees-Jones as a matter of urgency, to contact the property owners of BM Bargains which is located in the former Black Lion Hotel on the High Street. The property is an historic building and the outside of the former hotel is in a state of disrepair and could potentially be a danger to passers by.

The Chair invited Chris Rees-Jones to attend the next Community Development and Regeneration (CDR) meeting, to be held on the 9th April, were he will provide an update on the TIH funding and also present a strategy on moving forward with the work which is needed to be carried out and prioritisation of properties. Councillor Collett suggested that 5 properties are selected out of the current list.

**Resolved:** It was resolved for:

1. Members to write to Welsh Government regarding funding for improvements to historic/listed buildings.
2. Chris Rees-Jones to attend the next CDR meeting and provide members with an update on the TIH funding and strategy for moving forward with the work needed to be carried out.

**25. UNADOPTED ROADS (FORMER TOWN PARTNERSHIP ACTON POINT)**

The Chair welcomed Mandy Lewis Development Manager Development Service, Barry Wilkinson Highway Network Manager, Sue Thomas Highways Development Control Manager to the meeting.

The Town Manager gave members a brief background on the agenda item, which was an action point from the former town partnership group regarding the condition of unadopted roads in residential and business areas.

Sue Thomas Highways Development Control Manager informed members that developers are given the option by FCC whether to appoint a management group to maintain roads on new developments or go through the FCC adoption process and that FCC cannot force a developer to go through the FCC adoption process. Sue asked members to forward a list of roads within the town that they have concerns about and she will review and confirm the status of the road, whether this is on the FCC adoption list, private contractor or awaiting work by the developer to bring up to standard required before FCC adoption.

Sue confirmed to members that Maes Gwern road which is a legacy unadopted road (since Delyn Council) was to be adopted by Flintshire once the developer of the new housing estate at Maes Gwern brings the road up to the standard required, this was part of the development agreement of the new housing estate.

Sue also confirmed that under the highways act, they cannot make it a condition of the developers planning application that roads are brought up to the required standard for adoption.

Sue informed members that Welsh Government are doing a study on unadopted roads in Wales and had sent out a survey to all Town and Community Councils. Members were not aware of the survey and the Chair asked for the Clerk to confirm whether she had received. Barry Wilkinson confirmed he would forward to the Clerk the information that the County Council had received, but that this may differ from the information sent to Town and Community Councils

The Town Manager suggested members comply a priority list of unadopted across each ward and requested this is added to the February Town Council agenda for discussion.

**Resolved:** It was resolved for;

1. Members to submit a list of roads to Sue Thomas Highways Development Control Manager for confirmation of road status.
2. Unapoted roads discussion to be added to the Town Council February agenda for discussion.

**26. ENVIROMENTAL PROJECTS**

The Chair welcomed Andrew Lightfoot Streetscene Area Coordinator to the meeting. Andrew provided members with an update on the various environmental projects within the town, including an update on the bus station works which Andrew confirmed would be completed within 2 weeks. Andrew informed members he was also looking into costs for sandblasting and replacing the railings on both ends of the High Street and would update at the next meeting. Barry Wilkinson confirmed there were no direct plans to resurface the car parks in the town however Andrew confirmed that Grosvenor Street and Griffiths Square car parks had both recently had pot holes patched.

The Town Manager confirmed he and the Clerk had had discussions with Steve Jones Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation Flintshire County Council to propose a percentage of the Town Investment Funding is used for car park maintenance but was unsure whether this proposal had gone to cabinet for discussion.

Councillor Mearns asked if there had been any consideration for electric charging points in the car parks. Barry confirmed that a report had been carried out and gone to cabinet for consideration.

**7.20pm** Mandy Lewis, Sue Thomas and , Chris Rees-Jones left the meeting

The Town Manager informed members that there was approximately £33k in the Town Investment Fund and consideration on how to spend this was needed.

The public conveniences in the town needs to be a consideration for funding. The Town Manager suggested other projects for consideration such as the hazard rails on the cross, town furniture such as bollards, railings and benches to bring them in line with the town colour scheme (blue to match the gateway and information signs) and also parts of the footpaths within the town which still needed to be slurry sealed.

Councillor Mearns confirmed that Cittaslow Mold had previously carried out a survey on the public conveniences usage within the town and would provide Barry with this information.

**7.35pm** Councillor Mearns left the meeting

Councillor Bithell suggested the investment fund could fund the cost of producing town literature, promotional material.

The Town Manager asked members to consider how the investment fund could be used and forward proposals.

The Town Manager informed members that it was the 10th anniversary of the Mold Spring Clean and asked for suggestions on how this could be celebrated. Councillor Guest said that when it was launched 10 years ago it was a town spring clean, lately it has become a giant litter pick – which sadly is needed, but the event should also focus on the cleaning and tidying aspects and consideration on how to involve the traders and businesses in this is needed. Councillor Parry suggested for the 10th anniversary shops are asked to decorate their windows, special Spring Clean / Springy balloons to be purchased.

**Resolved:** It was resolved for all members to propose how the investment fund could be used and forward proposals to the Town Manager.

**27. TOWN TRADING**

The Town Manager informed members he had spoken to a large number of retailers about the festive trading and it was mainly positive, with a slow start but trade picked up nearer to Christmas. Online buying has effected most retailers within the town. The Town Manager was attending a meeting regarding Business Improvement District (BIDs) and had spoken to the consultant who moving onto one to one discussions with businesses in the town and would report back on progress once complete.

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

**28. FESTIVE ACTIVITY**

The Town Manager went through the festive activities that took place over the November / December period. He confirmed that Celtic Fayres had confirmed they would not be seeking to come to Mold again in 2019.

Members commented that the Christmas lights within the town looked dated compared to other towns who had more modern lights. Councillor Parry suggested contacting Blackpool Town Council to make enquiries about their lights, which are changed each year and put out to sale.

Members requested discussion on Christmas lights is added to the February meeting of the town council.

The cancelled Festive Market which was being organised by the street market, members were in favour of supporting this for 2019 and the Town Manager confirmed he would invite the organisers in for further discussions.

The Santa Treasure Hunt, had seen an increase in entries this year, but sadly still only 35 completed entry forms received. Consideration into whether this was worthwhile was needed as over 3,000 entry forms had been issued. The Support Officer would take this forward.

The Santa Dash had attracted 350 entries, similar to previous year. Concern that number where not increasing due to the number of other towns that had now introduced their own Santa Dash. Consideration into how we can make it different, or proceed as is would be taken forward by the Support Officer.

The Father Christmas float had been a resounding success with very positive feedback from all ages and members were in favour of this proceeding.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to include the Christmas light provision on the February agenda of Town Council.

**29. EVENTS**

Members considered the previously circulated list of the town’s 2019 events calendar.

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

**Meeting finished at 8.30pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Community, Development & Regeneration Committee**  | **DATE: 15th January 2019**  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **MEMBER** | **ITEM** | **MINUTE NO. REFERS** |
|  |  |  |

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

WORD/MINUTES/CDR/MIN190115