**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 23rd March 2016.

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: Brian Lloyd (Mayor), Anthony Parry, Geoff Matthias, Geoff Collett, Phil Thomas, Haydn Bateman, Gareth Williams, Bob Gaffey, Chris Bithell, Robin Guest, Andrea Mearns, Bryan Grew, Karen Hodgkinson, Ray Dodd and Richard Brookes, the Town Manager, the Clerk and Finance Officer and the Support Officer.

Also present: North Wales Police Sergeant Mavis Evans and PCSO Simon Griffiths and one member of the press.

**APOLOGIES**: Councillor Carol Heycocks

**156. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mearns expressed an interest for agenda item 19, Parkfields/Bubblegum.

Councillors Collett, Grew and Gaffey expressed an interest for agenda item 10, North Wales Blues & Soul Festival.

**157. PCSO’S**

The Mayor welcomed Sergeant Mavis Evans and PCSO Simon Griffiths. PCSO Griffiths gave members an update on the crime statistics for each ward. Sergeant Evans gave members an update on the anti social behaviour in Mold.

Sergeant Evans informed members that as of 18th April 2016 the North Wales Police Neighbourhood Teams would be changing their name to the Safer Neighbourhood Team and 6 Police Officers would be allocated across South Flintshire, with 2 dedicated to the Mold area and 4 PCSO’s assigned to the Mold area. The main point of contact for members would be the PCSO’s for their ward.

The Town Manager informed members Flintshire Against Business Crime is being set up for the area, having already been run successfully in Chester for a number of years. This will be a new initiative across the county, benefits to retailers include a computer system that retailers can use to view and share CCTV photos and digital radionet. Sergeant Evans who attends the meetings in Broughton, informed members shoplifting at Broughton had reduced following the introduction of the scheme.

Members asked a number of questions to Sergeant Evans and PCSO Griffiths.

The Mayor thanked Sergeant Mavis Evans and PCSO Simon Griffiths for attending the meeting and the update given to members.

**Sergeant Mavis Evans and PCSO Simon Griffiths left the meeting at 6.25pm**

**158. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members noted the previously circulated diary of the Mayor’s recent activities since the last meeting of the town council.

**Councillor Dodd arrived at 6.25pm**

**159. MINUTES**

 **Resolved:** It was resolved that:

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 24th February 2016 be received and approved.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 7th March 2016 be received and noted.
3. The minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 8th March 2016 be received and approved.

**160. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no information arising from the minutes.

**161. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER**

Members noted the previously circulated report from the Town Manager which provided an update on current projects and events.

The Town Manager informed members the Spring Clean was very successful with over 720 plus volunteers taking part over the four day event, including many new businesses getting involved. Over 280 bags of rubbish were also collected. The Town Manager thanked Councillor Hodgkinson who had volunteered to carry out the admin support over the weekend and had done an excellent job.

**Councillors Bithell and Bateman arrived at 6.35pm**

The Town Manager informed members he was looking at a number of options for humane pigeon deterrents to keep the pigeons away from the Daniel Owen Square due to an ongoing problem with pigeon droppings on the benches in the Square and along the side of the Town Hall. Councillor Guest suggested contacting providers of live hawks which can be used as a deterrent. The Town Manager confirmed he would investigate a number of options.

In April, the Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints were due to sign the service agreement regarding the upkeep of the town benches.

‘What’s on in Mold’ flyers have been printed and are being distributed. This would also feature in the latest ‘Discover Flintshire’ booklet, which was available as a paper copy and online, produced by the Flintshire Tourism Association.

Councillor Brookes asked the Town Manager if an update had been received regarding Sainsbury’s and asked if the reason for blocking the car park on the site was known. The Town Manager confirmed he had been in contact with Sainsbury’s representatives and they confirmed they were still very interested in the site. The reason the car park had been blocked by Sainsbury’s was due to illegal overnight use of the car park and damage being caused to the property.

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

**162. THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT**

Members considered the previously circulated report from the Independent Remuneration Panel which sets the range and maximum level of allowances payable for the financial year 2016/17. It was suggested by the Town Clerk members considered each of the determinations listed, determinations 46 to 54 are permissive powers that require a formal decision by the Town Council and this decision must apply to all members. An individual member may make a personal decision to elect to forgo part or all of the entitlement to any of these allowances by giving notice in writing to the Proper Officer of the council.

The Town Clerk informed members wording of the determinations cannot be changed, they can only be accepted or rejected.

Following a discussion members agreed to reject determination 47 and 51.

Determination 47 - to make additional payment of up to £500 for 3 members in recognition of specific responsibilities.

Determination 51 – attendance allowance for attending approved duties outside the area of the council.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the determinations 46 to 54 excluding determination 47 and 51 which were rejected by members.

**163. MOLD TOWN COUNCIL CCTV INCIDENT STATISTICS**

The Town Clerk informed members that a copy of the CCTV statistics for the period April – December 2015 had been received and was available for members to view at the Town Hall office.

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

**164. NORTH WALES BLUES & SOUL FESTIVAL**

The North Wales Blues & Soul Festival committee have asked Mold Town Council for £5,000 from the events fund to enable certain payments which are required to be paid, before the event.

Councillors Grew and Collett spoke to members on behalf of the North Wales Blues & Soul Festival Committee.

Councillor Williams asked why members had not received a written report from the committee as previously agreed. He also raised concern regarding the lack of Mold residents attending the festival in previous years and would like to see reduced ticket prices for Mold residents as an incentive to attend and support.

Councillor Grew informed members that the issues raised by the Town Council previously have been addressed by the committee, such as; further lighting on the field will be in place, there will now be an earlier finish on Sunday (8pm close) and the committee was looking at introducing a reduced fee for residents.

This year, the North Wales Blues & Soul Festival would not receive any funding as in previous years from Flintshire County Council but would be seeking sponsorship from businesses and carrying out a number of fund raising activities.

Councillor Grew informed members that the committee was confident that income from the festival would exceed £5,000 and therefore there would be no financial loss for the Town Council. Councillor Collett informed members the festival was now in its third year and had not previously been subsidised by the Town Council.

The Town Manager informed members the festival was only in the 3rd year of a 3 to 5 year development plan and other towns with established Blues & Soul festivals have over 20,000 attendees.

Councillor Grew informed members that £900 of advance ticket sales had already been sold. The Town Manager was also looking into insurance options regarding bad weather.

Following further discussion, members approved the request for £5,000 from the events fund to be provided to the North Wales Blues & Soul Festival committee and also asked for a written report to be provided from the committee as previously requested.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve request for £5,000 for North Wales Blues & Soul Festival.

**The Town Manager left the meeting at 7.25pm**

**Councillor Collett left the meeting at 7.25pm**

## **165. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL FRAMEWORK**

Members considered the previously circulated Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct, Wales amendment) Order 2016 which will come into force on 1st April 2016. Community Councils have until 26th July 2016 in which to adopt a revised code of conduct. It is suggested that the Town Council adopt the revised code at their annual meeting and the text of the amended Model Code of Conduct has been circulated to members for consideration.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the information and adopt the revised code at the annual meeting of the Town Council.

## **166. APPEAL FROM SHARE**

Members considered the previously circulated correspondence received from SHARE (Supporting Homeless and Assisting Refugees Everywhere) seeking support from local businesses willing to act as a collection point for clothing donations and the Town Council have been asked if they would be in a position to support the appeal.

Members supported the request for the Town Hall to be offered as a collection point on a trial basis, based on no objections from Flintshire County Council who own the property.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the request, on a trial period and subject to permission from Flintshire County Council.

**Councillor Collett re entered the meeting at 7.30pm**

## **167. SHARED PURPOSE: SHARED FUTURE – STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR THE WELL BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015**

Members considered the previously circulated copy of the Statutory Guidance on the well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The act places a duty on certain community and town councils to take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives included in the local well-being plan that has effect in their areas. The town council must publish a report annually detailing its progress in meeting the objectives contained in the local well-being plan. The first official annual report will be due in 2018.

The act sets seven well-being goals with a description for each. The Town Clerk informed members Flintshire County Council will lead on the well-being plan and themes from the act will be used by Flintshire County Council as countywide objectives. The Town Clerk informed members that she had already adopted some of the themes for the annual report for 2015.

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

## **168. MOLD FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

## Members considered the previously circulated correspondence from Sandy Mewies AM providing a copy of a response received from Andrew Farrow Flintshire County Council Chief Officer (Planning and Environment) relating to the Flood Alleviation Scheme, the letter informs that due to the increase in estimated construction costs, Flintshire County Council are reconsidering the viability of the proposed scheme in its present format. Work on this review is scheduled to commence in June 2016 and the authority will be able to present its findings to the Welsh Government Officials by August 2016.

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

## **169. FLINTSHIRE OPTEC YOUTH EXCHANGE TRUST**

## Members considered the previously circulated correspondence from Flintshire Optec Youth Exchange requesting help in providing activities, events and workshops for youth exchange students from Japan who will be students from Flintshire schools from 28th July to 8th August 2016. The Town Clerk asked members for suggestions on activities. It was suggested by members that the students are invited to the Town Hall to meet with Councillors and offered to attend the Blues & Soul Festival which was taking place during that period. The Town Clerk would look into further activities.

**Resolved:** It was resolved for the Town Clerk to arrange for students to visit the Town Hall and to look into other activities they could attend.

## **170. DOG FOULING**

## Members considered the previously circulated correspondence from Flintshire County Council regarding problems with dog fouling in communities and asking for their views on the situation in the town and for members initial thoughts regarding initiatives such as a dog DNA registration scheme which had been taken forward in another county.

Councillor Bithell raised reservations regarding the dog DNA scheme, which would be a voluntary scheme and cost approximately £70 per dog to carry out the registration and subsequent checks, he believed irresponsible owners were very unlikely to register and therefore the scheme would not offer any benefit to the problems.

Members discussed a number of suggestions, including Councillor Bithell’s suggestion of an increase in enforcement hours and Councillor Collett’s suggestion to make half of the parks within Mold, enforced dog free zones. Councillor Guest suggested more education is needed to get the message across as some dog owners who clear up after their dog, then proceed to leave the dog bag on the grass / pavement and not place in the dog bin, or take home to dispose of.

Following members discussion it was agreed the Town Clerk would respond on behalf of the Town Council with the following suggestions:-

a) increase in active enforcement with more officers able to issue on the spot fines

b) introduction of dog free zones

c) introduce fines for dog walkers found not to be carrying the means to clear up after the dog

d) education campaign

e) DNA scheme was not supported by Mold Town Council

Members also asked the Town Clerk to obtain information relating to dog fouling grot spots around the town, the number of prosecutions and number of on the spot fines which have been issued.

**Resolved:** It was resolved for the Town Clerk to reply to Flintshire County Council on behalf of members.

**171. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**Resolved:** It was resolved to exclude the public and press from the meeting in order to discuss a confidential matter

**Press left at 8.05pm**

## **172. PARKFIELDS – BUBBLEGUM CLUB**

Members considered the previously circulated report from the Town Clerk regarding the West Flintshire Community Enterprise (WFCE) who had been providing play workers for the Bubblegum Club held at Parkfields since April 2013.

Councillor Hodgkinson informed members that sessions during September and February had not been run due to staff shortages and the recruitment process for new staff.

Councillor Mearns confirmed the dates and number of children attending had been taken directly from the Bubblegum register, which had been received by Parkfields Committee on 1st February 2016.

Following a debate on the issues raised, Councillor Bithell suggested members from Mold Town Council meet with Parkfields Management Committee to resolve outstanding issues. It was agreed Councillors Lloyd, Parry, Gaffey and Collett would represent Mold Town Council. It was also agree that should representatives from WFCE wish to attend then they would be welcome. Following the meeting, Parkfields Committee would provide a written report to Mold Town Council regarding the grant monies.

**Resolved:** It was resolved Councillors Lloyd, Parry, Gaffey and Collett would meet with Parkfields Management Committee to resolve outstanding issues.

**173. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

**Resolved**: It was resolved to note the report and approve the recommendations.

**174. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Members considered the previously circulated report from Councillor Mearns regarding the Bailey Hill, new natural play area.

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

**175. ACCOUNTS / PAYMENTS**

The Council considered the schedule previously circulated and noted that expenditure complied with the statutory powers available to local councils.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the schedule of payments be approved.

**Councillor Dodd left the meeting at 8.45pm**

**The Town Clerk and Support Officer left the meeting at 8.45pm**

**Councillors Hodgkinson and Brookes left the meeting at 8.55pm**

## **176. STAFFING MATTERS**

The Council considered the previous circulated report providing recommendations from the Personnel Committee on amendments to the salary of the Town Clerk.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the recommendations from the Personnel Committee.

a) increase the Town Clerks salary as recommend by the Personnel Committee

b) the increase to take place from the start of the new financial year

c) the increase in salary is taken from the reserves 2015/2016

**The Meeting ended at 9.05pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 23rd March 2016** |

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| **MEMBER** | **ITEM** | **MINUTE NO. REFERS** |
| Cllr. MearnsCllrs. Collett, Grew and Gaffey |  Parkfields – Bubblegum ClubNorth Wales Blues & Soul Festival. | 172164 |

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