**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 20th April 2016.

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: Anthony Parry, Phil Thomas, Gareth Williams, Chris Bithell, Andrea Mearns, Bryan Grew, Karen Hodgkinson with the Clerk and Finance Officer.

Also present: Katie Wilby, Transport and Logistics Manager from Flintshire County Council,

**APOLOGIES**: Councillors: Haydn Bateman, Richard Brookes, Geoff Collett, Ray Dodd, Bob Gaffey, Robin Guest, Carol Heycocks, Brian Lloyd (Mayor), Geoff Matthias, Town Manager and Support Officer.

**177. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

**178. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

The Deputy Mayor welcomed Katie to the meeting and introduced her to members. Katie thanked members for the invitation and for arranging a special meeting. Katie advised members that Community Transport is part of the core offer for Community Asset Transfers. The County Council are proposing a core bus network due to £250k budget cuts on the subsidy. Katie provided paperwork detailing the Cabinet approved changes which will be introduced from May. The County Council are now looking at a different approach and hope to develop community transport in the place of the lost routes.

Katie advised that there has not been an annual review of the service for some time, and this has now been carried out which is based on cost per passenger journey (ppj) if over £5ppj. In some cases journeys are costing as much as £82ppj. However, Flintshire are also mindful that they do not want to see communities without public transport. For this reason they are approaching Town & Community Councils, and in particular the larger Town Council’s where they see them taking the lead. For instance, Mold is a key destination for essential services. Flintshire are looking to develop schemes to the South and West of Mold.

Katie informed members that Flintshire would only be in a position to provide funding for the core routes identified and approved by Cabinet. However, bus service providers could still choose to provide additional routes, but there would be no support from Flintshire County Council.

Members were advised that there are workshops organised for Tuesday 26th April, where the County Council will be looking for expressions of interest from Town & Community Councils to set up Community Transport initiatives.

**Councillor Karen Hodgkinson arrived at 6.15pm**

Councillor Bithell suggested that if the Town Council do not consider supporting Community Transport then people from outlying villages may choose to go somewhere else, the viability of Mold is dependent on people coming into the town.

Following a question from Councillor Parry relating to figures of service users, Katie advised that they do have figures based on time of day and routes, and if the Council would like these figures they can be provided.

Councillors Williams suggested that there are a number of Community Asset Transfer services being considered by the Town Council and it is very difficult to consider them all without the revenue to support the services.

Councillor Mearns questioned which routes would directly affect Mold, Katie advised that there were two routes.

Councillor Bithell suggested that the Town Council need to discuss the options and obtain further information by attending the workshops.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

a) the Clerk and Councillor Bryan Grew would attend one of the two workshops on 26th April 2016;

b) members would advised the Clerk of their availability for two additional members attending one of the two workshops;

c) the Town Council would then consider its position on Community Transport

**The Meeting ended at 7.00pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 20th April 2016** |

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

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