**MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Mold Town Council held at Mold Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 27th April 2016.

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: Brian Lloyd (Mayor), Anthony Parry, Geoff Matthias, Geoff Collett, Phil Thomas, Haydn Bateman, Gareth Williams, Chris Bithell, Andrea Mearns, Bryan Grew, Carol Heycocks, Karen Hodgkinson, Ray Dodd and the Town Manager and Support Officer.

Also present: Jo Lane Dementia Friendly Communities Coordinator and one member of the press.

**APOLOGIES**: Councillors Bob Gaffey, Robin Guest and Richard Brookes and the Clerk and Finance Officer

**179. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

**180. ALZHEIMER’S SOCIETY – DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES**

The Mayor welcomed Jo Lane, the Dementia Friendly Communities Coordinator for North Wales, who is based in the Alzheimer’s Society office in Mold.

Jo explained to members what a Dementia Friendly Community is and provided statistics as to the number of people living in the UK with a diagnosis of Dementia:-

* 850,000 people in the UK
* 45,000 people in Wales
* 1969 people in Flintshire

It is estimated by 2025 over 1.2 million people in the UK will have been diagnosed with Dementia. Jo suggested local Councillors should consider the Dementia community when discussing local planning and new builds.

There are currently two towns in Flintshire who have achieved Dementia Friendly Status, they are Buckley and Flint. Jo explained how towns can achieve Dementia Friendly Status and the criteria which needs to be met:-

1. Make sure that you have the right local structure in place to maintain a sustainable Dementia Friendly Community.
2. Identify a key person or people to take the responsibility for driving forward the work to support your community to become dementia friendly and ensure that individuals, organisations and businesses are meeting their stated commitments.
3. Have a plan to raise awareness about Dementia in key organisations and businesses within the community that support people with dementia.
4. Develop a strong voice for people living with dementia living in your communities. This will give your plan credibility and will make sure it focuses on areas people with dementia feel are most important.
5. Raise the profile of your work to increase the reach and awareness to different groups in the community.
6. Focus your plans on a number of key areas that have been identified locally.
7. Have a plan or system in place to update the progress of your community after 6 months and then one year.

Mold has a steering group which has been set up and is working towards achieving Dementia Friendly Status, Councillor Heycocks is one of the 6 people on the steering group however more members are needed to help drive this forward and help Mold achieve Dementia Friendly Status.

There is also a Dementia Working Partnership Group in Mold, however to achieve Dementia Friendly status, the two groups need to join and work as one and Jo was in the process of contacting the relevant parties to request they join the steering group.

Dementia Awareness week runs from 15th to 21st May and on the 18th May there will be 3 Dementia friend sessions held at the Town Hall if anyone would like to attend.

Councillors Parry and Bithell suggested there was confusion between the two groups as they thought that the Town Partnership Group was the same as the steering group.

The next steering group meeting at the Alzheimer’s office in Mold is 12th May and Jo will contact the Town Partnership Group to invite them to attend, also open to anyone else who would like to join.

**6.05pm Councillor Bateman arrived.**

**6.10pm Councillor Hodgkinson arrived.**

**6.15pm Councillor Williams arrived.**

The Mayor thanked Jo Lane for attending the meeting and the update given to members.

**Jo Lane** **left the meeting at 6.25pm**

**181. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Council held a one minute silence as a mark of respect for former Mold Town Councillor Ken Corbett who passed away the previous week.

Members noted the previously circulated diary of the Mayor’s recent activities since the last meeting of the Town Council. The Mayor made reference to the Suitcase Theatre Production performance of Deepcut which he had attended at Theatr Clwyd and informed members it was an excellent and very moving play.

**182. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 23rd March 2016 be received and approved.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Community, Development and Regeneration Committee held on the 9th March 2016 be received and noted.
3. The minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Audit Committee held on the 21st March 2016 be received and approved.
4. The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 29th March 2016 and 6th April 2016 be received and noted.

**183. INFORMATION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**Mold Town Council 23rd March 2016**

**Minute 157** - Councillor Mearns asked if the questions members asked in relation to the incident of anti social behaviour in October 2015 and the closure of the Police station could be recorded in the minutes. The Support Officer confirmed the minutes would be amended accordingly.

The Town Manager informed members that PCSO Simon Griffiths would be leaving Mold as he was joining the Rural Crime Team. The Town Manager had been in contact with Sergeant Evans and requested an update on the PCSO’s assigned to Mold and would report back to members once information had been received.

Councillor Bithell expressed his disappointment that he had received no response from emails which he had sent to PCSO Griffiths regarding issues within his ward and said that there was no continuity for Police contacts, he felt that Councillors were not able to develop good relationships with the local Police due to this. The Town Manager confirmed he would bring this to the attention of Inspector Bowcott.

**6.40pm Councillor Bryan Grew arrived.**

**Minute 161** - Councillor Bithell asked the Town Manager for an update on the pigeon issue on Daniel Owen Square. The Town Manager confirmed that feeding the pigeons would now be considered a littering offence and that Streetscene and the PCSO’s would be addressing this with anyone seen feeding the pigeons.

After the report in the local paper regarding the Town Council considering the use of live hawks as a pigeon deterrent, the Town Manager had received a letter from the Mold Invitation Pigeon Club who had expressed their opposition to the use of live hawks as they had been known to attack and distract racing pigeons. The Town Manager informed members that the County Council are now referring the issue of the pigeons on the square to their Environmental Department and was seeking a solution to the problem.

Councillor Thomas questioned whether the Council should consult with the public on their views relating to the pigeons.

Councillor Bithell suggested that the Town Clerk speak with the Mold Invitation Pigeon Club and ask for their input in how to resolve the problem.

**Minute 166** – The Town Manager informed members the request made to Flintshire County Council regarding the Town Hall being used as a collection point for donations for the charity SHARE, had been rejected on the basis of health and safety and concern of vulnerabilities of fire risk / fire escape if items of clothing were left unattended.

Councillor Bithell suggested that St Mary’s Church could be asked to become a collection point on a periodic basis as this had proved to be very successful last time.

**Minute 168** – Councillor Bithell asked the Town Clerk to write a letter to Sandy Mewies AM expressing the council’s gratitude for all the help and support she has given to Mold Town Council during her term as AM and especially for the work and support she has provided to the council on the flood alleviation scheme.

**Minute 170** – An update from Andrew Lightfoot, Streetscene Coordinator had been received and circulated to members regarding the number of Fixed Penalty Notices which have been issued. In total 24 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued 17 of these have been for littering and 7 have been for dog fouling.  8 of these have been issued in the Mold area.

Andrew Lightfoot had also confirmed the main dog fouling grot spots in Mold had been confirmed as around the Glanrafon school and the Glanrafon Medical Centre.

**Minute 172** – Councillor Bithell asked if an update had been received from Parkfields regarding the Bubblegum club. Councillor Mearns confirmed the Town Clerk had received the service level agreement and proposal from the new suppliers and that a meeting between Parkfields and members of the sub group would take place once all members where available, after which a report would be provided to all council members.

**Community, Development and Regeneration Committee 9th March 2016**

**Minute 16** – Councillor Williams asked if the strap-lines for the gateway signs had now been finalised. The Town Manager confirmed there were some small amendments to the wording and that the signs would also comply with The Welsh Language Commissioner's bilingual design guide.

**Minute 16** – An amendment to the minute was requested by Councillor Mearns to include reference to Councillor Thomas also contacting Walkabout Flintshire in reference to the town map observations.

**Minute 18** – The Town Manager informed members the three Town Council notice boards were currently in the process of being refurbished by a local handyman.

**184. ELECTION OF MAYOR 2016/17**

**Resolved:** It was resolved that Councillor Anthony Parry be elected Mayor for the forthcoming year 2016/17

**185. 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 Austin Reed Group had announced it had gone into administration and the CC Viyella store in the town is part of the Austin Reed Group, the Town Manager had not received any information as to how this would affect the Mold store but would update members as soon as he was able to contact the relevant persons.

The Ale House and Yarn O’Clock had recently opened on Earl Road and business for both was going well. A further two stores would be opening up shortly, The Olive Tree Deli on Upper High Street would be officially opened by the Mayor on Wednesday 4th May at 9am and Florence & Bunce, a furniture and home accessories store in the Daniel Owen Precinct will also open on Wednesday 4th May at 9.30am and the Deputy Mayor will be attending the official opening.

The Farm Shop on Wrexham Street had recently closed but there was keen interest in the shop.

In celebration of Her Majesty the Queen’s official 90th Birthday, on Friday 10th June the Mayor would be hosting an Afternoon Tea and inviting residents who were born in 1926 and have or are turning 90 this year to attend. On Sunday 12th June the celebrations will continue with ‘music through the decades’ on the Daniel Owen Square with music and dance from the 1920’s right up to modern day.

The hustings event organised by Mold Business Forum had around 20 people attend and a lively discussion ensued.

The Town Manager and Support Officer had met with Theatr Clwyd Artistic Director Tamara Harvey, Annie Dayson Sponsorship & Marketing Officer and Nerys Edwards Education Administrator to discuss how the relationship and link between the theatre and the town could be improved. The meeting was very positive and Tamara had confirmed she would be happy to attend a town council meeting to meet with members. Tamara also confirmed she would speak to the cast of Cyrano de Bergerac to see if they would carry out a short performance on the Daniel Owen Square.

Blooming Mold competition was now open and this year a new category of ‘garden in a tray’ was being aimed at children 16 years and under. All entries would be judged in the Square on the 2nd July.

Hanging basket sponsorship, we now have a total 39 baskets sponsored, which is a vast improvement on previous years.

Councillor Bithell asked members if they would once again sponsor a basket and all members confirmed a collection should be made from all members to sponsor a basket.

Councillor Collett brought to members attention the Flintshire County Council Countryside Events 2016 publication, which had information on 62 events around Flintshire, only one of which was taking place in Mold and was the only reference to Mold events, this was Himalayan balsam control (weeding) which was taking place at Leadmills. Councillor Collett expressed his feeling that Mold was not being treated fairly with regards to information being put out from Flintshire County Council.

The Town Manager confirmed he also had concerns regarding the publication which did not just publicise countryside events, but also events such as Flint fireworks, Connah’s Quay Festival and the Diversity Festival.

Councillor Collett suggested a strongly worded letter be sent to Flintshire County Council. Councillor Mearns asked for the letter to also ask what the criteria was to be included in the booklet as the booklet currently promotes rural and urban events.

The Town Manager confirmed he would take this forward with Andrew Farrow Chief Officer (Planning and Environment) for Flintshire County Council.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to note the report and for the Town Manager to communicate with Flintshire County Council regarding the Flintshire County Council Countryside Events 2016 publication

**186. POLICY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Members considered the recommendations from the Policy and Audit Committee held on the 21st March 2016 in relation to the Internal Auditors interim report containing recommendations to address issues identified relating to a General Reserves Policy, ensuring the Mayor’s Charity funds were identified as creditors, writing to HMRC on guidance relating to VAT registration and ensuring that the sale of alcohol during the Novemberfest is separated from other income as detailed in the minutes of Policy and Audit Committee held on the 21st March 2016 together with the Standing Orders, financial matters of the Council:-

a) the amended Standing Orders be recommended by the Town Council.

b) the existing Financial Regulations be recommended by the Town Council.

c) the existing Financial Risk Assessment be recommended by the Town Council.

d) the Investment Strategy and Internal Finance Controls be recommended by the Town Council.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the recommendations from the Policy and Audit Committee.

**187. FINAL ACCOUNTS**

Members considered the previously circulated report setting out the accounts of the Town Council for the year 2015/16 which included:

a) Summary Income and Expenditure Account;

b) Balance sheet;

c) Details of the Expenditure incurred within the year;

d) Summary of Expenditure and Income for 2015/16; and

e) Bank and Cash Reconciliation for the year.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the accounts be approved for audit.

**188. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: PLANNING POLICY WALES CHAPTER 6**

The consultation seeks views on proposed changes to the Planning Policy Wales Chapter 6, setting out the national planning policy for consideration of the historic environment through the planning system, closing date for response is 13th June 2016. Members agreed for the Planning Committee to respond on behalf of Mold Town Council.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the Planning Committee respond on behalf of Mold Town Council.

## **189. PUBLIC CONVENIENCE FACILITIES - MOLD**

Members considered the previously circulated correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising that the public conveniences on New Street in Mold will remain open until 1st January 2017, allowing Mold Town Council time to consider taking over the operating arrangements.

The public conveniences are part of the Community Asset Transfer which the council have expressed an interest in.

Councillor Bithell asked if there was a timescale for decision and suggested this should be discussed sooner rather than later as grant money was available at the moment.

Councillor Mearns suggested the council does not have enough knowledge on how to run public conveniences and had spoken with Cadwyn Clwyd who has grants available for gaining better understanding of delivering services (including public conveniences).

Councillor Williams reminded members that the council has previously asked Flintshire County Council to provide a funding stream as part of the asset transfer, as funding will be needed for Mold Town Council to maintain and operate the public conveniences.

The Town Manager confirmed funding streams will be discussed at the next County Forum meeting that the Town Clerk will be attending. The Town Clerk would provide an update to members regarding what funding streams are available following the County Forum meeting.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the Town Clerk would update members regarding funding stream availability following the County Forum meeting.

## **190. SUMMER PLAYSCHEME 2016**

Members considered the previously circulated correspondence from Flintshire County Council (FCC) confirming the level of funding for the Mold Summer Playschemes 2016 for a three week duration and the letter also invited the council to purchase additional weeks four and five of the scheme at a cost of £260 per week, per location.

The Town Manager confirmed £1800 had been approved in the budget by members for the Summer Playscheme and this would provide £900 for Gas Lane playscheme and £900 for Park Avenue playscheme.

Councillor Lloyd asked for the playscheme organisers to be contacted and asked to provide accurate attendance figures following this year’s scheme.

Councillor Hodgkinson suggested the Recreational field (the Rec) should be used instead of Park Avenue as this may increase attendance figures. Members agreed with the proposal to move the playscheme from Park Avenue to the Rec and attendance figures to be reviewed for next year and asked for the Town Clerk to propose this to Flintshire County Council.

As the budget has already been set and approved, members did not approve the request to fund additional playscheme weeks.

**Resolved:** It was resolved the Town Clerk would write to Flintshire County Council with the change of venue proposal and request accurate attendance figures are provided after the playscheme 2016.

## **191. HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES**

Flintshire County Council is currently undertaking a review of its Waste Collection, Household Recycling Centre and Bring Site policy. Members of the public are being asked to share information about their recycling habits. In addition, the County Council are seeking the collective view of Town and Community Councils on the provision of Household Recycling Centres and supplied a questionnaire for completing.

The Town Manager suggested a holistic approach should be adopted by the County Council and they should review their whole approach with regards to recycling, as recycling street bins are regularly seen in other towns.

Councillor Williams said that Denbighshire Council has the best recycling rate in the area and Flintshire should look to see how this is managed.

Councillor Bateman informed members he had been told that the recycling centres at Nercwys/Mold, Buckley and Greenfield would remain open.

Councillor Mearns proposed the council respond via a letter, rather than completing the questionnaire as the questions were very leading and insufficient. Councillor Collett supported this proposal and said the letter should include members support for the local recycling centre as well confirming how many people this services, as it is not just residents of Mold, but the outer communities as well, in the region of 60,000 residents.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the Town Clerk write to Flintshire County Council confirming support of the Nercwys/Mold recycling centre.

## **192. MOLD FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL**

## A request has been received from the Food and Drink Festival committee for financial assistance following a reduction from other grant funding sources. Councillor Grew spoke on behalf of the Festival committee and confirmed the Festival committee have asked for a grant of £1000 from Mold Town Council, towards this year’s Food and Drink Festival. The festival now in its 11th year, incurred additional costs last year due to their 10th Anniversary celebration. Flintshire County Council who have provided grants to the festival in previous are not providing any funding this year.

The Festival committee over the last 10 years have supported a number of Mold events with donations and sponsorship and would like to ask members to support their request for this year.

Members supported the Festival Committee’s request and agreed £1,000 should be granted when the Financial Assistance Committee meet in June 2016. The Town Clerk was asked to confirm which budget the £1000 would come from at the May meeting.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the request from the Food and Drink Festival committee.

**193. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS**

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

**194. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Councillor Mearns informed members that a response from the Council, following the Community Transport meeting was urgent and asked for this to be added to the May agenda as decision was required in June.

**Resolved**: It was resolved to request the Town Clerk to add Community Transport to the May agenda.

**Press left at 8.10pm**

**195. 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.

**196. 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

**197. SID MATTHEWS COMMUNITY AWARDS**

The Council considered the previously circulated confidential report from the panel appointed to consider nominations for the Sid Matthews Community Awards 2016.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that the report be approved and that the following awards be given:

a) For “Outstanding Voluntary Service / Achievements by an Individual” – Mr Peter Fuller

b) For “Outstanding Voluntary Service / Achievements by a Local Organisation” – Cambria Band

c) For “Outstanding Voluntary Service / Achievements by a Young Person” - Miss Maddison Spencer

d) For “Outstanding Voluntary Service / Achievements by a Local Youth Organisation” – Young Dragons

**The Meeting ended at 8.10pm**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**

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

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

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| **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL** | **DATE: 27th April 2016** |

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