

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Ebenezer Church, Glanrafon Road at 6pm on Wednesday 29th November 2023 (also, by Video conferencing).

PRESENT:

Councillors: Cllrs. Teresa Carberry (Mayor and Chairman), Sarah Taylor (Deputy Mayor), Haydn Jones, Brian Lloyd, Tina Claydon, Robin Guest, Chris Bithell, Megan Lloyd Hughes, Catherine Francis Hill, Paul Beacher, Joanne Edwards

Via Zoom: Cllrs. Bryan Grew, Haydn Bateman, Tim Maunders, and 3 members of the public.

Officers: Jo Lane, Town Clerk and Finance Officer and Jane Evans, Events and Community Officer

One member of the public was in attendance.

Guest: PCC Andy Dunbobbin

145. APOLOGIES: Cllr. Pete Dando

ABSENT: Cllr Geoff Collett

The following guidance to public attendance and participation was read out prior to the start of the meeting:

Mold Town Council is committed to community engagement and therefore warmly welcomes members of the public to attend this meeting.

Mold Town Council Standing Orders allows for 15 minutes to be allocated under the '**Public Participation**' item on the agenda with **up to 5 minutes per subject**.

Those wishing to address the meeting under Public Participation must:

- **Have notified the Town Clerk of their intent to speak by 4.30pm the day before the Town Council Meeting.**
- **Direct all comments/ questions to the chairman of the meeting.**

During the Public Participation section of the meeting: members of the public should note that the council will only discuss and is only allowed to take decisions on topics that are publicised on the agenda.

After the Public Participation section of the meeting: Members of the public are asked to respect the fact that this is a meeting to conduct council business and interruptions during the remainder of the meeting are not permitted.

This guidance is based on Mold Town Council Standing Orders, these are at the rules that govern the Town Council.

146. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Sarah Taylor, Teresa Carberry and Joanne Edwards declared an interest in agenda item 14 – Daniel Owen Toilets. These councillors are all trustees of the Daniel Owen Committee.

147. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER, ANDY DUNBOBBIN

Councillor Teresa Carberry introduced and welcomed Andy Dunbobbin, Police and Crime Commissioner to the meeting and thanked him for attending.

PCC Andy Dunbobbin addressed the meeting and gave an update on the role of Police and Crime Commissioner.

PCC Andy Dunbobbin was elected to office in May 2021, the main role of the Police and Crime Commissioner is to ensure that the people of North Wales have the best Police Service available. PCC Andy Dunbobbin feels it is important to visit as many Community and Town Councils across North Wales as he understands the importance of their work to their community as he too has experience as a Town Councillor in Connah's Quay and as a Flintshire County Councillor.

PCC Andy Dunbobbin attends regularly meetings with all principle authorities in North Wales and has strong working relationships with them, this is extremely important with monetary pressures that are being experienced. The OPCC Precept Survey 2023 for Financial Year 2024-25 is currently live and the survey link is: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/opcc_precept23 should anyone wish to respond.

A significant amount of investment has been made into Neighbourhood Policing with the focus on preventing crime.

PCC Andy Dunbobbin has been in this role for 2 and half years, during that time he has been committed to working with the third sector, public bodies, statutory partners and looking into the possibility of securing additional funding for police initiatives. - specifically looking at preventative measures. Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime is varied in North Wales. The Covid pandemic has had an effect on how people communicate. Many community groups have popped up to support the community. Others have experienced a negative effect such as loneliness and isolation, substance mis-use and it was extremely difficult for those who are victims of domestic violence. North Wales Police are committed to offer a better service and residents have confidence to come forward and report concerns. This is all detailed in the Police and Crime Plan - <https://www.northwales-pcc.gov.uk/what-our-priorities-are-and-how-we-are-doing>

When consulting on the Police and Crime Plan it was highlighted that communities did not feel that there was enough police presence in our communities. There are three strategic priorities that include;

1. Delivering Safer Neighbourhoods
2. Supporting victims in communities

3. Effective Justice System

Determined to increase numbers of police on the streets, the Chief Constable has moved officers from the response unit to neighbourhood policing teams. During the last financial year 206 police officers have been recruited and currently on track to recruit 238 additional this financial year. It is important to have the local links with PCSO's, PC's and local information is fed into the Regional Local Crime Unit and also feeds in to the Wales Extreme Terrorism Unit, then into the NCA. Local knowledge really supports which highlights the importance of Neighbourhood Policing.

Diversionary activity was highlighted - prior to the Town Council Meeting PCC Andy Dunbobbin attended the local boxing club – ABC Boxing. Really supportive of any diversionary activities to support local children and young people. Sometimes anti-social behavior does not amount to criminal activity but it still has an impact on people and whatever measures can be put in place to support is a positive action.

The police are extremely reliant on local intel. It is understood that people can feel scared to report information to the police due to the worry of repercussions – therefore provide the likes of Crimestoppers which is a service that people can report information anonymously and can be investigated further by the police. Another important aspect of neighbourhood policing is obtaining Closure Orders where access for certain people to identified premises is prohibited for a specific period of time. It can also be introduced with Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's). Local authorities have the responsibility for these and work with the police to implement.

The community trigger is a very powerful tool as well which can be used to handle anti-social behavior and give the victims of anti-social behavior the opportunity to request a case review if they feel no action, or inadequate action has taken place. Further information on this can be found: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/anti-social-behaviour-asb-case-review-also-known-as-the-community-trigger>

Improving road safety is a high priority – there are more people killed on our roads than any other crime. While devising the Police and Crime Plan it was important to have Road Safety included. PCC Andy Dunbobbin is proud to be the first Police and Crime Commissioner to have Road Safety in the Police and Crime Plan. Work has taken place with the road safety charity – Brake. Currently funding a case worker to support people who have been affected by fatal and catastrophic injuries. This service is available face-to-face and bilingually and provides specialist support which reduces demand on North Wales Police. Support has been provided to the Olivia Alkir Campaign – Olivia was tragically killed in a car accident in 2019. Olivia's mother is campaigning to make roads safer for all young people. Olivia's story has been shared at the Senedd in Cardiff to law makers, campaigners and industry experts. At the event they viewed the film and discussed the key issues it raises. We are hopeful to get to Westminster through the local MP, David Jones in the not too distant future.

Due to PCC Andy Dunbobbin's experience he has been identified by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners as the deputy lead for Digital and Technology, Deputy Lead for Economic and Cyber Crime and National Lead for a programme call the National Law and Data Service.

Cyber Crime affects a lot of people but is still hugely under reported. Currently trying to raise confidence in people and businesses across North Wales to report these types of crimes. Have attended a number of events to help raise awareness of the precautions that could be taken in this field. Another commissioned service is called 'Get Safe Online' they work to protect people from that type of criminality.

After the presentation from PCC Andy Dunbobbin, a question and answer session took place:

Q. Could you work with the Town Council on the Innovate to Grow Project?

A. The PCC has launched a funding stream called Innovate to Grow – the reason this was developed is to support community groups to support the local community. £5000 is available per local authority area or up to £10,000 if covering two or more local authority areas. The purpose of the funds is we are all aware that small amounts of funds can have a massive impact on the local community. This has been a very positive initiative with many organisations taking the opportunity to apply. One particular project is called YouthSheds, which is more youth led focused.

Q. Anti-Social Behaviour has spiked since Covid we have experienced it in Mold and have seen from local press it is similar across the whole of North Wales. Attending the Education committee for the county, teachers are saying they are experiencing problems with children displaying worrying behavior within school. There seems to be a rise in the number of children being excluded from school for long periods with increased pressures on the new Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) that has been set up in Deeside. How is this being handled?

A. Covid lockdown has had an impact on a profound number of children and young people. We are working with Youth Justice Service on an all Wales approach. The way we deal with Youth Justice in Wales is very effective. We do not need to be too lenient – there is the need for consequences for actions. It is identified in the plan the use for restorative justice, which does not mean the perpetrators are going to get away with their actions, the research shows using restorative justice can have more of a profound effect than if it was to go through the criminal justice system.

Q. You said there have been new recruits how does that compare to the number of people who may have retired or left the police force for other reasons. How long will it take until we see the new recruits on the street and what area will they be allocated to?

A. We are above the levels of number of officers that we had in 2010 not by much. The retention of staff can be difficult. The highest of standards are expected from our police officers. Changes in pension has also been a factor and increase of police officers retiring because of the pension plan. We do have 206 officers more than we had in 2010, through the increase in precept there has been an increase of 18 PCSO's across North Wales – with regards to where they get deployed that is an operational decision to make. I receive regular reports with regards to criminality and happy to report that crime in North Wales is down by about 13% and performance is up by 3-4%.

Q. What is being done to make our streets safer across North Wales?

Personally I do not feel safe walking around at night and I am sure that resonates with others, especially this time of year when it gets darker, earlier.

A. It is a really important question. A lot of work has taken place in Flintshire with regards to keeping women safe at night. We have been very successful

with the SWAN (Safer Women at Night) Project – we were awarded between £250,000 and £300,000 to ensure establishments in Flintshire are safe for women. We have also been successful with the Safer Streets funding that has been made available by the Home Office, working in conjunction with the local authorities.

Q. A recent report has been published highlighting an increase in racism in young people. What involvement will you have?

A. Not yet seen the report, agree that there is no tolerance for racism. Recently been involved in an initiative 'show racism the red card' to help tackle racism and hate crimes. Hate Crime is highlighted in the Police and Crime Plan.

Councillor Teresa Carberry brought this agenda item to a close and thanked PCC Andy Dunbobbin for the presentation and his time.

18.42pm Member of public joined the meeting

148. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Teresa Carberry requested the following information to be recorded: thank you for all the flowers, cards and well wishes from fellow councillors, members of the public, groups and schools. Thank you to Cllr Taylor for stepping in to Chair meetings and attend events on behalf of the Mayor. Thanks to Mold Town Council Officers for all their hard work. Congratulations to Jo for becoming our new Town Clerk and thanks to Jane for her organisational skills for all the successful events that have taken place and are due to take place.

Further to the information provided, Cllr Carberry wrote a personal letter to Mold Ex-Serviceman's Club congratulating them on their 100th anniversary. Cllr Carberry also sent a personal letter to Siop Y Siswrn for their 50th anniversary also.

149. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That:

- (a) The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 25th October 2023 be received and formally approved as a correct record;
- (b) The Minutes of the Youth and Children's Committee Meeting on the 14th November 2023 be received and formally approved as a correct record;
- (c) The Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 20th November 2023 be received and formally approved as a correct record;
- (d) The Minutes of the CDR Committee Meeting held on the 21st November 2023 be received and formally approved as a correct record;
- (e) The Minutes of the of the Extra Ordinary Town Council Meeting held on the 22nd November 2023 be received and formally approved as a correct record.

150. OFFICER REPORTS

- (i) Noted
- (ii) It was **resolved** that Cllr Teresa Carberry would respond to the letter received Ysceifiog Community Council, and the Clerk would write to Flintshire County Council requesting an update with regards to 'Active Travel' in Mold.

18.55pm Two members of the public on zoom left the meeting

- (iii) The recent flooding in Mold was discussed. Cllr Carberry advised that Natural Resource Wales has just released it's 6-year plan. It was **resolved** that Councillor Carberry would respond to the email received.
- (iv) Noted

151. MOLD TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Cllr Teresa Carberry expressed her thanks to all those involved in preparing and collating the annual report, and to Cllr Haydn Jones for his work during his mayoral year along with his wife Liz.

Cllr Bithell thanks to our previous clerk Helen Belton and to Jane and Jo to collating the report. Would also like to express thanks to all the volunteers who contribute towards supporting all our Town Council events and activities.

The Annual report was **agreed** and it was **resolved** to officially post the annual report on the Town Council website.

152. HSBC BANK MANDATE

The Town Clerk requested the following:

- Access to all Mold Town Council bank accounts to enable bank transfers and payments.
- To agree on a two-signature ruling for changes going forward.
- To agree on the signatories going forward.
- To remove previous Town Councillors as signatories on the account.

It was **resolved** that all of the above requests are agreed and all councillors become signatories on the accounts.

153. FLINTSHIRE PLAY DEVELOPMENT SUMMER PLAYScheme

Concerns were raised regarding attendance figures at the Parkfields' Playscheme. It is believed that a separate scheme was running at the same time at Ysgol Bryn Gwalia which may have affected the Parkfields numbers. There was also concerns raised with regards to some of the incidences raised at the Gas Lane playscheme on the report. It was asked if the local policing team had been made aware of these incidences? It was also noted that Welsh Government are also currently looking at the timeframe for the school holidays and there is a possibility that they maybe shorted to 4 or 5 weeks.

It was **proposed** and **resolved** to complete the form provided to advise we agree in principle for both playschemes for a 3-week period for the 3-year period.

Action: Town Clerk to contact Ysgol Bryn Gwalia to find out more information regarding the SHEP Programme.

Action: Town Clerk to invite Darren Morris to the next Town Council Meeting.

154. AURA WALES – FIT, FED AND READ COMMUNITY PROJECT

There were a number of questions raised by Councillors with regards to this scheme including:

1. Did the sessions take place in Mold?
2. How many people attended?
3. Where did it take place?
4. More information on what takes place during the sessions.
5. Are the sessions open access?

Cllr Jones advised he attended a session as Mayor and he was impressed with the organisation of the activities and how well attended it was.

Concerns were raised with regards to whether this scheme would be in competition with the playschemes – do they operate at the same time?

It was **resolved** that further information is needed to before a decision can be made.

Action: Town Clerk to formally respond to request

155. ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

It was **proposed** and **resolved** to donate £200.

156. DANIEL OWEN FESTIVAL REPORT

Cllr Hill gave a brief outline of the events that took place. Cllr Taylor attended as many of the events as possible and highlighted the excellent report which was received in response to the financial support given by Mold Town Council. Cllr Taylor recommended that this information should be requested from all organisations that receive financial support from the Town Council. It was noted that a formal form should be developed to support with feedback.

It was **resolved** that Cllr Carberry write a formal letter of thanks to the Daniel Owen Festival Committee.

157. DANIEL OWEN COMMUNITY CENTRE TOILETS

Cllr Guest provided a brief update on the discussions that have taken place. The Daniel Owen Centre will be providing additional costings for extending the opening times for the toilets for use by the public and visitors.

It was **agreed** to defer this agenda item until costings have been received.

158. SECTION 137(4)(a) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

This item was **noted**.

20.00pm A member of the public was removed from zoom for disrupting the meeting.

159. FEEDBACK FROM THE INDEPENDENT MEMBERS' VISITS TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

This item was **noted**.

160. E01-23 2023/24 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES PAY AGREEMENT

Cllr Taylor clarified that the agreed payment for staff is pro-rata to hours worked.

This item was **noted**.

161. INDEPENDENT RENUMERATION PANEL FOR WALES

This item was **noted**.

162. 20MPH RESTRICTIONS

A discussion took place as to what had already been agreed at a previous Town Council Meeting. This information has been shared with Flintshire County Council who sent the consultation links as a response. They have requested that all consultees respond via the link.

Action: The Clerk will complete on behalf of Mold Town Council.

163. OFFICE STAFF CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

This item was **noted**

164. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

This item was **noted**

165. MEETINGS ATTENDED

No reports were received prior to the meeting.

166. ACCOUNTS/ PAYMENTS

Two questions were asked by Cllr Bithell – first relating to payments Flintshire County – advised these relate to Mold Town Hall, Cemetery Lodge and Bailey Hill Centre. Second question was regarding iData payments – two bills are received, one relates to the Town Hall and the Cemetery, the second relates to the Bailey Hill. iData provide our telephones and internet

Accounts **approved**.

167. VACANCIES

Cllr Taylor volunteered to join the Policy and Audit Committee.

168. RECOMMENDED SURVEYS AND COSTINGS FOR TOWN HALL

Cllr Taylor provided an overview with regards to this item.

This item was **noted**.

Meeting closed at 20.07pm

Mayor's signature: Date:

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MOLD TOWN COUNCIL'S
CODE OF CONDUCT**

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL		DATE: 29th November 2023
MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
Cllr S Taylor	14	157
Cllr T Carberry	14	157
Cllr J Edwards	14	157

WORD/MINUTES/MTC/MIN/JL231129