

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 24th November 2010.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Chris Bithell (Mayor), Tony Cattermoul, Carolyn Cattermoul, Geoff Collett, Ken Corbett, Geoff Darkins, Ray Dodd, Bryan Grew, Robin Guest, Carol Heycocks, Stephanie Hulley, Joyce Jones, Brian Lloyd, Andrea Mearns and Ken Williams with the Clerk and Finance Officer and Town Centre Manager.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Tim Maunders.

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

80. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised the Council of his many engagements since the last meeting.

The Mayor advised of his attendance the Daniel Owen Literary Festival event and thanked the Deputy Mayor for attending in his stead at the launch of the English translation of 'The Trials of Enoc Huws'. The Deputy Mayor advised that a presentation copy of the book had been given to the Town Council and it would be held at the Town Hall.

Reference was made to the 'Your Champions Awards Evening' held in Chester, the Annual Mold Swimming Club Gala, the Flower Club Christmas Evening and the Annual Dinner for the Llwynegrin Singers.

The Mayor advised of the opening of the Save the Family shop in the Town and the unveiling of the plaque highlighting Wat's Dyke. The Mayor referred to the Remembrance Day Service and thanked Members for their support.

The Mayor also gave advance notice of a charity concert he would be holding at St Mary's Parish Church on 12th March 2011 and hoped Members would be able to attend.

81. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20th October 2010 be received and approved;

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 10th November 2010 be received and noted.

82. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council 20th October 2010

82.1 Minute 71.1 Bailey Hill Cottage – The Clerk advised that there had been no response to the correspondence regarding the future responsibility for the Cottage.

83. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were considered, including one additional item:

83.1 The Council noted receipt of the Flintshire County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Report.

83.2 The Council noted receipt of the report from Flintshire County Council on the success of this year's Summer Playscheme.

83.3 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising of proposed arrangements to advise communities of winter gritting schedules and of the proposals for the provision of new salt bins in the County. Members were of the view that it would be appropriate for the County Council to remain as the contact for information on gritting schedules to ensure that the correct information was provided. Members also felt that the responsibility for the provision of new salt bins firmly lies with the Highways Authority and that the Town Council was not in a financial position to take on this responsibility. It was therefore, agreed to take no action in this matter and advise the County Council accordingly.

83.4 The Council considered the correspondence from Flintshire County Council and agreed to suggest 'Llys Binwydden' as the name for the development currently underway off Jasmine Crescent/Clayton Road.

Resolved: It was resolved that the action set out above be approved.

84. FLINTSHIRE'S HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELL BEING STRATEGY

The Council considered the document from the Flintshire County Council, Betsi Cadwaladr Local Health Board and other Partnership and agreed that a small group of Members should respond on behalf of the Council.

Resolved: It was resolved that a group comprising Councillors Carolyn Cattermoul, Geoff Collett, Geoff Darkins, Brian Lloyd and Ken Williams respond to the consultation on behalf of the Council.

85. LEISURE ACTION PLAN

The Council considered the previously circulated correspondence from the Director of Lifelong Learning seeking views on a number of aspects of leisure service provision within the County but agreed to make no comment.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the correspondence and make no comment.

86. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Town Centre Manager presented a verbal report to the Council and circulated a copy of the latest 'Town Centre Matters'.

The Town Centre Manager made reference to the last meeting of Mold 2000 when it was agreed to promote a festive shopping weekend to be held during 17th – 20th December. He also advised that Mold 2000 were currently looking at ways to resurrect the Mold Carnival.

The Council was advised it had been agreed that the former 'Choices' shop could again be used as a community window for a nativity scene and that the Churches group would be organising the window.

The Town Centre Manager advised that the Mold Town Partnership had been looking at funding issues and agreed that the Mold Spring Clean should again be held next year during the period 25th – 27th March. He advised that this year's event had been entered into the Keep Wales Tidy Awards competition and it was assumed winners would be announced shortly.

Reference was also made to the consultation events that had taken place on 21st and 23rd November and to the positive response from those who had attended. The events held in the Daniel Owen Square, Clwyd Theatr Cymru and Mold Rugby Club had proved to be very successful. The Town Centre Manager stressed that any other contributions to the debate on the aspirations prepared by the Town Partnership would be welcomed. All responses will, alongside the recent Sense of Place Study, help to shape the Mold Action Plan. Councillor Andrea Mearns advised that 320 questionnaires had been completed at the event in the Daniel Owen Square, many with good quality responses.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report be received.

87. REPORT OF THE BUDGET SUB-GROUP

The Council considered the previously circulated report advising on the detailed review of the Council's budget and showing proposed savings for the current financial year and also for future years. Members recalled that the reason for the review emanated from the County Council requiring the Town Council to pay rent and a proportion of the electricity, heating, water and repair costs for the use of the offices at the Town Hall.

The Council noted the recommendations of the Sub-Group and that those groups affected by any suggested changes in the budget had been made aware of the process. The Council also noted that the Sub-Group had considered reductions in grants to other bodies but had decided, at this stage, to make no recommendations for change. The Clerk highlighted that these decisions had been taken in the light of information received which meant that future grants for those bodies was uncertain and that final decisions on the contributions of the Town Council were, at this time, difficult to make. It was also noted that discussions had been held with North Wales Tourism who manage the Tourist Information Centre on behalf of the County and Town Councils with a view to obtaining the optimum level of service and value for any money spent. Further discussions are planned and reports will be made to the

Council in due course. Again, the Sub-Group had deferred any further consideration of this budget heading pending those discussions.

With regard to the costs involved in the running of the cemetery, the Council acknowledged the view of the Sub-Group which was that there is little scope for savings. It was recognised that, over the years, a service of which the Council could be proud had been developed and if that level of service were to be retained, the only opportunities for savings were those highlighted by the Sub-Group.

The Council supported the recommendations of the Budget Sub-Group showing savings in the current financial year of £10,775 and subsequently in future years of £13,300. It was noted that these savings will go some way towards meeting the costs involved in the rent and service charges for the Town Hall but also that they do not cover the full costs involved. It will therefore, be necessary to consider an increase in the precept or the requirement to take an amount from balances to meet this shortfall. The Council agreed that this matter will need further thought in January 2011 when the budget for 2011/12 is considered.

The Council accepted that this review is only the first part of an on-going process and accepted that further reports will be made in due course. It was also agreed that the Budget Sub-Group should continue to operate as a committee of the Council to both put together and then monitor the Council's budget.

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The recommendations within the report be approved as the basis for the Council's budget in this and subsequent years; and
- b) The Budget Sub-Group be formally recognised as a committee of the Town Council.

88. CLWYD PENSION FUND – FUNDING STRATEGY STATEMENT

The Council noted the report regarding the new Funding Strategy Statement prepared by Flintshire County Council for the Clwyd Pension Fund. It noted that the Statement sets out the basis on which the 2010 actuarial valuation has been prepared and the approach suggested for the next three years to recover the Fund's deficit.

The Clwyd Pension Fund, after consultation with the actuary, decided that there should be an increase in the maximum deficit recovery period to assist in the stabilisation of contribution rates for employers to more manageable levels. In addition, given that there may be uncertainty in the short to medium term, the Fund proposed to fix deficit recovery contributions as specific amounts rather than as a percentage of payroll alongside a percentage contribution (in the usual way) for the accrual cost of ongoing service benefits.

The effect for the Town Council, from April 2011, is a reduction in the percentage contribution from 18% to 16.2% plus a fixed contribution of £1,100. The Clerk advised that this means a small annual increase of approximately £155 based on the current staffing arrangements.

Resolved: It was resolved that to note the change and approve the Funding Strategy Statement.

89. NOTICES OF MOTION

89.1 On the proposal of the Mayor it was agreed that the Council should contact the local schools to ask them to nominate three pupils from the School Councils of each school to meet twice a year with a Sub Committee of three members of the Town Council to discuss any matters of interest or concern to young people in the Town. The Mayor's suggestion for a meeting with representatives of the primary schools and one with the representatives of the high schools (including St Richard Gwyn) was accepted.

Resolved: It was resolved that the above action be approved.

90. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

91. MEETINGS ATTENDED

91.1 Councillor Geoff Darkins advised of his attendance at the Alyn Works Liaison Committee when both companies had indicated little change in trading since last year. He also advised that the Parent Company provided grants to local organisations usually up to a maximum of £1500. Suggestions for grants need to be submitted by 30th November.

91.2 Councillor Geoff Collett advised of the meeting of the Cittaslow Space and Place Group when thought was given to the establishment of a 'trust' to manage Bailey Hill. He indicated that there had been support for such an approach and asked that anyone who wished to be involved to contact him. Councillor Collett also advised that the next project for the group would be the footpaths around the Town.

91.3 Councillor Andrea Mearns advised of her attendance at the Cittaslow market stall and at the Parkfields Management Committee special meeting when funding was discussed. Reference was also made to the community consultation events, mentioned previously by the Town Centre Manager. Councillor Mearns asked that Members pass the questionnaires on to members of their own groups with a deadline for return in January 2011.

91.4 Councillor Stephanie Hulley advised of her attendance at a meeting at Abbeyfield, Mold.

91.5 Councillor Carol Heycocks referred to her attendance at a meeting of the Daniel Owen Community Association Board. She advised that the discussions with the County Council about repairs to the public toilets were still on-going. Councillor Heycocks also referred to meetings with the Army and Air Cadets.

91.6 Councillor Bryan Grew advised that preparations were now underway for next year's Food and Drink Festival to be held on 24th / 25th September 2011.

91.7 Councillor Joyce Jones advised of her attendance at the Alyn Works Liaison Committee and the special meeting of the Parkfields Management Committee.

91.8 Councillor Brian Lloyd advised of his attendance at the Alyn Works Liaison Committee and the Cittaslow meeting about Bailey Hill.

91.9 Councillor Ken Corbett advised of his attendance at the Llwynegrin Singers Annual Dinner.

92. 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.

93. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved: It was resolved to exclude the public and the press from the remainder of the meeting in order to allow discussion on confidential matters.

94. CONFIDENTIAL REPORT – TOWN HALL

The Council considered the previously circulated report advising on the discussions regarding the County Council's requirement for the Town Council to pay rent and service charges for the use of the offices at the Town Hall.

The Council noted the details of the lease suggested by the County Council and that County Council officers had been made well aware of the financial difficulties the Town Council would face in trying to cover the suggested charges. The Council was advised that all the 'non County Council' occupiers of the Town Hall are in a similar situation to the Town Council in facing difficulties in covering the costs requested by the County Council. All users need to be able to budget for a specific amount.

It was agreed that the Council should pursue:

- a) The possible purchase of the Town Hall with further reports made to the Council as details are known;
- b) The offer, in the meantime, to pay the rent but with an incremental approach to achieving the full amount payable over a three-year period;
- c) A minimum term of a seven year lease;
- d) The offer to pay the cost of heat, lighting etc at the amount identified in the current year; and
- e) An offer to contribute towards an overall maintenance amount of £10,000 (to include 'repairs' and 'other' costs) with any excess amounts placed within a fund for works to be undertaken in future years.

Resolved: It was resolved that the report and action identified be approved.

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

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL	DATE: 24th November 2010
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
	None	

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