

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall, Mold on Wednesday 30th May 2012.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Geoff Collett (Mayor), Hadyn Bateman, Chris Bithell, Richard Brookes, Geoff Darkins, Ray Dodd, Bob Gaffey, Robin Guest, Carol Heycocks, Brian Lloyd, Geoff Matthias, Andrea Mearns, Anthony Parry, Phil Thomas and Gareth Williams with the Clerk and Finance Officer and Town Centre Manager.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Bryan Grew

13. NEW POLICE CHIEF INSPECTOR

The Mayor advised that Chief Inspector Dave Roome had expressed his apologies and advised that he would be unable to attend the meeting.

The Clerk advised that he had received an email from Inspector Andy Griffiths commenting on specific issues advised to him. The first issue was parking and Inspector Griffiths advised that PCSO Lyn Turner would, together with two trainee PCSOs, pay particular attention to this matter during the coming weeks. The second issue was the number of Community Beat Managers (CBM) dedicated to Mold. Inspector Griffiths advised that there were no longer CBMs dedicated to an area but that it would be possible to deploy any of the 10 CBMs in the South Flintshire area if it were required.

It was agreed to invite the Police to a further meeting of the Council.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

15. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised of his engagements since the Annual Meeting.

The Mayor advised that he had attended the official openings of the new JJ Pet Supplies store in Wrexham Street and the Well Being Centre in Chester Street. He also commented on the visit by the Welsh Government Minister, Lesley Griffiths, to the new Glanrafon Health Centre.

The Mayor referred to his attendance at a dinner to honour several Bangladeshi government officials and at the Annual General Meeting of the Flintshire Scouts.

Reference was also made to the Hope House fashion show held at Clwyd Theatr Cymru which the Mayor helped to host and to the service held at St Asaph Cathedral to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

16. MINUTES

Resolved: It was resolved that:

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th April 2012 be received and approved;
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Annual Meeting held on 16th May 2012 be received and approved subject to noting that the meeting was held at the Town Hall; and
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Audit Sub Committee held on 23rd May 2012 be received and approved.

17. MATTERS ARISING

Mold Town Council 25th April 2012

17.1 Minute 148.1 Bailey Hill Lodge – The Clerk advised that he had not received any draft heads of terms for Bailey Hill Lodge and it was agreed to pursue the matter with the County Council's Chief Executive.

17.2 Minute 148.3 Earl Road Parking Restrictions and Market Regulations – The Clerk advised that no formal response had been received from the Market Superintendent although he had verbally advised of his intention to act on the concerns of the Council. Members commented that parking problems persisted and agreed to ask the County Council for an update on the review of parking and the decriminalisation of parking for the September meeting of the Town Council. It was also agreed to raise the matter with the Police Inspector when he attends the Council. It was agreed that the Clerk and Town Centre Manager provide a briefing paper for Members prior to the September meeting.

Annual Meeting Mold Town Council 16th May 2012

17.3 Minute 8.1 Abbeyfield Society – The Clerk advised of the change to the management arrangements for the Abbeyfield House in Mold and that there was no further need for a representative of the Town Council on the Management Committee.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence, including three additional items, were considered:

18.1 The Council noted the information received from Neville Howell, the Council's representative on the Flintshire Local Access Forum, and agreed to send a letter of thanks to Neville for his input.

18.2 The Council considered the correspondence from One Voice Wales and approved attendance by Councillors Richard Brookes and Bryan Grew at the Annual General Meeting on 13th October 2012. It was also agreed to consider at the next

meeting of the Council on 27th June any suggestions, for a maximum of two motions, for debate at the AGM.

18.3 The Council considered the previously circulated correspondence from Welsh Water, received from David Hanson MP, and that from Flintshire County Council, relating to the flood alleviation scheme for Mold. Members expressed concern that there appeared to be contradictory comments between the correspondence and felt that it would be appropriate to ask David Hanson MP to convene a meeting of representatives from Welsh Water, Flintshire County Council and the Environment Agency Wales to pursue the matter and seek clarity on the progress of the scheme.

18.4 The Council noted the correspondence from Beryl Powell MBE advising of the 60th anniversary of the Mold Branch of the North West Cancer Research Fund.

18.5 The Council noted the correspondence from Karen Hodgkinson, Chair of the Bryn Gwalia Communities First Partnership Board, passing on the thanks of the Board to the Town Council for all its support and efforts to ensure the development of the wheeled play facility / skateboard park in the Town.

18.6 The Council noted the invitation to all Members to the formal opening of the Flower Festival at St Mary's Parish Church on 28th June. Members were asked to advise the Clerk if they wished to attend.

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

19. RESPONSES TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved: It was resolved to note the responses made.

20. AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council considered the recommendations from the meeting of the Audit Sub Committee held on 23rd May 2012 relating to the report of the Internal Auditor, the Annual Return and the Statement of Assurances. Members also confirmed that they had no current links with UHY Hacker Young, the company undertaking the external audit.

The Council noted the requirement for accounts to be audited each year following a review by an internal auditor. It was also noted the internal auditor had not raised any items of concern and that he had completed the appropriate part of the annual return confirming his acceptance of the Council's compliance with relevant procedures.

The Council considered and approved the draft annual return, supplemented by a schedule of assurances linked to financial and operational matters and known as the intermediate audit, to allow the external audit to proceed.

Resolved: It was resolved that the recommendations of the Audit Sub-Committee in relation to the report of the Internal Auditor and the draft annual return and statement of assurances be approved.

21. CONSULTATION PAPER – PROMOTING LOCAL DEMOCRACY

The Council considered the previously circulated Welsh Government's White Paper: Promoting Local Democracy.

Resolved: It was resolved that a group comprising the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Chris Bithell, Bob Gaffey, Andrea Mearns and Phil Thomas meet to prepare a response for consideration by the Council.

22. BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW

The Council considered the previously circulated report advising that the Boundary Commission will publish all of the responses received relating to the review of Parliamentary Constituencies and that there will be an opportunity to comment on the responses made by others.

Resolved: It was resolved that a group comprising the Mayor and Councillors Chris Bithell, Bob Gaffey, Bryan Grew, Brian Lloyd and Gareth Williams meet to consider the responses previously made to the Boundary Commission.

23. ACTION ON DERELICT SITES

The Council considered the previous resolution regarding the adoption of a proactive approach in identifying derelict sites around the Town and seeking the cooperation of their owners in either re-developing or tidying up the sites. It was agreed that the Council should appoint a small group of Members to pursue this matter further together with the Town Centre Manager and representatives of the County Council's 'Sites Assessment Team'.

Resolved: It was resolved that a group comprising the Mayor and Councillors Chris Bithell, Geoff Darkins, Andrea Mearns, Anthony Parry and Gareth Williams consider the matter further.

24. REPORT OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Town Centre Manager initially outlined the need for and the programme of gas mains replacement in the Town. He advised that work was due to commence on 11th June and with a phased plan of working the Town Centre Manager stressed the need to promote the Town's businesses during the period. A copy of the 'Town Centre Matters' newsletter was circulated detailing the programme of works and the contact numbers for Wales and West Utilities.

The Town Centre Manager then circulated a report to the Council detailing progress with the 'Shop Local' scheme.

The Town Council has agreed to act as "host" organisation for funding secured from Flintshire County Council Regeneration Department for the project and a company called 'All the Little Shops' (ALTS) was selected to introduce the shop local scheme. A significant level of introductory work has been completed.

Funding was secured to cover the introduction costs and to provide a subsidy for scheme members for up to two years. Of the agreed funding of £15,000, some £10,500 has been drawn down and £3,500 paid to ATLS as an initial fee to cover introductory costs. There remains £7,000 in Town Council accounts to cover the second phase, which is payable once 20+ scheme members were involved. The final £4,500 is still available to be claimed from Flintshire, once further agreed milestones for the scheme have been reached.

A new co-ordinator has now been identified and already started work on a voluntary basis in the actual introduction. ATLS has exhausted the funding already received and prior to any further steps being taken, not only to pay for the services of the co-ordinator, but also for desirable upgrades to the ATLS Mold website, a further £2,000 now needs to be paid to ATLS from the £7000.00 currently held. The Council agreed that this payment should be made.

The Town Centre Manager advised that the terms of reference and development proposals for the Mold Town Partnership would be considered by the Town Council in the near future.

Reference was made to the preparations for the 'Mold Celebrates' event on 5th June and the need for volunteers was reiterated.

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report and approve the actions detailed above.

25. CLERK AND FINANCE OFFICER

The Council noted that the Clerk had given notice of his intention to retire from his post at the end of September 2012.

Resolved: It was resolved to that an Appointments Panel, comprising the Personnel Committee and Councillors Chris Bithell, Bob Gaffey, Andrea Mearns, Anthony Parry and Phil Thomas, be given authority to agree the arrangements for the advertising of and interviewing for the post and to make an appointment.

26. NOTICES OF MOTION

26.1 The Council considered the proposal from Councillor Carol Heycocks and agreed to ask Flintshire County Council to provide additional litter bins, recycling bins and cigarette stub containers near to the wheeled play facility in the Maes Bodlonfa recreation ground.

26.2 The Council considered the proposal from Councillor Carol Heycocks regarding the banning of dogs from the Maes Bodlonfa recreation ground (not Kendrick's Field). It was noted that Flintshire County Council has the ability to take measures against inconsiderate dog owners and that for any banning order to be effective, additional fencing around the recreation ground would be required. It was agreed to ask Flintshire County Council to ban dogs from the area, provide additional fencing to secure the area and enforce the available regulations regarding fouling.

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

27. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS

Resolved: It was resolved to note the report.

28. MEETINGS ATTENDED

28.1 Councillor Robin Guest advised of his attendance at the meeting held to discuss the programme of gas mains replacements. He also advised that he had attended, in the absence of the Mayor, the Jubilee themed Celyn Farmers' Market.

28.2 Councillor Carol Heycocks advised of her attendance at a meeting of the Air Cadets.

28.3 Councillor Andrea Mearns advised of her attendance at a meeting of the Bryn Gwalia School Eco Committee and the Communities First Partnership Board. She advised major changes were planned for the structure of the Communities First Projects and that redundancies were likely.

Councillor Mearns advised of her attendance at the recent meeting of the Mold Town Partnership and at the opening of the Well Being Centre.

28.4 Councillor Bob Gaffey advised of his attendance at the recent Y Ffin at Ysgol Glanrafon and at the meeting held to discuss the programme of gas mains replacements.

28.5 Councillor Brian Lloyd advised of his attendance at the meeting held to discuss the programme of gas mains replacements and at a meeting of the Club House Committee

28.6 Councillor Anthony Parry advised of his attendance at the meeting held to discuss the programme of gas mains replacements and at a meeting of the Mold Celebrates Jubilee Committee.

29. 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.

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

MOLD TOWN COUNCIL	DATE: 30th May 2012
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MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO. REFERS
None		

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