

HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFFYNNON

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Holywell Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Bank Place Offices, Holywell on Tuesday 21 March 2006.

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PRESENT: Councillor G.I. Lloyd (Mayor).  
Councillors S.R. Baker, Mrs. R. Dolphin, Mrs. E. Humphreys, J. Griffiths, D.W. Jones, B.P. Lambert, H.G. Roberts, D.R. Wilkes, A.D. Williams and P.A. York,.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors P.J. Curtis, Mrs. K. Davies, J. Neen, E.B. Palmer and R.A. Roberts.

IN ATTENDANCE: J.A. Jones (Clerk), M. Roberts (Town Centre Manager).

125. POLICE

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Terry Renshaw, Member of the North Wales Police Authority who thanked the Council for allowing him to discuss police restructuring in Wales and England. Councillor Renshaw advised that the Home Secretary proposed to reduce the forty four current police authorities to thirteen or fourteen, which included amalgamating the current Welsh Police Authority to one all Wales authority. He advised Members of the O'Connor report 'Closing the Gap' which had resulted in the amalgamation proposals which were aimed at reducing organised crime and terrorism, which Councillor Renshaw added were not a problem in North Wales.

He indicated the North Wales Police Authority had written to the Home Secretary asking questions regarding costing, governance etc but has not yet received a reply despite sending a reminder but have since received a letter saying that they will merge with the other Welsh Authorities. He advised that the consultation period would cease on 2 July 2006 and that the Home Secretary then had to seek permission to merge from the House of Commons and House of Lords. Councillor Renshaw was convinced that there would be even less funding in North Wales than there is now and in terms of performance the North Wales Police Authority is one of the best in Wales and England.

He requested the Town Council to support the North Wales Police Authority and read out a resolution made by Flint Town Council, which had also been adopted by other Town Councils in North Wales.

Members asked Councillor Renshaw several questions and expressed their support for the North Wales Police Authority and were generally concerned regarding the implications of merging into an all-Wales Authority.

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of respect for the Welsh language from the South Wales Police Authority whereas North Wales was one of the best. Councillor Renshaw agreed with these sentiments.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Renshaw for attending the meeting and for his informative address.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That Holywell Town Council asks the Home Office to re-examine its proposals to merge the North Wales Police force into an all-Wales Police Force in order to address the issue of Protective Services.

The document “Closing the Gap” which lends its weight to Force restructuring has been brought into question by several professional bodies and this should be reason alone to re-examine what you are proposing.

North Wales Police and the Authority responded to the Government document “Building Safer Communities” and arguably has the best neighbourhood policing in England and Wales with neighbourhood policing panels up and running in every community and we are sure that given the opportunity and funding they would respond just as positively to closing the gap and addressing the identified problem of level 2 criminality and counter terrorism.

This Council and the public we represent support the North Wales Police Authority with its resistance to a forced merger with other Welsh Police Forces as we sincerely believe it would not be in the interest of the public and the businesses that we serve.

We urge you in the Home Office to slow down with the undue haste for restructuring and enter into a meaningful consultation with all the Partners involved in crime and disorder and help establish a Police Service fit for purpose in twenty first century policing.

- 2) That copies of the letter be sent to David Hanson MP, Sandy Mewies AM and the North Wales Police Authority.

126. MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor reported that he had attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ysceifiog, Nannerch and Lixwm British Legion.

He advised Members that his Charity Concert would now be held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at Holywell Parish Church would appreciate any help with the sale of tickets.

127. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 21 February 2006 be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment.

- (1) Councillor D.R. Wilkes declared an interest in planning application No. 040851 and left the room during the discussion.
- (2) Councillor D.R. Wilkes declared an interest in planning application No. 040787.

128. PLANNING MATTERS

128.1 Planning Applications

040770 Demolition of existing public house and erection of 8 No. apartments with associated road junction improvements – Calcot Arms, Milwr, Holywell

**Objection on the grounds of over development, unsuitable design, highway danger, insufficient car parking provision and unacceptable impact on neighbouring properties. Additionally, the public house, which was considered a local service, had not been advertised for sale in accordance with planning policy.**

040852 Erection of a two storey extension to side – 1 St. Edmunds Terrace, Bryn Celyn, Holywell

**Objection to this application as the proposed extension appears to be substantially over the 50% guideline referred to in planning policy.**

040967 Placing of a container for toy and apparatus storage – St. Winefride’s Primary School, Whitford Street, Holywell

**Supported.**

**NB Councillor J. Griffiths declared an interest in application No. 040967 and left the room during the discussion on this item.**

041049 Provision of sole vehicular access – land at Greenhill Farm, Bryn Celyn, Holywell

**Deferred to April meeting.**

041050 Change of use from A1 shop to use as Multi-Agency Support Centre (including Information Shop for Young People) – 79 High Street, Holywell

**No objections but express concern regarding the loss of retail space and request provision, if given, to be subject to the premises be reverted to retail should the proposed usage come to an end.**

040978 Erection of a tourist information signage board – Greenfield Valley Heritage Park, Greenfield Road, Greenfield.

**Supported.**

## 128.2 Planning Applications – Site Visits

Members received correspondence from the County Secretary, Flintshire County Council, advising of the protocol relating to conduct at Planning and Development Control Committee Site Visits.

## 129. ACCOUNTS

### 129.1. Accounts for Payment

#### RESOLVED:

That the following accounts be passed for payment:-

<u>Voucher</u>	£
3692 Flintshire Tourism Association - Annual Subscription	50.00*^
3693 Viking Direct – Stationery and Equipment	252.13^

3694	Mrs. M. Edwards – Wages to 18/02/06	220.46***
3695	PC World – Printer	49.99^
3696	Cllr Mrs. K. Davies - Travel Subsistence and Attendance	199.49*
3697	British Gas Trading Ltd – Gas - Council Offices	741.23****
3698	Impact Communications - Town Centre Management	1,300.00**
3699	J.A. Jones – Salary – March	982.66***
3700	Inland Revenue – PAYE/Nat. Ins. - March	617.61***
3701	Mrs. M. Reed – Secretarial Expenses – March	39.00***
3702	North Wales Newspapers Ltd - Advert for French Market	117.50^^
3703	Trinity Mirror North West and North West Ltd – Advert	154.38^^
3704	Refurbit Computers Ltd – Website	293.75****
3705	Impact Communications – Holywell Business News	500.00**
3706	Delyn Press – French Market Posters	65.00^^
3707	Public Works Loans Account – Loan Payment	2,607.70**^^
3708	ScottishPower – Electricity – Council Offices	<u>396.83****</u>
		8,587.73

Powers to make payments:-

- \* The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members of  
Community Councils)(Wales) Regulations 2003
- \*\* Local Government Act 1972 S.137
- \*\*\* Local Government Act 1972 S.112, 151
- \*\*\*\* Local Government Act 1972 S.133
- ^ Local Government Act 1972 S.111
- ^^ Local Government Act 1972 S.144, 145
- ^^^ Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act  
1976 S.19
- ^^^^ Local Government Act 1972 S.143, 111
- \*^ Local Government Act 1972 S.140, 111
- \*\*^ Local Government Act 1972 S.176
- \*\*^^ Local Government Act 1972 S.13
- \*^^^ Local Government Act 1972 S.144, 145
- \*^^\* Local Government Act 1972 S.34
- \*\*^^\* Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953
- ^^\*\* Local Government Act 1972 S174
- ^^^\* Local Government & Rating Act 1972 S.30
- ^^\*^ Local Government & Rating Act 1972 S.31

129.2. Income Received

Members received a schedule of income circulated with the agenda.

130. TOWN CENTRE MANAGER'S REPORT – FEBRUARY

Members received the Town Centre Manager's report for February, circulated with the agenda and the Town Centre Manager responded to Members' queries regarding the recent French Market, Graffiti Busters, WDA Funding, Book Town status, refuse dumping in the High Street etc.

131. THE STANDARDS COMMITTEES (WALES)(AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2006

Members received the draft Statutory Instrument "Standards Committees (Wales)(Amendment) Regulations 2006 which had been proposed following consultation. Concern was expressed that the notice given for responding to the document was inadequate.

132. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NORTH WALES REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Members were advised that the next meeting of the National Assembly North Wales Regional Committee would be held at Neuadd Goffa Criccieth Memorial Hall, Criccieth on Friday 24 March 2006 at 10am.

133. REVIEW OF PRINCIPAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY AREAS – COMMUNITY BOUNDARY ANOMALIES

Members received correspondence from the Chief Executive, Flintshire County Council advising of the approach to be taken by the County Council in relation to this issue following responses to the review carried out in August 2005.

134. HOLYWELL COMMUNITIES FIRST PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Members considered a letter from the Chairman of the Communities First – Holywell Partnership Board suggesting that the current bi-monthly meetings now become a quarterly agenda item at the monthly Town Council Meeting.

The Clerk reminded Members of the current meeting arrangements at which the Town Council were represented by one member from each ward i.e. Councillors P.J. Curtis, Mrs. K. Davies, D.R. Wilkes and P.A. York.

Members reiterated their support for Communities First in general but expressed concern regarding its operation within Flintshire. They were of the view that the Town Council would not benefit from this suggested change in arrangements and spending an extra hour or so on Council meetings would not

improve matters. There were conflicting views on the work done by Communities First in Greenfield. Reference was made to the set up etc. of the Partnership Board although there was now talk of a properly constituted board.

There was considerable discussion on this issue but Members were generally disappointed with Communities First in Holywell.

RESOLVED:

That the Communities First Partnership Board be informed that the Town Council would prefer that the current bi-monthly meetings with Communities First be held on a quarterly basis rather than as an agenda item at the monthly Town Council meeting.

135. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members considered an application for financial assistance from St. Winefride's Catholic Primary School towards reassessment fees for Investors in People. They were concerned that in the past it had been agreed that applications from schools would be considered for particular projects and this would set a precedent and could lead to similar applications. Whilst congratulating the school on their achievements Members considered that they should continue to contribute towards specific projects rather than other issues.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk write to the Headteacher congratulating all concerned on their success and advising him that the Council were unable to assist on this occasion as they prefer to contribute towards specific projects.

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Mayor