

HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFFYNNON

Minutes of the meeting of Holywell Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Bank Place Offices, Holywell on Tuesday 18 January 2011 at 6.30pm.

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PRESENT: Councillor P.J. Curtis (Mayor).

Councillors: S.R. Baker, Mrs. R. Dolphin, J. Griffiths, J.M. Johnson, M. Mills, H.G. Roberts, R. Spain, L. Thorley and P.A. York.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors Mrs. K. Davies, Mrs. M. Jabbitt, B.P. Lambert, E.B. Palmer, K. Roberts, B. Scragg and Mrs. S.E. Wallbanks.

IN ATTENDANCE: D.C. Pierce (Clerk), and M. Roberts (Town Centre Manager) for minutes 124 to 135.

124. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – MEMBERS’ CODE OF CONDUCT

None received.

125. CONDOLENCES

Members were saddened to receive the news that Mr. Joe Scragg, brother of Councillors B. Scragg and Mrs. S.E. Wallbanks, had passed away. The Clerk was asked to convey the Council’s deepest sympathies to Councillors Scragg and Mrs. Wallbanks in their bereavement.

126. DRAFT FLINTSHIRE PLAY STRATEGY 2010-2014 – CONSULTATION

The Mayor welcomed to the meeting Mr. Alan Roberts, Head of Play Unit, Flintshire County Council. Mr. Roberts said that the County Council was pursuing consultations with everyone interested in helping shape the future of play opportunities across the County. The aim of the draft strategy, which updated the existing strategy having regard to the new Children and Families (Wales) Measure, was to increase the number of children and young people having regular access to play opportunities within their communities. It set out the County Council’s priorities such as availability of play areas and the quality of play provision in the County, as well as managing risk and parental concern. He encouraged Members to read the document and to take part in the consultation collectively and/or individually.

Mr. Roberts read out various sections from the document to supplement the above information, adding that the Town Council could influence future play provision, for example by drawing attention to its importance when considering relevant planning proposals.

During the question and answer session that followed, Mr. Roberts referred to the match funding scheme agreed between the County and the Town Council whereby upgrading works were planned for the Clwyd Avenue play area (Greenfield Ward) in 2011/12. There was a possibility that the scheme could also be operated in 2012/13. He was pleased to report that grant funding had enabled a number of posts to be created in collaboration with Denbighshire and Wrexham County Councils to help improve play provision and development including the Summer Playscheme Programme. He stressed the importance of not being complacent about play equipment designated in the 'green' and 'amber' categories of the Condition Report. Ideally, a suitable rolling programme should be in place for each play area.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Roberts for an informative and helpful presentation.

127. MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor reported that his visit to the Holywell Community Hospital on Christmas morning to see the patients had been a most enjoyable and rewarding experience. The work carried out for the patients by John and Jean Saunders of the Good Companions of the Hospital was excellent. For information he also reported that the closure of the public toilets (Somerfield Car Park) was as a result of the major burst. The work was due to start soon and the County Council was arranging for a notice to be displayed on site to inform the public of the repair arrangements.

In closing, the Mayor reminded Members of certain Arts Fest events planned for the Holywell Art and Crafts Mill, including the presentation of Flintshire's Holocaust Memorial Exhibition from 27-29 January 2011, details of which were circulated at the meeting.

128. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the following meeting be approved and signed as a correct record by the Mayor:

Council Meeting held on 21 December 2010.

129. PLANNING

129.1. Planning Applications

Consideration was given to applications forwarded to the Town Council as part of the County's planning consultation process.

RESOLVED:

That the following responses be submitted to the Flintshire County Planning Authority.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
047926	Outline – construction of 15 No. 2/3 bedroom two-storey mews houses with all matters reserved – land to the rear Bodowen Surgery, Halkyn Road, Holywell for Flintshire County Council.

**Further deferral to the Town Council's February meeting to enable completion of the ongoing enquiries into the reported military history of the site, access and drainage issues and for an amended plan to be submitted to show the extent of the County Council's land at this site.**

048187	Installation of security measures to improve existing security to rooftop mounted equipment and prevent access onto low level roof at rear of property – HSBC, 17 High Street, Holywell: for HSBC Bank plc.
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**No objection provided that the proposal meets Conservation area requirements.**

048188	Listed Building Application – Installation of security measures to improve existing security to rooftop mounted equipment and prevent access onto low level roof at rear of property – HSBC, 17 High Street, Holywell: for HSBC Bank plc.
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**No objection provided that the proposal meets Listed Building requirements.**

(Note: Councillor H.G. Roberts did not vote on the above three applications).

129.2. Planning Protocols – Involvement of the Town Council

Consideration was given to the reply from the County’s Head of Planning to the Town Council’s earlier representations about certain inadequacies in the County’s planning consultation procedures and explaining what had been done/was proposed to improve the arrangements.

There would continue to be opportunities to raise relevant issues at meetings of the Planning User Group for Town and Community Councils.

The Deputy Mayor referred to the County Forum which was another way in which planning items could be discussed. He asked the Clerk if he could please confirm the date of the next Forum meeting and let him know.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

130. ACCOUNTS

130.1. Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED:

That payment of the following accounts be approved, the necessary audit checks having been undertaken in accordance with the requirement of the Audit Sub-Committee.

<u>Voucher</u>	£
4724 Impact Communications – Holywell Business News – Winter 2010/11	500.00^^
4725 Zurich Municipal Insurance – Christmas Lights	157.50^^
4726 G.B. Stones Ltd – Annual Town Christmas Works	164.50^^
4727 LITE – Christmas Lights	15,240.93^^
4728 LITE – Installation/removal/ storage of Christmas Lights	23,754.98^^
4729 British Telecom – One Bill Plus 15/12/10	92.64****
4730 UHY Hacker Young – External	

	Audit Fee – 2009/10	646.25^
4731	Viking Direct – Photocopying Paper/Stationery	90.15****
4732	Impact Communications – Town Centre Management – December	1300.00**
4733	D.C. Pierce – Salary – January	977.28***
4734	Mrs. M. Reed – Secretarial Expenses January	40.00***
4735	Mrs. M. Edwards – Office Cleaner – Wages to 8/1/11	225.60***
4736	HMRC (Inland Revenue) PAYE/ National Insurance – January	509.99***
		<u>43,699.82</u>

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
- \*^ Local Government Act 1972 S.140
- \*\*^ Local Government Act 1972 S.176
- \*\*^^ Local Government Act 1972 S.13
- \*^^\* Local Government Act 1972 S.34
- \*\*^\* Local Government (Misc. Provisions) Act 1953
- ^^\*\* Local Government Act 1972 S.174
- ^^^\* Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 S.4
- < Local Government Act 1972 S.124
- # Local Government Act 1972 S.142
- ## Representation of the People Act 1983 S.34

130.2. Income Received

Members received the schedule of income, circulated with the agenda, regarding income between 1 and 31 December 2010.

131. TOWN CENTRE MANAGER'S REPORT – DECEMBER

Members were presented with the Town Centre Manager's report for December. The report gave an overview of developments and his work since the last meeting.

It was noted that the winner of the Best Decorated Christmas Shop Window Competition for the third year in succession, had been the Hughes Parry Partnership Property shop. Runners-up were Rowlands Fruit and Veg and the St. Kentigern Hospice shop.

The Winter edition 2010/11 of the Holywell Business News had been prepared and circulated in accordance with the usual arrangements.

In response to a question from a Member, the Town Centre Manager explained the problem and the solution suggested to Flintshire County Council after reports of vandalism at the Memorial Gardens/Fron Park.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Centre Manager's report be received with thanks.

132. FLINTSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN – CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to responding to this consultation which followed the requirements of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) for all counties in Wales to develop a Children and Young People's Plan (CYYP). This plan would become the document explaining and detailing how Flintshire CYYP would work with and for children, young people and families.

A Member referred to the Core Aims and the Broad Aims which were adopted from the WAG's Children and Young People : Rights to Action and the Child Poverty Strategy for Wales (2010) in particular the following:

“Core Aim 6

All children and young people have access to a safe home and community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing.

Broad Aim

To ensure that all children grow up in decent housing. To ensure that all children grow up in safe and cohesive communities.”

The Member believed that these principles were key to the Plan’s success.

It was suggested that in addition to the issues raised at the meeting, Members forward any comments to the Clerk by 31 January 2011.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk respond to the consultation on behalf of the Council, taking account of the comments made and that a copy be circulated to Members with their agenda for the Council’s February meeting, for information.

133. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY SUMMER PLAYScheme PROGRAMME, 2011 – MONDAY 25 JULY TO FRIDAY 26 AUGUST

Consideration was given to the letter from the County’s Head of Leisure Services in respect of the proposed local Playscheme Programme this year at an estimated cost of £4130.54 (2010 cost was £4215.50).

Details of the proposed site locations, staffing levels and times of operation during the 5 week local scheme were also noted.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council supports the Scheme again in 2011 and agrees to participate at the estimated cost of £4130.54.

134. FUNDING/PROVISION OF LIGHTS FOR THE SPORTS/PLAY AREA IN THE HOLWAY, HOLYWELL

A letter from the Chairman of the Holway Tenants and Residents Association regarding the above matter was considered.

More financial information etc had been requested from the Chairman and his letter had also been referred to the County’s Head of Leisure Services for attention and reply.

RESOLVED:

That further consideration of this request be deferred pending receipt of more information.

135. SOMERFIELD/CO-OP STORE, HOLYWELL

Members noted with concern and disappointment the announcement that the above-mentioned store was to close on 5 February 2011. It was understood that the closure was due to the store's poor performance and was not a reflection of the commitment and hard work of the store's team.

The Town Centre Manager reported that he was not aware of any interest expressed in the store since the announcement but he was hopeful and would keep the Council updated of any developments.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

(Note: Mr. M. Roberts left the meeting at this point).

136. FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT ACT 2010

This item had been placed on the agenda for consideration at the request of Councillor P.A. York. The above Act was understood to introduce new statutory responsibilities on Flintshire County Council (and other Unitary Authorities in Wales) for managing flood risk.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council be requested to provide an update on the implementation arrangements for the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and its implications for the County, the Holywell community in particular.

137. TRAINING FOR COUNCILLORS

RESOLVED:

That the details of the forthcoming courses from One Voice Wales and circulated with the agenda be received.

138. CLWYD AND GWYNEDD BRANCH CONFERENCE – SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be authorised to attend the Conference at Venue Cymru, Llandudno on 18 March 2011 and that payment of his delegate's fee of £40 be approved.

139. VAT CHARGE – 3 WELL STREET GARAGES, HOLYWELL

RESOLVED:

That the letter from the County's Neighbourhood Housing Manager (East) notifying the Town Council of the effect of the change in VAT rate from 17.5% to 20% in the weekly rent of the garage (new amount £4.37) from 3 January 2011 be noted.

140. DATE OF FINANCE (BUDGET) COMMITTEE

The Clerk reported that the Council's Finance Committee would be held on 1 February 2011 at 6.30pm.

RESOLVED:

That the arrangements be noted.

141. REPORT(S) ETC. RECEIVED

Members were informed that the following item(s) had been received and unless otherwise circulated\*, were available for perusal from the Clerk.

- (a) Draft County Council Fund Revenue Budget 2011/12;
- (b) Holywell Town Council's response to the Consultation – Good Health, Good Care in Flintshire 2011-2014\*;
- (c) North Wales Association of Town & Larger Community Councils – Agenda for meeting on 28 January 2011;
- (d) Halkyn Mountain Joint Consultative Board – Agenda for meeting 18 January 2011 and Minutes of Meeting 5 October 2010;
- (e) Play for Wales (Play news and briefing from the national charity for play).

142. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

None received.

143. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Mayor closed the meeting at 7.50 pm.

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Mayor