

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 19 October 2010 at 6.30pm.

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

Councillors: S.R. Baker, Mrs. K. Davies, Mrs. R. Dolphin, J. Griffiths, Mrs. M. Jabbitt, J.M. Johnson, M. Mills, E.B. Palmer, K. Roberts, B. Scragg, R. Spain and P.A. York.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors B.P. Lambert, H.G. Roberts, L. Thorley and Mrs. S.E. Wallbanks.

IN ATTENDANCE: D.C. Pierce (Clerk), and M. Roberts (Town Centre Manager) for minutes 77 to 84.

MEDAL OF HONOUR – FAMILY OF GUARDSMAN DAVID ROBERTS

Prior to the start of the meeting and with the agreement of the Mayor, Mr. Bryn Roberts was in attendance on behalf of his father, Mr. Tom Roberts of the Holway, Holywell to show Councillors the Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scrolls recently received. These were in recognition of the loss of his elder brother, Private David Roberts of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Welsh Guards, killed in action whilst on his tour of duty in Northern Ireland in November 1973.

Mr. Roberts explained that the Queen honoured the families of Britain's war dead with this new award in her name. He thanked the Council, in particular Councillor J. Griffiths, for the help received to obtain a replacement for the damaged headstone of Private Roberts (reported at the Council meeting on 21 September 2010) and subsequently the Elizabeth Cross award.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Roberts for giving the Council the opportunity to see the Award and Scrolls and, on behalf of the Council, extended very best wishes to his father on the occasion of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday later that week.

77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

None received.

78. DEVELOPING CHILDREN'S PLAY : WHEELED SPORTS FACILITY IN HOLYWELL

The Council received a presentation from Kate Inskip (Holywell Communities First) and Alex Gray (Wheeled Sports Development Officer – Flintshire County Council). A copy of the 2004 document “A Strategy for Wheeled Play in Flintshire” together with an Information Sheet covering the main points of the presentation were circulated to Members.

Reference was made to the slow but steady progress made over the past seven years to establish a skate park in Holywell. More recently, a parcel of County Council land (the practice bowling green area at Fron Park) was under consideration as a possible site and the Holywell Skate and Bike Club (SBC) had been formed. Work was ongoing for the group to become formally constituted to enable it to apply for funding and approach official bodies. A visit to Denbigh Skate Park had been arranged during the October half-term (Monday 25<sup>th</sup>). This was a relatively new facility which was situated in a similar setting to that proposed in Holywell. An invitation was extended to Members of the Council to join the visit.

In closing, the presenters indicated that SBC's aims were to:

- Obtain the agreement of Flintshire County Council to the proposal and obtain planning approval thereafter;
- Enlist the support of local organisations, businesses, groups and services;
- Secure funding;
- Establish a fully utilised wheeled play provision for daily use by local young people and surrounding areas and for competitions etc.

During the question and answer session which followed, Members were very pleased to hear that the idea which had been put forward by the Town Council several years ago for a skate park on the practice green at Fron Park was now being progressed. It was hoped that there would be full support at all levels to ensure that the proposal became a reality at the earliest possible date to encourage recreation and play for young people (in line with the Welsh Assembly Government's Child Poverty Priority) to create a safe environment for young people to enjoy an activity which promotes pro-social behaviour.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Kate Inskip and Alex Gray be thanked for their informative presentation.

- (2) That Flintshire County Council be informed of the Town Council's unanimous support for the Holywell Skate and Bike Club in its endeavours to establish a skate park in Holywell, if possible on the practice bowling green area at Fron Park.

79. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Although not scheduled until the Town Council's November meeting, the Mayor agreed to a short question and answer session with officers from the County Council's Planning Enforcement Section who were in attendance at the meeting.

The officers hoped that improved resources would help them to address some of the outstanding planning control issues in respect of the town centre. More information should be available for inclusion in the proposed presentation next month. In the meantime, any reports for the attention of the enforcement team should be channelled through the Clerk.

80. MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor reported that he had attended a most enjoyable evening at the Annual Dinner of the 2480 (Holywell) Squadron ATC on 24 September. The Civic Sunday Service of the Chairman of Leeswood Community Council followed on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

On 1 October he had attended the opening by David Hanson MP and Sandy Mewies AM of the Carmel & Holywell Woodcraft Association's Arts & Craft Exhibition in the newly renovated Textile Mill adjacent to the Holy Well. The wide variety of exhibits were of a very high standard and reflected the many skills and talents of members of the Association. On the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup>, St. Peter's Church had been the venue for an Autumn concert staged by the Holywell Band, with guest singers 'Mountain Harmony' (North Wales Premier Ladies Barbershop Chorus). The Mayor recorded his special thanks to the Manager of Lidl for raising the gate barriers at the store's car park to assist with overflow parking for concert-goers.

The Mayor informed Members of the forthcoming Remembrance Sunday Services as follows – St James Parish Church, Holywell (Mayor attending) and Holy Trinity Church, Greenfield (Deputy Mayor attending) on Sunday 14 November at 10.45am, followed by the laying of wreaths at the respective War Memorials.

In closing, the Mayor circulated the framed Certificate collected by the Chairman of the Council's Wales in Bloom Sub-Committee for Holywell's

joint-win (with Mold) in the County's Environmental Competition. The sum of £125 prize money had also been credited to the Council's account.

The Deputy Mayor reported on his attendance, on behalf of the Mayor, at a meeting of the County's Planning & Development and Control Committee on 6 October to speak on planning application No. 047822 to which the Town Council had objected. The application was later refused by the Committee. The Deputy Mayor had expressed his concerns direct to the County Council afterwards about some of the procedural aspects of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Clerk send appropriate letters of appreciation/thanks to:
  - (i) Chairman, Carmel & Holywell Woodcraft Association;
  - (ii) Manager, Lidl, Holywell;
  - (iii) Secretaries of Holywell Band, and Mountain Harmony.
- (2) That a copy of the presentation Certificates relating to Holywell's Wales in Bloom and County Environmental successes be displayed in the Library, and on the town's public notice board(s) as space permits.

81. 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 September 2010.

82. PLANNING

82.1. 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>
047891	<p>Substitution of house type at plots 32-34 The Ridgeway, Holywell: for Anwyl Construction Co. Ltd.</p> <p><b>Further deferral to the Town Council’s November meeting pending clarification on the nature of the proposal. Mayor and Clerk to respond on behalf of the Council if a decision is required in the meantime.</b></p>
047935	<p>Change of use from A1 (Retail) to A2 (Betting Shop) – 32A High Street, Holywell: for Maray Properties</p> <p><b>Objection. The Town Council considers that the proposal is contrary to the County’s planning policies, and comments as follows having regard to a number of issues and concerns:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The town centre already has 2 betting shops (one operational, and another preparing to open with prior planning consent) within about 15-20 metres of the site of the current application. The approval of an additional betting establishment will add to this intensity and have a detrimental effect on the character and appearance of the area. The moral implications of the proposal are also of particular concern.</b></li><li>• <b>It is submitted that the town needs more diversity rather than a duplication of the type of business referred to in the application. The loss of any more properties classed as ‘retail outlets’ will further erode the retail shopping offer of the town centre, to the detriment of the town centre and its attractiveness as a place to shop.</b></li><li>• <b>The property is situated in the core retail area and the limit on the number of non-retail units permitted within a specified area as well the policy relating to adjacent shop frontages could be compromised.</b></li><li>• <b>The Town Council believes that the property should have been actively and widely marketed for sale/lease for retail use at a realistic level for at least 12 months prior to an application being made for a change of use of the type requested. This would enable the proposed arrangements to be assessed against other like properties in a similar condition locally and with local economic factors. There is no evidence before the Town Council to suggest that the appropriate marketing exercise has been undertaken and, if so, to the validity of that information. The Town Council trusts that the applicant will be required to provide full</b></li></ul>

**details prior to the application being considered and that it will also be possible for a site meeting to be held to enable the full impact of the proposal to be assessed.**

**The Town Council requests that, to enable the relevant matters to be fully discussed, favourable consideration be given to the application being referred to the County Council's Planning and Development Control Committee for determination.**

**The Town Council wishes to register its request to be represented at any site meeting arranged and at the Planning & Development Control Committee if that course of action is followed.**

047963            First floor extension to form an enlarged bedroom and ground floor conservatory to the rear – 7 Tan y Felin, Greenfield, Holywell: for Mrs. C. Watchorn.

**No objection.**

047982            Erection of hay store – Brynford Hall Farm, Brynford, Holywell: for Mr. D. Pierce (Note: Application No. 047903, reported at the Council meeting on 21 September 2010, had been withdrawn).

**No objection.**

## 82.2. Planning Protocols – Involvement of the Town Council

Consideration was given to issues that had arisen in relation to the County Council's consultation arrangements e.g. for "objected to" applications, no notification when a site meeting was being held and/or when an application was scheduled for consideration by the Planning & Development Control Committee.

### RESOLVED:

- (1) That clarification be requested from the County Council's Head of Planning regarding the workings of the current consultation procedures involving Town/Community Councils.
- (2) That the Head of Planning be also asked if there is an opportunity for the Town Council to have an input when planning consultation procedures involving local Councils within the County are being reviewed.

- (3) That, for the present, a standing request be submitted to the County Council for the Town Council to be represented at a site meeting and/or the Planning & Development Control Committee for all planning applications to which the Town Council has objected to.

83. ACCOUNTS

83.1. 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>	£
4675 Trinity Mirror N West and N Wales Ltd Web Tenders Ad.	312.55***
4676 G.B. Stones Ltd – Unblocking drain – Council Offices	70.50****
4677 Impact Communications – Holywell Business News – Autumn 2010	500.00^^
4678 Councillor J. Griffiths – Travelling – Wales in Bloom Awards	68.00*
4679 Refurbit Computers (Welsh Web) – Hosting Fee 1/1 – 1/10/10	195.00***
4680 Valuation Office Agency – Valuation – Council Offices	481.75****
4681 British Telecom – One Bill Plus 15/9/10	29.08****
4682 D.C. Pierce – Reimbursement of Postages 1/10/09-30/9/10	222.14^
4683 G. Evans – Removal of floral displays (Balance 50%)	225.00^^
4684 Impact Communications – Town Centre Management – September	1300.00**
4685 D.C. Pierce – Salary – October	977.48***
4686 Mrs. M. Reed – Secretarial Expenses October	40.00***
4687 Mrs. M. Edwards – Wages to 9/10/10	240.70***
4688 HMRC (Inland Revenue) PAYE/	

National Insurance – October                      513.59\*\*\*  
5175.79

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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

83.2. Income Received

Members received the schedule of income, circulated with the agenda, regarding income between 1 and 30 September 2010.

84. TOWN CENTRE MANAGER’S REPORT – SEPTEMBER

Members were presented with the Town Centre Manager’s report for September. The report gave an overview of developments and his work since the last meeting. The Town Centre Manager did not have any significant developments to report at the present time in respect of the former Woolworths Store.

RESOLVED:

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

(Note: The Town Centre Manager left the meeting at this point).

85. BREAST TEST WALES SCREENING PROGRAMME

Members had before them a copy of the reply from the Minister of Health and Social Services at the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) to the Council's earlier representations about lowering the age in respect of the Screening Programme in Wales.

There were no plans at present to lower the age for first invitation to the programme in Wales. Breast cancer screening was currently offered to women between the ages of 50-70, based on advice from the National Screening Committee (NSC). The NSC was in the process of assessing pilots in England which were looking at the balance of benefit and harm of offering screening below the age of 50. The WAG would consider any formal advice from the NSC arising from this work.

RESOLVED:

That the reply be noted with disappointment but in the hope that it will be possible before too long for breast cancer screening to be offered to women below the age of 50, as a matter of course.

86. DOG WASTE BIN(S) – GREENFIELD WARD

Consideration was given to this matter at the request of Councillor Mrs. R. Dolphin. The locations were x1 at School Lane (consultation completed) and x1 at the end of Basingwerk Avenue (consultation ongoing). Location plans had been submitted to the Clerk beforehand.

On a related matter, a Member enquired about any progress with installing a dog waste bin in the town centre. The matter had previously been reported to the Town Centre Sub-Committee. A potential site had been identified on the green space opposite Lidl/ by the footpath running alongside the County Council's car park.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the suggestions in respect of the Greenfield Ward be supported and following the satisfactory completion of consultations, the County Council be requested to provide the required bin(s).

- (2) That a dog waste bin in respect of the town centre be considered further in consultation with the Mayor and the matter moved forward accordingly.

87. TIDY TOWNS APPLICATION – HOLYWELL TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS

The Clerk reported that he had received notification from the British Trust Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) that the Tidy Towns application previously reported to the Town Council had been approved. The schedule of areas for improvement was circulated to Members.

The BTCV suggested that the Town Council should tie into a contract with the County Council regarding future maintenance. The BTCV would be drawing up planting schemes for each of the identified areas following which the annual maintenance costs of these features would be assessed having regard to the Town Council's commitment of an annual sum for this purpose up to £1,000.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed arrangements with the County Council be supported dependant on receiving confirmation that there is no duplication with other works already committed to by the County Council.

88. REPORT(S) ETC. RECEIVED

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

- (a) Managing the Risk of Tidal Flooding – Tidal Dee Draft Flood Risk Management Strategy\*;
- (b) Agenda for the Quarterly Meeting of the North Wales Association of Town and Larger Community Councils – 15 October;
- (c) Halkyn Mountain Joint Consultative Board – Agenda for meeting 5 October and Minutes of meeting 6 July;
- (d) Holywell Business News – Autumn 2010;
- (e) Holywell News (Communities First) Autumn 2010;
- (f) Nightingale House Hospice News – September 2010;

Members were reminded of the opportunity to have their say on the Draft Management Strategy Document of the Tidal River Dee, (a) above, by completing the Response Form at the back of the Document.

89. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Councillor P.A. York reported that he had represented the Council at a meeting with Members of the County Council's Standards Committee on 11 October at Connah's Quay and gave a summary of the matters discussed.

In addition, Councillor York referred to his attendance at the Standards Conference Wales on 14 October at Cardiff City Hall.

The Mayor reported that Mr. David McKnight would be leaving his post on 22 October, as Co-ordinator - Holywell Communities First. The Mayor referred to his good work for the benefit of the community as a whole during his period in post.

RESOLVED:

That the Council's thanks and best wishes for the future be conveyed to Mr. McKnight.

90. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

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Mayor