

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 15 January 2008.

PRESENT: Councillor E.B. Palmer, (Mayor).

Councillors: S.R. Baker, P.J. Curtis, Mrs. K. Davies, J. Griffiths, P. Jones, B.P. Lambert, G.I. Lloyd, H.G. Roberts, A.D. Williams and P.A. York.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors Mrs. R. Dolphin, Mrs. E. Humphreys, J. Neen, R.A. Roberts and D.R. Wilkes.

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

90. MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed the progress made on the Tesco development and advised that the opening was anticipated to be on 18th February 2008.

He informed Members that he would be holding a Charity Event on Saturday 1st March 2008 at Bagillt Community Centre and hoped that Members would be able to support him. All proceeds would be paid in to the Mayor's Charity Fund for distribution to local organisations at the end of his term of office. The Clerk advised that Members had donated £41.30 into the Fund in lieu of sending Christmas cards.

The Mayor reported that the Internet Café had now opened in the former Town Hall and he understood that all Members would be invited to the official opening.

91. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 18 December 2007 be approved as a correct record.

92. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

044049 Demolition of existing Church Hall, erection of 3 blocks of 6 apartments (18 total) and extension to existing dwelling – The Old Church Hall/The Close, Well Street, Holywell

Defer to the February meeting.

043865 Erection of 2 No. flats – land side of Rayon Road, Greenfield – Amended Application

Members expressed concerns regarding the drainage problems on this site.

044247 Retrospective application for the erection of industrial buildings – R.J. Jones Haulage, Dock Road, Greenfield

The Planning Officer had declared this application to be invalid.

043116 Erection of a new community hospital with associated car parking – land side of Bodowen Surgery, Halkyn Road, Holywell

Supported.

043942 Change of use from Class A1 (retail shop) to Class A (professional services) Retention of use – 31, 31a and 31d High Street, Holywell

Objections to this application as it contravenes planning policy S7a of the Flintshire UDP and the shutters on the premises contravene planning policy S2 12-11 as they are intrusive, detract from the visual appearance of the town centre and are left on throughout the hours of opening. Members considered this to be unacceptable in the conservation area.

Members believe that following the completion of the Tesco development and with the investment currently enabling improvements etc. to shop fronts, there will be increased interest in opening shops in Holywell and at this stage non-retail applications should be refused as all blocks of shops in the town are over the 25% limit already.

93. ACCOUNTS

93.1. Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED:

That the following accounts be passed for payment:-
Voucher

4061	Society of Local Council Clerks – Annual Subscription	129.00 ^{^^^}
4062	NWN Media Ltd – Christmas lights Advert	159.80 ^{^^^}
4063	Festival Fireworks – Christmas lights Switch-on	700.00 ^{^^^}
4064	Dwr Cymru Cyf – Water Rates	326.18 ^{****}
4065	Moore & Son – Heating Maintenance	58.75 ^{****}
4066	Mrs. M. Edwards – wages to 29/12/07	235.38 ^{***}
4067	Impact Communications – Town Centre Management	1,300.00 ^{***}
4068	Mrs. M. Reed – Secretarial Expenses – January	39.00 ^{***}
4069	J.A. Jones – Salary – January	1,069.98 ^{***}
4070	Inland Revenue – PAYE/Nat. Ins – January	676.39 ^{***}

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.34
- *^^* Local Government (Misc. Provisions) Act 1953
- ^^** Local Government Act 1972 S.174
- ^^^* Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 S.19
- # Local Government Act 1972 S.142

93.2. Income Received

Members received the schedule of income, circulated with the agenda.

94. TOWN CENTRE MANAGER'S REPORT

Councillor P.J. Curtis expressed concern that local organisations had held discussions with Tesco representatives but no discussion had taken place with the Town Council. Councillor Mrs. K. Davies stressed that there was a need to have a Town Centre Sub-Committee to invite a Tesco representative and discuss Christmas lights provision. Councillor Curtis supported this and it was suggested that this should be held within the next two weeks, prior to the opening of the store.

In response to Members' queries, the Town Centre Manager advised that the old Job Centre and Kwik Save buildings, which were being vandalised, would be demolished in the near future.

95. NORTH WALES POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY FORUM FOR FLINTSHIRE

Members received an invitation from the North Wales Police Authority to the Police Authority Community Forum for Flintshire to be held at Holywell Leisure Centre on Tuesday 22nd January 2008 at 7pm when the subject would be 'Paying for the Police' – 'The Precept'. The Clerk advised Members of recent press reports on a similar meeting held in another North Wales area where the attendees were unhappy with the "massive increase" suggested by the Police.

Whilst Members appreciated that the meeting was open to all Members and the public, they considered that there was a need to appoint a representative to give the Town Council's view and to give the representative a mandate.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Councillor John Griffiths be appointed to represent the Council at the meeting.
- (2) That Councillor Griffiths be authorised to advise the Police that the Town Council would not support an increase above the rate of inflation.

96. PLANNING TRAINING SEMINAR FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILLORS

Members considered an invitation from One Voice Wales to a training event in land use planning to be held at Llanddulas Village Hall on Thursday 28 February 2008 at 6.30pm.

RESOLVED:

That the invitation be received.

97. TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE – HALKYN STREET, HOLYWELL

Members received a Notice of Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic Orders, circulated with the agenda in respect of Halkyn Street, Holywell

98. FAIR TRADE STATUS

The Clerk reported that at a previous Council meeting Members had agreed to support the application for Holywell to become a Fair Trade Town. He advised that a local group was being established and the Town Council had been requested to nominate a representative to serve on the Group.

RESOLVED:

That the Mayor, Councillor E.B. Palmer be authorised to represent the Town Council on the Holywell Fair Trade Group.

99. HALKYN COMMON – THRESHOLD SIGNS

Members considered a letter from the Halkyn Mountain Common Joint Consultative Board, circulated with the agenda, requesting the Council's views on proposed threshold signs for Halkyn Common.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed threshold signs be supported.

100. ARQUEST

Members referred to the proposed closure of the Arquest factory in Greenfield which had received extensive press coverage. They expressed extreme concern regarding the loss of jobs particularly affecting local families and thorough disappointment in the way in which the closure had been announced and workers informed.

It was considered that a press statement should be made on behalf of the Council expressed these concerns and supporting the workers and Flintshire County Council's Regeneration Department.

Members referred to the adjacent recreation facilities and also expressed concern regarding their future. Councillor S.R. Baker advised that this land was in the new Unitary Development Plan for designation as a Green Area which would give it some protection.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Council support the workers who had lost their jobs and hoped Flintshire County Council would do everything in their power to save the factory.
- (2) That the Town Council issue a suitable press release.
- (3) That the Town Council investigate the principle of providing sports facilities on the current sports pitch, adjacent to the Arquest factory.

101. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That in view of the confidential nature of the matter to be discussed, the press and public be excluded for agenda item No. 10 – 2007/8 National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks.

102. 2007/8 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD FOR LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

Members considered the revised salary schedule for Local Council Clerks, circulated with the agenda, and which would be effective from 1st April 2007.

RESOLVED:

That the new salary scales etc. be adopted.

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Mayor