

CONNAH'S QUAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Meetings held Wednesday, 2 May, 2007

Present: (Attendance Register)

Councillor A.I. Dunbar (Chair) presiding

Councillors D. Barratt, D. Birch, J.T.G. Butler, C. Granger, A. Hannah, R.V. Hill,
Mrs. F. McDonald, A.J. Roberts
Mr. Gary Feather (Clerk & Financial Officer)
Mrs. C. Jones (Senior Administrative Officer)
Mrs Lisa Fearn (Town Centre Manager)

356. NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice of meeting was taken as read.

357. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors J.B. Attridge,
Mrs E.M. Barratt, W. Hastings, Mrs L. Judge, P. Kindlin, R.P. MacFarlane, C. Sargeant,
A.P. Shotton, P.J. Wainwright and R.V. Williams.

358. POLICE CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS (327)

The Chair welcomed CBM Paul Williams and CBM Mike Malone to the meeting.

The Clerk submitted letter dated 10 April 2007 from Inspector Sacha Hatchett (copy forwarded to Members with the Agenda) informing Members that Inspector Alun Oldfield would take the territorial lead from Monday 16 April 2007. The recruitment for a permanent replacement is currently being undertaken.

Officers reported back on items previously discussed at the 4 April 2007 meeting:-

- (a) Inconsiderate parking of vehicles near the junction of Bank Road/Church Street – Officers have visited the area and spoken to the owners of the vans, which are not illegally parked. They stated that once the scaffolding is in place one van would be parked elsewhere. Councillor Mrs. McDonald stated that the vans are parked higher up nearer Bank Road. The officers stated that they would monitor the area.
- (b) Obstruction caused by a vehicle at the junction of Richmond Road/Henley Avenue – a visit was made following the meeting and the owner had stated that as soon as the vehicle has been fixed it will be moved. Councillor D. Barratt reported that other cars are parked in this vicinity and are causing problems for motorists turning into Henley Avenue. CBM Malone stated that they are making regular visits to Thornfield Avenue and will keep an eye out and if anyone is causing an obstruction they will advise the person.
- (c) Vandalism to the property of the farm off Wepre Drive – patrols have been made to the area many times but no one has been observed. CBM Malone had spoken to the wife of the property involved and a contact number had been given to her and other residents in the area so that Officers can attend as soon as possible to enable them to speak to the youths involved in anti-social behaviour. Councillor A.J. Roberts extended his thanks for their help and assistance in this matter.

- (d) Incidents of unsocial behaviour outside the shops at Thornfield Avenue – visits have been made to the Off-Licence and the shop and the staff have been made aware that it is illegal to sell alcohol and cigarettes to underage youths. They have also visited the elderly in the area and contact details have been given.
- (e) Formula used when determining how many CBM's are needed in different towns in Flintshire – the Clerk informed Members that acknowledgements had been received and the letters have been forwarded to the relevant person re: Staffing levels.

The following matters were raised by Councillors and discussed:-

- (i) Councillors congratulated the Officers of Deeside for their hard work and also referred to the work of the Specials, with out them they would be very short staffed.
- (ii) Councillor R.V. Hill referred to the Proms Night to be held on 18th May. CBM Williams stated that he had spoken to Mr G Dixon, Head-teacher and have also been made aware of the 11th May and for these two weekends Specials and CBM's will be on duty.
- (iii) Councillor J.T.G. Butler reported that he had received complaints about a dog running loose in the Uplands Avenue area that has on occasions nipped children's ankles. Officers noted.
- (iv) Councillor J.T.G. Butler reported that his partner had caught her leg on a red car parked on the car park opposite the Clinic due to the damaged wing sticking out about 18", which is a danger to the public. CBM Malone stated that it is a privately owned car park and they have also received complaints about the trailer that is parked there.
- (v) Councillor A. Hannah referred to the success of the speed camera campaign and asked if this could be carried out again in the Llwyni area and if it is necessary to contact Arrive Alive. CBM Malone stated that he had already contacted Hugh Jones, Arrive Alive and it will take approximately two months, hopefully he will be able to given more details at the next meeting of this Committee.

The Chair thanked CBM's Williams and Malone for their valuable assistance.

359. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A.J. Roberts declared an interest in Item 25(a) – Waiver of Hire Charges.

360. FUTURE RETAIL DEVELOPMENT IN TOWN

Mrs Lisa Fearn, the Town Centre Manager gave an update on matters relating to the progress of the High Street, new Health Centre and Ffordd Llanarth Shopping Centre. Meetings will take place tomorrow with representatives of the owners of the High Street Shopping Precinct, Haden Health and Flintshire County Council regarding improvements that can be made, which is good news that matters are progressing.

Ffordd Llanarth Precinct has been bought out by St. Modwen Developments who will be submitting an application for the development of the precinct and have offered to buy more land from the County Council but there have been some problems and hopefully they can move on and put in an application for outline planning permission. Three large retail businesses are interested, provision of financial services is to be included and it is the intention to provide 56 affordable houses. When matters have been resolved they have offered to put on display at the County Offices plans for the future development.

Councillors offered their full support and were pleased with the report, especially the news relating to the Golftyn area which is short of retail development and only recently another premise had closed. Councillors in their capacity as County Councillors also stated that they would assist in anyway they can.

361. ROYAL WELSH COMRADES ASSOCIATION

Councillor A. Hannah reported that he has started an appeal in conjunction with the Chester Chronicle and is arranging for collection points to aid the members of the Royal Welsh Comrades Association serving in Bosnia and Afghanistan who are very short of many items, including toiletries, books, CD's, DVD's etc. Councillors agreed that the Town Council Offices could be used as one of the drop off centres.

PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2/5/07

In the absence of the Chair of the Committee
Councillor A.I. Dunbar (Vice-Chair) presiding

362. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meetings held 27 March and 4 April 2007 were received, approved as correct records and signed by the Vice-Chair.

363. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (a) 042916 Cross Keys, Church Street, Connah's Quay
Proposed erection of timber frame pergolas to rear yard and back section of car park

RECOMMENDED:-

That the Clerk writes to the Chief Planning Services Officer informing him that the Town Council has reservations as to the proposed use of the pergolas and therefore will be requesting the local County Councillors to request that a site meeting be held in respect of this application (a).

- (b) 043168 15 Taynton Close, Connah's Quay
Proposed two storey wide extension and single storey rear extension

RECOMMENDED:

That the Clerk writes to the Chief Planning Officer informing him that the Town Council has no objection in respect of this application (b).

364. ROADS AND FOOTWAYS

(a) Flintshire Bridge – Signage and Closure (303(a))

The Clerk submitted letter dated 4 April 2007 from Mr. D.R. Kirby, Head of Highways Strategy, Flintshire County Council (copy forwarded to Members with the Agenda) which stated that they are preparing a revised protocol for the bridge which is likely only to be closed to high sided vehicles (HGV's) in the event of high winds along with obtaining the relevant authorisation for the signs from the Welsh Assembly Government it is not possible to implement a scheme until later this year. Additionally some of the signs required to be located on the A5177/A550 improvement being undertaken by Carillion on behalf of the Highways Agency, need to be installed in conjunction with their programme of works of installing and opening new links/slip roads to Deeside Park Interchange.

RECOMMENDED:

That the letter be received and continue to monitor the situation.

(b) Street Nameplates (303(c))

The Clerk submitted letter dated 30 March 2007 from Mr David James, Network Manager East, Flintshire County Council (copy forwarded to Members with the Agenda) that stated that if the Town Council wishes to improve the signage over and above what is considered to be an adequate level then the Town Council would have to pay the full costs of the additional signs.

Councillor J.T.G. Butler expressed his deep concern at the contents of the letter and previous letters and feared that a tragedy could happen. He further stated that if only when the estates were built the street nameplates included this would solve the problems. The Town Council have done all they can and it now up to the County Councillors.

RECOMMENDED:

That the letter be received.

(c) Winter Grit Bins (303(h))

The Clerk submitted letter dated 5 April 2007 from Mr AG Macbeth, Environmental Services Manager, Flintshire County Council (copy forwarded to Members with the Agenda) which stated that the current County policy is not to extend the existing winter maintenance service and therefore no additional new salt bins are being provided.

Councillors expressed their concern at the people living on Badgers Walk and the possible problems when the weather gets bad.

RECOMMENDED:

That the letter be received.

(d) Dog Fouling – Waste Bins/Notices

The Clerk submitted letter dated 5 April 2007 from Mr David James, Environmental Services Manger, Flintshire County Council (copy forwarded to Members with the Agenda) in answer to the Town Council's letter raising concerns about the protocol that prevails when a request is made for placement of a dog fouling bin.

He stated that when a request has been made they advise the Town/Community

Councils and enclose maps that local Members can mark to signify a location in the area and also ask Members to consult with the residents in the location so that when such a facility is erected it comes as no surprise to the residents nearby.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) That the letter be received.
- (ii) That the Clerk writes to the Environmental Services Manager requesting information in respect of how many bins are placed in Connah's Quay and also what is the rota for emptying them.

(e) Zebra Crossing – Dee Road

The Clerk submitted letter from Daisy, Dee Road Infants School (copy forwarded to Members with the Agenda).

The Clerk reported that this is part of the School Council and that Wepre Lane C P. School have expressed interest in attending a Council meeting.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Clerk writes to Daisy thanking her for the letter and explaining that provision of a Zebra Crossing is the responsibility of the County Council and what responsibilities come under the Town Council.

COMPLAINTS/REPORTS

(f) Potholes – Golftyn Lane, Connah's Quay

Councillor D. Birch reported potholes in the carriageway that still need attention.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Clerk writes to the Head of Highways Strategy accordingly.

(g) Street Cleansing

Councillor C. Granger enquire the rota for street cleansing in the Llwyni Drive area. The Clerk submitted for Members' information copies which are available for Councillors' inspection at the Office re: the Scarab Sweeper and the Johnston Sweeper Scheduled Routes.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Scheduled Routes be received.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE –2/5/07

Councillor A. J. Roberts (Chair) presiding.

365. MINUTES

The Minutes of Meeting held 4 April 2007 were received, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

366. FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Clerk submitted the following (copies forwarded to Members with the Agenda):-

- (a) Statement of Cumulative Receipts and Payments for the month of March 2007 compared with provisions in Budget 2006/2007.
- (b) Consolidated Cash Summary for the period ended March 2007.
- (c) Statement of Imprest Account Payments during the month of March 2007.
- (d) Draft Annual Report 2006-07 (copy separately forwarded to Members with the Agenda).

RECOMMENDED:

That the Statements be received.

367. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

The Clerk submitted letter dated 11 April 2007 from Mr. Kelvin Dent, Chief Executive, North Wales Police (copy forwarded to Members with the agenda). Councillors expressed their concerns that no confirmation had been received with regard to whether Connah's Quay has 3 CBM's or not there appears to have been no decision made.

Councillor A. Hannah read out a statement which paid tribute to the Policemen and Policewomen and Police Community Support Officer's and Special Constable's who work in the Deeside area and give 110% and more for constituents of Deeside.

He expressed his concerns over the Police Council Tax precept increases and reduction of CBM's from our streets, misuse of resources e.g. newspaper, call centre at St Asaph etc. He called on Councillors to cast a vote of no confidence in Chief Constable Brunstrom and the North Wales Police Authority.

Councillor Hannah also referred to the shocking incident following a presentation to journalists on speeding and road accidents, which had been in the national and local press and called for the resignation of the Chief Constable.

This motion was seconded and Councillors voted unanimously.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) That the letter be received.
- (ii) That the Clerk writes accordingly to the Chief Executive with copies to; Rt. Hon. Peter Hain MP., Dr. John Reid MP, Home Secretary, Mark Tami MP and the Minister for Finance, Local Government & Public Services, Welsh Assembly for Wales.

368. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES – ELECTIONS
THURSDAY 3 MAY 2007

The Clerk submitted letter dated 11 April 2007 from Mr. Barry Davies, Returning Officer, Flintshire County Council (copy forwarded to Members with the Agenda) requesting that notice "Statement of Persons Nominated and Notice of Poll" be displayed on the Town Council's notice boards.

RECOMMENDED:

That the letter be received.

369. LANDMARK WALES PROJECT – CONSULTATION EXHIBITION

The Clerk submitted letter dated 3 April 2007 from Mr. DM Heggarty, Chief Regeneration Officer, Flintshire County Council (copy forwarded to Members with the Agenda) inviting the Councillors to view the design proposals on public exhibition 14th-28th April at Theatre Clwyd, Phase 1 County Hall, Mold and Connah's Quay Library.

RECOMMENDED:

That the letter be received.

370. ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND GROUP

The Clerk submitted copy letter addressed to Aaron Shotton from Mr. Andrew McLaughlin, Director, Economics and Corporate Affairs, Royal Bank of Scotland together with fact sheet (copies forwarded to Members with the Agenda).

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) That the letter be received.
- (ii) That provision of a Bank at Ffordd Llanarth be included on the Agenda for the next meeting of this Committee.

371. "PEN-Y-LLAN DISTRICT" TENANTS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Clerk submitted letter dated 14 April 2007 together with copy of Press Release from Mr Owen Davies, Chair (copies forwarded to Members with the Agenda) requesting information.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Clerk return the letter to Mr Davies as this is not the appropriate body.

372. WELSH COMMUNITY SCHEMES URGED TO SEIZE BONUS LOTTERY CASH INFLUX

The Clerk submitted letter dated 17 April 2007 from the Sports Council for Wales together with details of the Community Chest Awards by Local Authorities 1999-2007 (copies forwarded to Members with the Agenda).

Councillor A. Hannah referred to certain Radio Stations who have broadcasted that the lottery cash is not going to smaller units but is going to support the Olympics.

RECOMMENDED:

That the letter be received.

373. WREXHAM-BIRKENHEAD RAIL USERS' ASSOCIATION

The Clerk submitted copy of Members' Newsletter – Winter 2006/07 together with Member Survey and Membership Renewal Form (copies forwarded to Members with the Agenda).

RECOMMENDED:

That the information be received.

374. FLINTSHIRE LOCAL VOLUNTARY COUNCIL

The Clerk submitted e-mail dated 16 April 2007 from Sue Williams re: Age Concern North East Wales and Flintshire Diabetes Support Group (copy forwarded to Members with the Agenda).

RECOMMENDED:

That the e-mail be received.

375. LYONS INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Clerk submitted Executive Summary re: Place shaping: a shared ambition for the future of local government (copy separately forwarded to Members with the Agenda) and Final Report re: Household taxation and local charges (copy not amenable to photocopying but was made available for Members inspection at the Office).

The Clerk reported that Executive Summary is one Chapter and this has been published one year late.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Summary be received.

376. ONE VOICE WALES

The Clerk submitted the following (copies forwarded to Members with the Agenda):-

- (a) Guidance on Establishing a Complaints Procedure
Letter dated 30 March 2007 from Mr Simon White, Chief Executive, One Voice Wales together with “Complaints Procedure for Community and Town Councils.
- (b) “A Shared Responsibility”
Letter dated 30 March 2007 from Mr Simon White, Chief Executive, One Voice Wales together with Summary.
- (c) Corporate Strategy and Business Plan 2007-08
Corporate Strategy & Business Plan Document (copy made available for Members’ inspector at the office).
- (d) The Voice
‘The Voice’ document

RECOMMENDED:

That items (a), (b), (c) and (d) be received.

377. WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT

The Clerk submitted letter dated March 2007 from Mr John Palmer, Head of Local Government Policy Division (copy forwarded to Members with the Agenda) together with copy of “Local Government Policy Statement 2007”.

Councillor A.J. Roberts commented that it is getting stuck in one place i.e. Flintshire County Council should be more pro-active with town & community councils. WAG pushing Local Authorities to have a shared responsibility to deliver local services.

RECOMMENDED:

That the letter be received.

RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE –2/5/07

**In the absence of the Chair of the Committee
Councillor D.M. Birch (Vice-Chair) presiding**

378. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held 4 April 2007 were received, approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chair.

379. MONITORING OF ACTIVITY/PROFITABILITY

The Clerk submitted the following Statements (copies forwarded to Members with the Agenda):-

- (a) Civic Hall Activity/Profitability Statement
for the month of March 2007.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Statement be received subject to amendment to allocation.

- (b) Community Centre Activity/Profitability Statement
for the month of March 2007.

RECOMMENDED:-

That the Statement be received subject to amendment i.e. date.

380. WAIVER/REDUCTION OF HIRE CHARGES

RECOMMENDED:

Ratification of the actions of the Chair and the Vice-Chair of this Committee in waiving/reducing the hire charge in respect of the following events:-

CIVIC HALL – FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/2007

- (a) Flintshire District Scout Council
Annual General meeting to be held Wednesday 30 May 2007
WAIVER.

- (b) St. Mark's Church – Parish Plays
Rehearsal to be held Thursday 29 November 2007

WAIVER.

- (c) St. Mark's Church – Parish Plays
Performance to be held Friday 30 November 2007
50% REDUCTION.

381. ALLOTMENTS

In the absence of Councillor J.B. Attridge, the Clerk reported that following a meeting with the D & A Deeside Counselling Centre it had been agreed that they would transfer to a smaller plot (Plot 11) and it is now the intention to half plot 13 and they would be offered to people on the Town Council's waiting list. Ratification is requested.

Councillor A.J. Roberts enquired whether there had been any progress in respect of the land at the rear of the Police Station. The Clerk reported that he was still waiting to hear from Groundwork Flintshire and had recently spoken with Flintshire County Council regarding the waiting list, as it is their duty if there is more than six on the waiting list to provide this service.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) That the actions of the Councillor J.B. Attridge and the Clerk be ratified.
- (ii) That the further progress be awaited