

HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Special Meeting of Holywell Town Council** held in the Council Chamber, Bank Place Offices, Holywell on Tuesday, 10 October 2017 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor J.M. Johnson (Mayor).

Councillors: M. Brooke, L.A. Carter, A. Coleman, K. Davies, P.A. Johnson, S. Johnson, E.B. Palmer, M.D. Phelan, B. Scragg, S.E. Wallbanks and P.A. York.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors R. Dolphin, P.J. McGarry and K. Roberts.

IN ATTENDANCE: J. Baker (Clerk).

85. SPECIAL ITEM (AT REQUEST OF THE MAYOR)

The Mayor conveyed thanks from Danny Inskip (Danny's Family Butchers) for the Council's contribution to the collection for the family of Liam Simpson, who tragically passed away recently. Letters of condolence will be sent out from the Mayor to Liam's parents. The Council and all present then observed a minutes silence in memory of Liam.

86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

None.

87. PEDESTRIANISATION ORDER – HOLYWELL HIGH STREET

87.1 Update on Current Situation

Councillor E.B. Palmer, also County Councillor for Holywell Central ward, provided an update on the current situation and conveyed to members the main discussion points from a meeting held with Derrick Charlton, Operational Manager Streetscene, Flintshire County Council and Russ Warburton – Chair of the Town Centre Business Sub-Group. A proposal had been put forward for members to consider, which involved opening up the high street on a trial basis and then holding a referendum to formally evaluate the views of local residents.

87.2 Action Plan Determination

The mayor read out an email from an absent member conveying support for the opening of the high street on a trial basis.

Members then expressed their views on this matter noting that this is a very emotive subject with divisive views across the community. It was felt that any trial period should be policed appropriately and have the safety of pedestrians as a primary consideration. It was proposed that parking bays should have a limited waiting time of no more than thirty minutes. The numbers and movement of pedestrians should be monitored as should the effect on turnover of local businesses during the trial period.

Members stated that the road should remain closed however during market days and also on town centre event days.

Members noted the change over recent years of the shopping habits of the public generally, with the increase of internet shopping and the development of out of town retail parks.

Members considered the length of the trial period and discussed the appropriate time period, and also when the trial should commence. Members considered when the referendum should take place and the scope of which communities should be included.

Members expressed concern at the impact this matter has had on Council staff. Members stated it was time for all stakeholders to come together and show collective responsibility for the benefit of the Holywell Community.

Members referred to the forthcoming Flintshire County Council Public Engagement Event due to be held 6.30pm Thursday 26th October 2017 at Ysgol Maes-y-Felin, Holywell and urged the public to register their interest and attend this event.

Members referred to regeneration generally and also the recently published business plan setting out a number of key objectives across the community. Members were also concerned that the general public may not be clear on what powers the Council do hold, and the difference in responsibilities between the County Council and Town/Community Councils.

Some other potential options were noted such as the Dutch model for self-policing low speed vehicle access and shared space with pedestrians.

RESOLVED:

- (1) Members voted unanimously to support the proposal to open the high street on a trial basis, and undertake a referendum to formally consult with local residents.
- (2) That the Clerk writes to Derrick Charlton, Operational Manager Streetscene, Flintshire County Council on behalf of members to convey this decision. The key issues to be included in the letter are:
 - A six month trial period is proposed.
 - The trial period to commence week beginning 27th November 2017 and last until 26th May 2018.
 - A referendum to be arranged by the County Council at month four (March 2018) of the trial. This referendum to include all four wards of the Holywell Community as a minimum requirement.
 - The County Council to consider the scope of the referendum to possibly include the surrounding villages and communities which identify with Holywell as their local town.
 - A meeting to be held as soon as is practical between Derrick Charlton, Councillor E.B. Palmer and Russ Warburton to view the full details and design specification of the agreed scheme for the trial period. Members to view this documentation at a future meeting.
- (3) That regarding the County Council's Public Engagement Event on 26th October 2017 the Clerk informs the County Council of the following nominations:
 - County Council – E.B. Palmer, J.M. Johnson, R. Dolphin.
 - Town Council – M. Brooke, A. Coleman, S. Johnson, B. Scragg, P.A. York, L.A. Carter.

88. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Mayor closed the meeting at 6.45pm.

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Mayor