

HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Community Asset Transfer Committee held in the Council Chamber, Bank Place Offices, Holywell on Monday, 9 November 2015 at 6.30pm.

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PRESENT: Councillor P.A. York (Chairman).  
Councillors: Mrs. M. Auty, J.M. Johnson, P.J. McGarry (Mayor), E.B. Palmer, Mrs. M.D. Phelan, H.G. Roberts and B. Scragg.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors P.J. Curtis, Mrs. K. Davies, Mrs. R. Dolphin, J. Griffiths, K. Roberts, Mrs. S.E. Wallbanks and E. Watkinson.

IN ATTENDANCE: D.C. Pierce (Clerk).

CAT6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – MEMBERS’ CODE OF CONDUCT

None.

CAT7. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS (CAT), HOLYWELL

In attendance for this item were County Councillor Kevin Jones, Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure and Neal Cockerton, Chief Officer (Organisational Change) who were welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman.

Mr. Cockerton summarised developments in respect of CAT within the Holywell community. A number of meetings had taken place involving the Leisure Centre and adjacent facilities and other General Assets and meaningful progress was being made with expressions of interest submitted on some. This was considered to be quite a good result so far, although further work was required as matters progressed to the Business Planning stage.

Together with Councillor Jones, answers were given to specific points/concerns raised by Members including:

the possibility of County/Town and Community Councils sharing asset costs – this was not considered to be the way forward as the County Council would wish to set up a wider community arrangement;

setting up an Independent Trust e.g. to manage all playgrounds and open spaces – this idea was being explored generally by Buckley Town Council;

deadlines for Expressions of Interest (EOI)/No EOIs submitted – no deadlines although the sooner this could be done, the better. No EOIs would be reported to the County Council for consideration in conjunction with the position County-wide and the County’s overall budget situation;

decisions should an EOI be not progressed to Business Plan and lease – essentially final agreement/lease would be for 27 years but the asset(s) would

revert to the County Council. He hoped that the level of support and commitment required would be duly taken on board by the relevant group(s).

financial and other incentives to take over an asset(s) – the County Council had set aside £500k in the present and next financial year to encourage and assist CAT.

Members felt that, with the prospect of further central government financial cuts on the way, there was a real possibility that Town/Community Councils would be expected to consider taking on board those assets where community interest had not been expressed.

The County Council's representatives were thanked for their contributions to the meeting following which Members discussed the implications of what had been discussed.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the latest position on CAT within the Holywell community be noted and that an up to date list of assets showing action taken or in progress be sought from Neal Cockerton and circulated to all Councillors on receipt.
- (2) That, if necessary, the County Council's representatives be invited back to a future meeting of the Committee to further discuss the situation.

CAT8. EXPRESSION(S) OF INTEREST – HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL

Further consideration was given to the above matter referred to the Committee by the Council. Some Members still had their reservations about the whole CAT process although there was general support for the action taken so far by the Council in submitting an EOI in community assets ref: P/PC/0006 and P/PC/0007 – Public Conveniences at former Somerfield and Tower Gardens.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Town Council be informed of the continued lack of consensus from Members on the subject and that the Council be requested to determine one way or another on whether to submit any more EOI's at this stage.
- (2) That the position be kept under review.

CAT9. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: BUDGET CONSULTATIONS – MEETING THE FINANCIAL CHALLENGE:

Although not on the Agenda, this item was accepted by the Chairman in order to avoid delay in dealing with the matter. The Town Council had been invited to be represented at one of seven public engagement meetings arranged by the County Council in a bid to encourage more public involvement in saving vital services which were at risk at a result of the impact of national austerity measures at local level, County-wide.

Councillor B. Scragg indicated that he had already registered to attend the meeting at Holywell High School on Wednesday, 18 November at 6.30p.m.

RESOLVED:

That, in addition to Councillor Scragg, Councillors Mrs. M. Auty and E.B. Palmer be appointed to represent the Town Council at the public engagement meeting on 18 November.

CAT10 CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

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Chairman