

HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFFYNNON

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Asset Transfer Committee held in the Council Chamber, Bank Place Offices, Holywell on Wednesday, 9 September 2015 at 6pm.

PRESENT: Councillor P.A. York (Chairman – see minute No. CAT1)
Councillors: Mrs. M. Auty, Mrs. R. Dolphin, J.M. Johnson (Deputy Mayor, who presided for minute No. CAT1), Mrs. M.D. Phelan, H.G. Roberts, B. Scragg and E. Watkinson.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors P.J. Curtis, Mrs. K. Davies, J. Griffiths, E.B. Palmer P.J. McGarry (Mayor), K. Roberts and Mrs. S.E. Wallbanks.

IN ATTENDANCE: D.C. Pierce (Clerk) and M. Fearnley (Community Engagement Officer).

CAT1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2015/16

The Deputy Mayor explained that the Council had agreed to establish the Committee so that all Councillors would have the opportunity to take part in the discussion and voting when important issues were first discussed rather than the limited Members of the appointed Sub-Committee as was previously the case.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor P.A. York be elected Chairman of the Community Asset Transfer Committee for 2015/16.

CAT2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2015/16

RESOLVED:

That Councillor B. Scragg be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Community Asset Transfer Committee for 2015/16.

CAT3. COUNCILLOR MRS. K. DAVIES

The Chairman advised Members in relation to Councillor Mrs. Davies's progress following her operation. The Council's best wishes had been sent to her and the Clerk added he would be keeping in contact with the family.

CAT4. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER
(CAT) SCHEME - HOLYWELL

Members received an update from the Chairman on the Joint Meetings held # to date between Flintshire County and Town Council representatives and members of the public/representation from local Groups and Organisations with an interest in the circulated Holywell Community Assets List from the County Council.

- #
- 8 July – Preliminary meeting (Leisure Centre and adjacent facilities);
 - 22 July Preliminary meeting (Remaining General Community Assets);
 - 5 August Establishing Leisure Centre Working Group;
 - 26 August First meeting of Leisure Centre Group;
 - 1 September Re-run of preliminary meeting (Remaining General Community Assets) after notifying the public via leaflet delivered to households;

 - 22 September Proposed Establishment of Working Group(s) (Remaining General Community Assets);
 - 30 September Proposed second meeting of Leisure Centre Working Group

The Chairman reported that the circulation of the leaflet to households had helped to generate interest and had improved attendance at the 1 September meeting. However, he had concerns about the apparent non-delivery of items to certain addresses. The Clerk indicated that he had already raised the matter with the distributor and a reply was awaited.

Members expressed their reservations about the asset transfer process in general and the implications of failing to meet and maintain the obligations placed on the appointed Group(s) should Asset Transfer/Grant of Lease be eventually agreed by the County Council. Reference was made to the possibility of Clubs joining together (e.g. the Bowling Clubs) that could give a better chance of success with the arrangements. On a more positive note, the Community Engagement Officer (CEO) explained that progress was being made with the Leisure Centre Group (including the Library, Youth Centre and adjacent open space areas) where there was a nucleus of different skill sets. This was encouraging for the Group's further work.

Members noted that both the Clerk's and the CEO's involvement with CAT work could impact on their other Council work. Any difficulties arising should be drawn to the Authority's attention as soon as possible.

Consideration was also given to any further action by the Town Council itself, at this stage, in particular the possibility of submitting an 'expression of interest' (without commitment) in the town's public toilets, the Tower Gardens Block having previously been raised as a potential building to transfer.

Members also put forward their own views on the prospect of moving matters forward, at least to gather some more information about several of the other listed general community assets, especially running costs, although there was no majority agreement to support a formal proposal to the Council.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That, in view of the lack of consensus, one way or another, in the Town Council itself becoming involved with the CAT Scheme, by way of submitting an 'expression(s) of interest' in one or more community assets, the matter be referred direct to the Council for determination on which assets, if any, the Authority should make formal enquiries of the County Council at this stage.
- (2) That, if necessary, a meeting between the Community Asset Transfer Committee and County Council officers/relevant Cabinet Member(s) be arranged in due course to review progress with the CAT Scheme in respect of the community of Holywell.

CAT5. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.00pm.

.....
Chairman