

HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFFYNNON

Minutes of the Meeting of Holywell Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Bank Place Offices, Holywell on Tuesday, 21 February 2017 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor J.M. Johnson (Mayor).
Councillor B. Scragg (who presided for minute 148.1)
Councillors: Mrs. K. Davies, Mrs. R. Dolphin, E.B. Palmer,
Mrs. M.D. Phelan, K. Roberts (for minutes 143 and 144), L. Thorley,
Mrs. S.E. Wallbanks, E. Watkinson and P.A. York.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors Mrs. M. Auty, P.J. Curtis, J. Griffiths, P.J. McGarry and H.G. Roberts.

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

143. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – MEMBERS’ CODE OF CONDUCT

The following Declarations of Interest were made and the relevant forms completed for the Clerk to action under the statutory requirements.

Minute No.	Name of Councillor	Personal	Prejudicial	Nature of Interest
144	Mrs. R. Dolphin	√	-	Own a Post Office (although no involvement in the future of the service).
148.1 (056391)	J.M. Johnson	√	√*	Mother owns land opposite Dollar Park
152	E. Watkinson	√	-	Employee of affected Bank (although at a different location)

*Member left the meeting for the discussion and voting.

144. POST OFFICE PARTNERSHIP WITH UK BANKS

Stuart Taylor, Head of External Relations, Nations and Regions – Post Office Ltd attended for this item.

A new arrangement between the Post Office and UK banks had come into effect to bring together the organisation's existing agreements with individual banks into a single set of services available to their customers,

including those in Holywell. This would allow personal and business customers to withdraw cash, deposit cash and cheques and to make balance enquiries at Post Office branches.

Mr. Taylor reported that the Post Office was searching for someone else to work with the company to take on the branch. Although looking for an alternative site, it did not mean moving away from Holywell.

Members expressed their concern about the prospect of losing another important business and building in the town centre. Mr. Taylor assured Members that they, along with the Holywell community residents, would be informed if any changes were intended to the High Street branch in a six-week consultation period. Members were also worried about the capacity of the Post Office to take on the role for customers of the HSBC, NatWest and Barclays banks. Mr. Taylor responded to confirm the Post Office was happy and ready to support all customers in the town.

RESOLVED:

That Mr. Taylor be thanked for attending the meeting and that the Council's present view supporting the existing central location for the Post Office on the High Street be endorsed.

145. FLINTSHIRE NORTH POLICING UPDATE

The Council was introduced to Inspector (1891) Andy Griffiths. He outlined his role and that of his team.

He answered Members' questions which covered seeing more police officers 'on the beat', the changing nature of the work to include for example dealing with cyber crime and the ongoing traffic management issues on Pen y Maes Road.

RESOLVED:

That Inspector Andy Griffiths be thanked for his attendance at the meeting and asked to look into the issues raised by Members and include a crime statistics summary in his report to a future meeting.

146. MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor reported on his civic engagements since the last meeting. He reminded Members about the Welsh Day event in the town and his evening Charity Ball, both on 4 March.

147. MINUTES

147.1. General

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the following meetings be approved and signed as a correct record by the Mayor/Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Council Meeting held on 17 January 2017;
Finance Committee held on 26 January 2017.

147.2. Meeting held on 26 January 2017

RESOLVED:

That the resolutions of the Finance Committee at the above meeting be received and noted.

148. PLANNING

148.1. New Planning Application

Consideration was given to the application forwarded to the Town Council as part of the County Council's planning consultation.

RESOLVED:

That the following response be submitted to the County Planning Authority.

No Proposal

056391 Application for removal of condition no.1 and variation of condition no.2 attached to planning permission ref. 053163 – Dollar Park, Bagillt Road, Holywell: for Mr. Leonard Hamilton.

Not supported - The Town Council is not persuaded from the information submitted with the application that the proposals are justified.

Note: Councillor E. Watkinson abstained from voting on this item.

149. ACCOUNTS

149.1. Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED:

- (1) That payment of the following accounts be approved, the necessary audit checks having been undertaken in accordance with the requirement of the Audit Sub-Committee.

<u>Voucher</u>	<u>£</u>
6292 Luntstone Ltd – Clean/repair guttering at Bank Place offices	165.60****
6293 Express Couriers North West Ltd – Delivery of Christmas activities leaflets to schools	90.00^^
6294 Flintshire CC: Building cleaning charge October to December 2016 – Bank Place offices	212.26****
6295 North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils x2 lunches for Council’s representatives @ January Meeting (Colwyn Bay)	32.00*
6296 Catrin Gilkes-Simultaneous translation service at Community Engagement meeting 11/1/17	114.00****
6297 Holywell PCC-Hire of Church for Community Engagement/Public meeting 11/1/17	65.00****
6298 Ideal ICR Group Ltd – Christmas lights closure/storage costs	1,348.80^^
6299 Ideal ICR Group Ltd – Christmas lights installation (part)/removal to storage	1,263.34^^
6300 Ideal ICR Group Ltd – Christmas lights installation (part)/removal to storage/insurance	651.08^^
6301 West Flintshire Community Enterprises Ltd – Room rent for storage (Artisans Shop) September 2016 to January 2017	250.00****
6302 Carmel Bowling Club – Donation	200.00^^
6303 Holywell Band – Donation	500.00^^
6304 Citizens Advice Flintshire – Donation	1,000.00^^
6305 Holywell Walkers are Welcome – Donation	1,000.00^^

6306	Wales Audit Office – Audit of Accounts 2015/16	248.25^^
6307	Rotary Club of Flint & Holywell – Advert in Christmas Float Programme/Calendar 2016/17	100.00^^
6308	Bernard Dykes & Son – Updating Mayor’s Board 2016/17	42.00^
6309	Viking – Stationery and sundries	111.95****
6310	The Teenage Market Ltd - Licence fee (2years)(using grant funding from the County Council)	1,200.00^^
6311	D.C. Pierce – Salary - February	1,610.60***
6312	M.G. Fearnley – Salary - February	1,216.58***
6313	Mrs. M. Reed - Secretarial Expenses - February	48.00***
6314	HMRC(Inland Revenue) – PAYE/Nat Ins - February	972.65***
6315D/D:	British Telecom-Business Bill 07436273793 to January	24.00****
6316D/D:	British Telecom-Business Bill to January	126.03****
6317D/D:	Opus energy-Gas Bank Place offices to 9/1/17	298.97****
6318	Owain Llyr - Booking of entertainment Welsh Day event 4/3/17	150.00^^
6319	Corbett Cars: Taxi fare Holywell – Colwyn Bay for meeting of NMWALC (see voucher 6295)	43.20*
		13,084.31

Powers to make payments:-

- * The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Regulations for the remuneration of members and co-opted members of relevant authorities – Part 5 Community/Town Councils).
- // Local Government Act 1948 S.33
- ** 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
- *^ Local Government Act 1972 S.140
- **^ Local Government Act 1972 S.176
- **^^ Local Government Act 1972 S.13
- **^^* Local Government Act 1972 S.34
- **^^* Local Government (Misc. Provisions) Act 1953 S.4

^^** Local Government Act 1972 S.174
^^^* Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions)
Act 1976 S.4
< Local Government Act 1972 S.124
Local Government Act 1972 S.142
Representation of the People Act 1983 S.34

(2) That the amount of Voucher No. 6319, omitted from the list on the agenda, be confirmed as £43.20 (total vouchers remained unchanged at £13,084.31).

149.2 Income Received

Members received the schedule of income, circulated with the agenda, regarding income between 1 and 31 January 2017.

150. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT – 18/01/17 – 21/02/17

Members had before them for consideration the report of the Community Engagement Officer (CEO) covering the above period. Members raised items within the report for clarification and for additional information.

The CEO reminded Members that they still had time to take part in the Holywell Town Centre Business promotion draw – “spend £10 in any participating Holywell Business with a chance to win a £500 Holiday Voucher and other prizes” – draw to take place at Welsh Day event on 4 March. Also, on the day, a Welsh Rock Band would be performing and a DJ, Dr Zigs Bubbles, the Conwy Jester, Circus Skills, Cambria Band, Punch and Judy and a few stalls. Councillor Mrs. M.D. Phelan added that she would help at a Council Information stall, if other assistance was available.

Members noted that Holywell Leisure Centre was looking for supporters to volunteer their help at the Centre following Community Asset Transfer. The latest position regarding the limited support now available from the County Council's Regeneration and Tourism Sections, due to staff reductions, was also noted.

Members welcomed the news that the A55 signage was to form part of the wider review of brown and white signs in Flintshire, as well as the development involving people from 'Emerge Community Arts' in respect of St. James's Parish Church, Holywell. Also, the updated position in respect of the Holywell “Out There” advertising promotion; the Greenways Project and Business Support for Visual Merchandising and Windows Displays project in Holywell town centre.

RESOLVED:

That the CEO's report be received with thanks.

151. WELSH GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER – REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT – RESILIENT AND RENEWED

Consideration was given to the above consultation document:

- setting out arrangements for regional working
- strengthening the role of Councils and Councillors
- providing the framework for future voluntary mergers
- detailing the role of Community Councils

Views were also sought by 11 April, on reforming the electoral system for local government in Wales.

Councillor E. Watkinson suggested that a single transferable voting system should be considered.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the document be referred to the Audit Sub-Committee to respond on the Council's behalf.
- (2) That the Sub-Committee also consider Councillor E. Watkinson's suggestion.

152. BANK CLOSURES – HOLYWELL HIGH STREET

Members were updated on developments on this matter including the meeting held on 17 February with senior HSBC bank representatives and attended by MP David Hanson, AM Hannah Blythyn together with representatives from the Town Council. It was stated by HSBC that the decision was irreversible and final.

At the meeting a petition with 736 signatures had been presented to the bank calling for the branch to be kept open. Reference had also been made to serious concerns regarding closure including the lack of consultation and the distance between Holywell and Mold (nearest branch) where customers were expected to travel to, and the detrimental impact on the High Street and local businesses. Concerns had also been expressed at the automatic reliance of the Post Office taking the place of the bank(s).

All in all, the HSBC meeting had been deeply disappointing with no willingness to consider any alternatives or compromise arrangements.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted with concern and that Members consider ways and means to mitigate the impact of the bank closures.

153. TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS – 4 MAY 2017

The Clerk informed Members that nomination packs for the forthcoming whole Council elections had been received from the office of the County Council's Returning Officer. Packs would be distributed to all Town Council Members unless indicated otherwise. A small supply would also be held by the Clerk.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

154. PLAY AREA UPGRADE – HOLWAY, HOLYWELL (WEST WARD)

The Clerk reported that details of the proposals were awaited from the County Council – Leisure Services and sought Members' views as a decision would be required as soon as possible after their receipt.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk, in consultation with West Ward Councillors H.G. Roberts and P.A. York, be authorised to approve the design proposals for the play area upgrade at the Holway under the 2016/17 match-funding arrangement between the Town and County Councils.

155. WALES IN BLOOM 2017 – ENTRY AND LAUNCH EVENT

Consideration was given to the above matters.

RESOLVED:

That the Council agree to enter this year's Wales in Bloom Campaign (Town category - entry fee £145) and that, if possible, the Authority be represented by the Community Engagement Officer at the North Wales Launch Event on 10 March, at Rhuddlan Community Centre at 11am.

156. HOLYWELL AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION – VISIT TO ST. GREGOIRE, BRITTANY, FRANCE – 21 TO 26 SEPTEMBER 2017

Consideration was given to the HDTA's notification to the Council regarding representation on this year's return visit that included ferry crossings to and from France. The Clerk reported that the Mayor was President of the Association and that the link between the two towns continued to flourish.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That for this year's return twinning visit to St. Gregoire, the Council approve the attendance of the incoming Mayor and Mayoress/Consort, or the incoming Deputy Mayor and Consort, or Past Mayor/Consort - in order of appointment and provided re-elected to the Council at the forthcoming May elections; also to meet the permitted costs for the Council's representatives.
- (2) That the Carmel and Holywell Woodcraft Association be asked to consider making a miniature wooden replica of the Holywell High Street sculpture for presentation to the town's twinning partners during this year's visit, within the sum allocated in the budget.

157. REPORT(S) ETC.

Members were informed that the following items had been received and unless otherwise circulated*, were available for perusal from the Clerk.

- (a) Flintshire County Council: Report from the Flintshire Play Sufficiency Seminar 2/11/16;
- (b) Your Council/Eich Cyngor: News from Flintshire County Council – February 2017*;
- (c) Press Statement following the joint meeting with HSBC representatives on 17/2/17;
- (d) Resilient Communities Statement – Communities First;
- (e) Estuary Voluntary Car Scheme – Minutes of Trustees' Meeting 16/11/16;
- (f) Play Wales: e-bulletin – February 2017;
- (g) St. Kentigern Hospice & Palliative Care Centre: Annual Review 2015/16;
- (h) 2017 Airbus Community Awards*

158. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Councillors Mrs. K. Davies and Mrs. M.D. Phelan reported on their attendance at the recently held meeting of the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils at Colwyn Bay and on the main issues covered.

159. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The Mayor and Councillor Mrs. R. Dolphin referred to the budget meetings at County Hall and some of the implications of decisions arising.

160. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 – EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded for minutes 160.1 to 160.3 on grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted to consider legal advice; a staffing matter and arising from the supporting financial and other information provided with an application for financial assistance.

160.1. Draft Co-operative Agreement – Holywell Leisure Centre

Members had before them a copy of a report from S.G. Jones, Griffiths and Hughes Parry, Solicitors, Holywell relating to the Draft Co-operative Agreement - Holywell Leisure Centre. The Clerk also read out an email dated 20 February from the Solicitor updating the Town Council on his discussions with the County Council regarding his suggested amendments to the document to safeguard the Town Council's position. The main issue revolved around the legal status of the Draft Agreement.

Members considered the options available to them.

RESOLVED:

That, after considering the legal advice received, the Town Council:

- (1) signs up to the Co-operative Agreement with Flintshire County Council and the Holywell Leisure Centre Group, as re-drafted, including the clause to ensure that no legal obligations are created thereby.
- (2) in the absence of agreement in respect of the terms in (1) above, does not enter into the Co-operative Agreement but provides its agreed financial contributions direct to the Holywell Leisure Centre Group with a letter of intent to the effect that it will, in future years, give consideration to the provision of further sums or other assistance and collaborate with the Leisure Centre Group and its partners in going forward.

- (3) That it be made clear that the Town Council's support does not enter it into any form of legal commitment.

160.2. Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council

Reference was made to the Clerk's recent letter to the Mayor and circulated to all Members of the Council informing them of his planned retirement from the Council's service at the end of June 2017. Members considered arrangements for appointing a new Clerk.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the part-time post of Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (TC/RFO) (27 hrs a week) be advertised as soon and as widely as possible, together with the part-time post of Support Officer (20 hrs a week) within the salary bandings approved by the Council.
- (2) That the Audit Sub-Committee draw up a short-list of candidates for the post of TC/RFO for interview and appointment by the Council.

160.3. Application for Financial Assistance

Members considered the request received for financial assistance from the Estuary Voluntary Car Scheme. The Clerk referred to supporting background and financial information provided by the organisation.

RESOLVED:

That a donation of £600 be made to the Estuary Voluntary Car Scheme (from the earmarked budget provision).

161. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

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Mayor