CONNAH’S QUAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Meetings held Wednesday, 6 May 2009

Present: (Attendance Register)
Councillor R.V. Hill (Chair) presiding

Mr. Gary Feather (Clerk & Financial Officer)
Mrs. C. Jones (Senior Administrative Officer)

349. NOTICE OF MEETING
The notice of meeting was taken as read.

350. APOLOGIES
Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors J.B. Attridge, E.W. Owen, R.V. Williams and P. Kindlin.

351. POLICE CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS (321)
The Chair welcomed Inspector Darren Wareing, Inspector Mark Hughes & CBM Sian Atkinson to the meeting.
The Chair referred to letter dated 5 May 2009 from Inspector Darren Wareing (copy circulated to Councillors at the commencement of the meeting) informing Councillors that he will be leaving Deeside Police Station on 16 May 2009 to commence a new position and advising that Inspector Mark Hughes will be taking over the role of District Inspector for Deeside.
On behalf of Councillors the Chair congratulated Inspector Wareing his new appointment and extended the thanks and appreciation of the Councillor for all the work he had achieved on Deeside over the past 2 years.

Inspector Wareing reported back on items previously discussed at the 1 April 2009 meeting:-

(a) Youths causing problems at Thornfield Avenue – Inspector Wareing together with officers have spent a lot of time in this area, spoken to youths about their behaviour and the speed gun has been used in this area. Officers will continue to monitor the situation as it is included in the Action Plan.

N.B. Councillor A.P. Shotton entered the meeting at this juncture.

(b) Youths congregating at Badgers Walk/Ffordd Kinderley - CBM Sian Atkinson has been monitoring the area and there appears to be less youths. She will continue to visit.

(c) Instances of arson - Inspector Wareing has discussed the problems with the Arson Reduction Team who have access to a Tour Bus but there is a cost and hopefully they will be able to visit the area. Two have been caught and officers will continue to monitor the situation.
(d) Inconsiderate parking of a vehicle on Clivedon Road – the owner of the vehicle has been given a warning. The Chair stated that the van is still being parked on the bend. Inspector Wareing stated that the person will be issued with a penalty notice.

Inspector Wareing invited Councillors to attend a Neighbourhood Forum Meeting to be held on Thursday 7 May 2009 at the Community Centre when CBM Paul Williams will be in attendance and will introduce a new robust system which will be put in place, matters will be considered and an audit will decide which matters are to be dealt with and this will happen within 7 days.

The following matters were raised by Councillors and discussed:-

(i) Councillor P.J. Wainwright reported that he had noticed evidence of fires in Wepre Park and asked if young children are setting the fires. Inspector Wareing stated that bins and skips have been set alight and stated that this problem had been brought up at a recent JAG meeting and he had spoken with Lisa Fearn the Town Centre Manager about the possibility of including it within the “Tidy Towns” initiative.

(ii) Councillor W. Hastings referred to an item on the Agenda from Neighbourhood Watch referring to a person in an old Mercedes car selling coats to elderly people and enquired progress – Inspector Wareing stated that this was a singular event and did happen on Deeside it was another part of Flintshire.

(iii) Councillor R.P. MacFarlane referred to the recent instances of arson at his home and stated that the ivy had now been cut back and amongst the foliage there had been several bottles of Vodka which he is of the opinion fuels these crimes. He further expressed his concern that youths as young as 8/9yrs are obtaining spirits possibly supplied by the parents which could effect their mental/physical health. Inspector Wareing that he agreed completely and Officers will continue to take alcohol away from youths and recently together with Off-watch had drawn up a poster “it could be the most expensive drink you take”. He further stated that test purchases will continue at off-licences. Councillor A.J. Roberts enquired how many were prosecuted for sale of alcohol to minors to which he replied that four has been which was similar to the previous time.

(iv) Councillor A.J. Roberts reported problems of cars gaining access from Richmond Road and down to Fron Road – Inspector Wareing stated that Officers had patrolled the area last Friday and only saw a small motorbike and there have been no more reports recently but would continue to monitor parks i.e. Hillside Avenue, Central Park etc.

(v) Councillor D. Barratt referred to an incident at Uplands Avenue/Ffordd Kinderley with regard to the incident to the banking which holds up peoples gardens - a meeting will be held on the 11th – Inspector Wareing noted.

(vi) Councillor C. Granger expressed her thanks and appreciation to everyone who had been so helpful.
(vii) Councillor D.M. Birch also thanked the Inspector for his hard work on Deeside.

(viii) Councillor A.I. Dunbar reported that problems at Thornfield are as bad as ever which is affecting the whole neighbourhood, young children are unable to sleep. Inspector Wareing stated that officers will continue to patrol the area at every opportunity.

(ix) Councillor A.I. Dunbar referred to inconsiderate parking of vehicles at the end house on Richmond Road which is creating a blind spot for motorists. Inspector Wareing noted.

(x) Councillor A I Dunbar referred to groups of youths drinking at Wepre Park and stated that this comes under the remit of the Rangers and needs more input from the police. Inspector Wareing noted.

(xi) Councillor Mrs. P.M. Attridge stated that she had spoken to CBM Danny Hughes with regard to speeding on Howard Street – Inspector Wareing stated that he would make arrangements for the laser gun. Councillor Mrs Attridge also expressed her concern with regard to the parking of a white van on the green which is creating a traffic hazard, mothers with prams and people in wheelchairs cannot be seen when crossing the road.

(xii) Councillor A.J. Roberts referred to the new police telephone number 101 and asked if the Town Council could publicise it. Inspector Wareing stated that this a Wales number only and it is being tested out at the present time. Councillor Roberts extended his congratulations to every one concerned as the Town Council have been pressing for this system for years.

(xiii) Councillor R.V. Hill referred to speeding between 15 and the end of Normanby Drive and asked if the speed gun would be used. Inspector Wareing will make arrangements.

Inspector Wareing introduced Inspector Mark Hughes and stated that if he or Inspector Hughes can be of assistance please get in contact.

The Chair Inspector Wareing, Inspector Hughes and CBM Atkinson for their valuable assistance.

352. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

353. COMMUNITY AWARDS

RESOLVED:

That the following be invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the Council to be presented with a plaque bearing the Coats of Arms of the Council for Service to the Community:-

Mrs Gwenan MacAndrew and School Council - Dee Road Infants School
Mr Gerald Sullivan
Cannon David Eccleshare.
354. MINUTES
The Minutes of the Meeting held 1 April 2009 were received, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

355. NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISIONS
The Clerk submitted Notification of Planning Decisions (copy forwarded to Councillors with the Agenda):- 045983, 046021 and 044834.

RECOMMENDED:
That the Notifications be received.

356. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1990 (AS AMENDED)
SECTION 78 APPEAL – OLD FIRE STATION, CHURCH STREET, CONNAH’S QUAY
The Clerk submitted letter dated 24 April 2009 from Head of Planning, Flintshire County Council (copy forwarded to Councillors with the Agenda) which stated that the Hearing is to be held at St Mark’s Church on 7 July 2009.

RECOMMENDED:
That the letter be received.

357. DOG FOULING
The Clerk submitted the following:-
(i) Letter dated 2 April 2009 from Dave Faulkner, Head of Highways & Transportation.
(ii) Letter dated 7 April 2009 from Barry Davies, Head of Legal & Democratic Services.
(iii) Letter dated 15 April 2009 from AG Fuller, Pollution Control Manager together with copy of the Public Consultation Document.
(iv) Letter dated 22 April 2009 from AG Fuller, Head of Public Protection together with copy of poster.

The Chair stated that dogs should be put on leads, especially in public parks were there are children present.

RECOMMENDED:
That the correspondence be received.

358. ROADS & FOOTWAYS
ITEMS OF COMPLAINT/REPORT FROM COUNCILLORS
(a) Bungalow – Hall Lane
Councillor A.J. Roberts referred to the extensive works to this property.

RECOMMENDED:
That the Clerk write to the Planning Officer accordingly.

(b) **Thornfield Avenue**
Councillor W. Hastings stated that he would be pursuing the installation of a light at Thornfield Avenue in the interests of security for residents using the footpath.

RECOMMENDED:
That Councillor Hastings’ report is received.

(c) **Recycling**
Councillor W. Hastings enquired on behalf a resident whether the blue box could be made bigger or they could be provide with another box. The Clerk stated that any resident can apply for another box.

(d) **Carriageway Surfaces**
Councillor P.J. Wainwright reported that the surface at the junctions of Pengwladys Avenue and Wepre Lane needs attention.

RECOMMENDED:
That the Clerk writes to Director of Highways accordingly.

**FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 6/5/09**
Councillor A.J. Roberts (Chair) presiding

359. MINUTES
The Minutes of Meeting held 1 April 2009 were received, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

360. FINANCIAL REPORTS
The Clerk submitted the following (copies forwarded to Councillors with the Agenda):

(a) Statement of Cumulative Income & Expenditure for the month of March 2009.
(b) Consolidated Cash Summary for the period ended March 2009.
(c) Statement of Imprest Account Payments during the month of March 2009.

RECOMMENDED:
That the Reports be received.

361. FINAL ACCOUNTS
(a) Appointment of Internal Auditor

RECOMMENDED:
That Mr. Rhodri Hampton-Jones, Compacc, Compete Accountancy Services is re-appointed as the Internal Auditor.

(b) Risk Assessment
(c) Asset Register

The Clerk reported that these registers are available for inspection at the office, both are updated and for insurances purposes the asset register has reference numbers together with photographs against all items valued at over £50.00

RECOMMENDED:
That the correspondence and Clerk’s report is received.

(d) Governance & Accountability
The Clerk submitted letter dated 24 April 2009 together with document from Gareth Roberts, Secretary, Clwyd Branch (copy forwarded to Councillors with the Agenda).

The Chair of the Committee suggested that a small Audit of Governance Committee be appointed to audit the accounts a twice yearly.

RECOMMENDED:
(i) That the correspondence be received.
(ii) That the Chair & Vice-Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee together with the Chair of the Council be appointed on the Committee.

(e) Draft Accounts for 2008/2009 subject to Internal Audit
The Clerk submitted Draft Accounts for 2008/2009 (copy forwarded to Councillors with the Agenda).

The Clerk reported that he would report back following completion of the Audit.

RECOMMENDED:
(i) That the Draft Accounts be received.
(ii) That the Town Centre Regeneration and Management meetings be held on a quarterly basis.

362. CLWYD PENSION FUND UPDATE
The Clerk submitted report dated 31 March 2009 from Head of Finance (Treasurer & Administrator to the Fund) copy forwarded to the Councillors with the Agenda).

The Clerk reported that Central Government are still looking at the implications of the current financial situation and will update Councillors when information is received.

RECOMMENDED:
(i) That the report be received.
(ii) That the Clerk’s report is received.

363. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION – THURSDAY 4 JUNE 2009
The Clerk submitted letter dated 24 April 2009 together with copy notice from Lynne Phillips, Electoral Services Manager, Flintshire County Council (copies forwarded to
Councillors with the Agenda) regarding displaying the notice on the Town Council’s Notice Boards.

RECOMMENDED:

That the letter and notice be received.

364.  **CCTV CAMERAS – STATISTICAL INFORMATION**

The Clerk submitted letter dated 2 April 2009 from Ian Budd, Director of Lifelong Learning, Flintshire County Council (copy forwarded to Councillors with the Agenda) together with quarterly data relating to incidents of crime and disorder (copy made available for inspection at the office).

The Clerk reported that he had informed Inspector Wareing of the availability of the data. Councillor A.P. Shotton reported that there has been an Executive Report submitted to the County Council and concerns have been expressed about the review and the cost implications. The Clerk stated that he had obtained a copy and is aware of the contents. Councillor A.I. Dunbar referred to the two new cameras installed at Wepre Park, which should not be included as maintained by the Town Council, as the County Council installed these.

The Clerk reported that with the cameras being digital it would be helpful to the Police in vehicle recognition and this facility may be used in the future and accrue a fee.

RECOMMENDED:

(i) That the correspondence be received.
(ii) That the reports be received.
(iii) That the Clerk makes arrangements for the visit to the CCTV suite.

365.  **REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF FLINTSHIRE**

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

(a) Letter dated 14 April 2009 from Mr S R Halsall, Deputy Secretary, Local Government Boundary Commission.

(b) Letter dated 17 April 2009 from Mr Colin Everett, Chief Executive, Flintshire County Council.

(c) Letter dated 24 April 2009 from Mr Edward H Lewis, Secretary, Local Government Boundary Commission.

Councillor A.P. Shotton reported in his capacity as a County Council that he had recently attended a seminar and concerns were expressed in view of the minimum of 1750 per elected Councillor and the implications of the knock on effect.

It was noted that the 18th May is the deadline and Councillors agreed that Central and Wepre Wards need to be looked at and possibly revised and it was

RECOMMENDED:

That a Special Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee be held in the Len Williams Room, Civic Hall on Monday 11 May, 2009 commencing at 6.30 p.m.
DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CEMETERY (327)

The Clerk submitted the following letters dated 17 & 27 April 2009 from Neil Cockerton, Head of Technical Services, Flintshire County Council (copies forwarded to Councillors with the Agenda).

Councillors agreed that the response from the County Council had been disappointing the points raised by the Town Council i.e. relocation of bus stop, reduction of the speed limit to 30mph and traffic only turning left when exiting Kelsterton Road had not been acceded to.

Councillors agreed that these matters are important and not unreasonable and it was

RECOMMENDED:

(i) That the Clerk writes the Director of Transportation accordingly.
(ii) That copy letters be forwarded to Inspector M. Hughes, Carl Sargeant AM and Mark Tami MP requesting their support.

MANAGING THE SAFETY OF BURIAL GROUND MEMORIALS

The Clerk submitted letter dated 17 April 2009 from Carol Webber, Partnership & Ethics Team, Local Government Policy Division, Welsh Assembly Government (copy forwarded to Councillors with the Agenda) stated that the Ministry of Justice has issued new guidance in England on managing the health and safety risks arising from memorials in burial grounds which is available on the Welsh Assembly Government website.

RECOMMENDED:

(i) That the letter be received.
(ii) That the Clerk writes to the County Council for details of their policy.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

The Clerk submitted letter dated 24 March 2009 from Mr Roberts Robbins, Head of Overview & Scrutiny, Flintshire County Council (copy forwarded to Councillors with the Agenda).

The Clerk reported that in had been in contact with Mr Robbins and had given him dates of future meetings of the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED:

That the letter be received and the Clerk notify Councillors when Mr Robbins will be attending.

NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION OF TOWN COUNCILS

Councillor C. Granger reported that the meeting has been most informative and included the following matters:-
Superintendent Simon Humphreys, North Wales Police had given a presentation on policing issues and devolved powers and had stated that all recorded crime is down.
He further reported on the alternative contact number 101, which will be publicised soon.

Sea Fishing controls – at present it is controlled as part of the North West and North Wales Committee – the proposal is that North Wales will come under the remit of the Welsh Assembly Government and is at the present time under a consultation period.
Councillor Granger also reported on the value of Environmental Visual Audits undertaken with NWPA and councillors.

RECOMMENDED:
That Councillor Granger’s report is received.


The Clerk submitted the following letter dated 7 April 2009 from Mr Barry Davies, Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Flintshire County Council (copy forwarded to Councillors with the Agenda) which stated that at a meeting of the County Council held on 31 March, 2009 it was resolved that the Council would support the introduction of an Order controlling the consumption of alcohol in public places across the County. The effect of this is that when an area has been designated it would be an offence to drink alcohol in that area after being required by a Police Officer not to do so.

RECOMMENDED:
That the letter be received and the Clerk writes to Mr Barry Davies extending the Town Council’s support in this matter.

371. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – INCIDENTS IN FLINTSHIRE

The Clerk submitted e-mail dated 27 April 2009 from Jackie Lee, Project Administrator (copy forwarded to Councillors with the Agenda) relating to an incident which took place in Flintshire when a male approached an elderly lady and wanted her to by some coats.

RECOMMENDED:
That the e-mail be received.

372. RURAL HOUSING ENABLER FOR FLINTSHIRE & WREXHAM

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

(i) Letter dated April 2009 from Beth Ditson, Rural Housing Enabler, Flintshire & Wrexham Council.

(ii) Letter dated 7 April 2009 from Melville Evans, Housing Strategy Officer, Flintshire County Council which stated that the Town Council’s proposal that a representative be nominated from Town and Community Councils on the Steering Group will be considered on the Steering Group on 6 May.

RECOMMENDED:
That the letters be received.

373. PROPOSALS ON THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCILS IN
NORTH WALES

The Clerk submitted letter dated 2 April 2009 together with Draft 3 of the response from Gail Roberts, Chief Officer, Community Health Council (copies forwarded to Councillors with the Agenda).

The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been forwarded opposing the proposals and also that the Community Health Council is also against it.

RECOMMENDED:

That the correspondence be received.

RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE – 6/5/09

Councillor D.M. Birch (Chair) presiding

374. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held 1 April 2009 were received, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

375. MONITORING OF ACTIVITY/PROFITABILITY

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

(a) Civic Hall Activity/Profitability Statement for the month of March 2009.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Statement be received.

(b) Community Centre Activity/Profitability Statement for the month of March 2009.

RECOMMENDED:-

That the Statements be received.

376. 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 event:-

CIVIC HALL – FINANCIAL YEAR 2009/2010

Deeside Police
Neighbourhood Forum Meeting to be held on Thursday 28 May 2009

WAIVER.

377. FAMILY FUN AND DISCOVERY DAY
To receive letter dated 8 April 2009 from Barbara Milne, Corporate Community Manager, Flintshire County Council (copy forwarded to Councillors with the Agenda) stating that the Family Fun and Discovery Day will be held at Broughton Park on Saturday 4 July 2009.

RECOMMENDED:
That the letter be received.

378. PLAY FOR WALES

The Clerk submitted copy extract “Legal Matters” from Spring 2009 – Issue 28 – Play for Wales leaflet (copy forwarded to Councillors with the Agenda).

The Chair drew attention play provision is becoming a step closer to being a statutory duty in Wales and asked that the Clerk write to the County Council enquiring what are their proposals.

RECOMMENDED:
(i) That the extract be received.
(ii) That the Clerk writes accordingly to the County Council.