

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of a virtual meeting of the General Purposes Committee, held on Monday the 15th June, 2020.

PRESENT: The Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs. N. Davies, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ms. M. Buckley, Mrs. M. Perfect (in the Chair).

Councillors: Mrs. J. Cunningham, P. Cunningham, Councillor Rev. B. Harvey, Ms. R. Johnson, Mrs. E. Jones, S.K. License, Mrs. V. Perfect, I.B. Roberts.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors: D.L. Cox, J.P., M. Evans, J. Johnson, Mrs. L. Jones, J.P., M.W. Moore, Miss. S. Moore.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. L. Wood, Town Clerk and Mrs. S.C. Williams, P.A. to the Clerk.

170. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declaration of interests made.

171. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 24th February, 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

172. FLINT FESTIVAL

Councillor M. Perfect informed the Council that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, unfortunately the Festival 2020 had to be cancelled.

Councillor M. Perfect asked for the Council's approval to start planning the Festival 2021. Some deposits from 2020 will be carried forward to 2021 and many booking enquiries have already been made. Councillor M. Perfect anticipated the income from the festival could be approximately £10,000.

Members congratulated Councillor M. Perfect on all her hard work and look forward to the Festival in 2021.

Councillor M. Perfect updated the Council on the Christmas Lights 'Switch On' and said all the planning is in place, however we need to monitor the governments advise relating to the pandemic.

RESOLVED: That the Council agree to holding Flint Festival 2021 and note the comments regarding the Christmas Lights 'Switch On'.

173. KEY WORKER HEROES

Councillor M. Perfect proposed that an event be held at the Town Hall, hosted by the Mayor, to recognise the Key Worker Heroes within our town once Government regulations allow.

Members all gave suggestions and opinions on this matter and all agreed that we owe Key Worker Heroes a debt of gratitude for keeping our society running throughout this pandemic. Also, how we appreciate that voluntary groups, neighbours etc who are helping others.

Councillor M. Perfect said she will consider ideas and costings and report back to the next Council meeting for further discussion. A Member suggested Councillors could contribute to costs.

A Member proposed an open letter is sent to the Press to thank all our key worker heroes for their commitment and hard work during the Covid-19 pandemic and to thank all residents of Flint for adhering to the Social Distancing rules and helping to keep us all safe.

A Member asked if a letter could be sent to the TSB Bank for remaining open throughout the pandemics.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Councillor M. Perfect will consider ideas and costings and report back to the next Council meeting.
2. That an open letter is sent to the Press for publication.
3. That a letter of thanks is sent to the TSB Bank, Flint.

174. COASTAL PATH ISSUES

Councillor M. Perfect reported issues regarding scrambler bikes racing up and down the coastal path which is very dangerous. This has been reported to both North Wales Police and Flintshire County Council Rangers, however, suggested a letter be sent to North Wales Police to highlight the issues being caused by these bikes.

A Member said they are aware that Flintshire County Council have erected boulders in areas on the coastal path to prevent access. However, this is a widespread issue throughout the Town. They are causing damage to the tracks; they are a noise nuisance and could cause a serious accident to a walker.

A Members suggested if the Press Member in attendance could highlight the Councils concerns.

RESOLVED: That a letter is sent to North Wales Police to highlight the issues.

175. BROADBAND

Councillor M. Perfect reported the lack of broadband speed in certain areas, especially Flint Mountain and Oakenholt and given the current situation, where there is more need than ever to use broadband, it is suggested that the Council write to Openreach to highlight these issues and ask if there are any plans to increase speed in these areas.

RESOLVED: That a letter is sent to BT Openreach regarding the broadband speed.

176. FLINT STATION

Councillor I. Roberts reported following the recent Covid-19 restrictions, Avanti now run a 10-carriage train from London Euston to Holyhead and due to the platform size at Flint station, this could prevent this service stopping at Flint station. As Leader of Flintshire County Council, Councillor I. Roberts has written to Mr. K. Skates, MS Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales to ask that the Government considers extending Flint Railway Station's platform.

Members agreed this is a vital service to our Town and agreed that the Council should write to the Secretary of State for Transport, London.

RESOLVED: That a letter is sent to the Secretary of State for Transport, London regarding Flint Railway Station platform.

177. GOOGLE MAPS

Councillor M. Buckley reported that when you use google to search for Flint, Flint is missing.

RESOLVED: That a letter is sent Google to ask for Flint to be in the search list.

178. TOWN FOUNTAIN & CENOTAPH

The Town Clerk reported an update from Flintshire County Council. The Cenotaph lights have been repaired; however, the fountain pump still requires works. They need to remove the old pump from the fountain and replace with a new one. The delay on this has been because this requires two operatives and due to the social distancing requirement, it has not been possible. This will be looked at as soon as Flintshire County Council can safely do so.

RESOLVED: Noted and the Clerk will update the Council when the works have taken place.

179. COUNCIL'S WEBSITE

The Town Clerk reported the Council's website has recently had an accessibility audit, which only highlighted a small number of changes, these changes are being looked at and will be implemented as soon as possible.

The Town Clerk also informed the Council, that items have being added to the site, such as a Mayor's page with information and photographs, news for residents and all meeting information.

RESOLVED: Noted.

180. TOWN HANGING BASKET

The Town Clerk reported the hanging baskets have now been erected around the town.

RESOLVED: Noted.

181. FLINTSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE REPORT 19/20

The Town Clerk shared the Countryside Service report for 2019/20.

Members asked a letter of thanks is sent to Mr. M. Taylor, Flintshire Ranger for all his hard work on the coastal path which is a vital area for residents to enjoy, especially at these times.

RESOLVED: That the report was noted and a letter of thanks is sent to Mr. M. Taylor, Flintshire Ranger.

182. WOODLAND TRUST TREE SCHEME

The Council considered the information that had previously been circulated regarding the tree planting scheme.

RESOLVED: Noted.

183. ANNUAL MEETING

The Town Clerk reported that the changes in regulations have stated the Annual Meeting can be postponed but must be held before the end of 2020. We can also hold the Annual Meeting remotely but in consultation with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Leader, it has been suggested we wait and see if we can hopefully hold a 'face to face' meeting in the coming months. The regulations state the current Mayor and Deputy Mayor stay in post until the Annual Meeting is held and at the meeting the Council can decide to remain with the same Mayor and Deputy Mayor until May 2021 or change.

RESOLVED: Noted.

Date of Council Meeting	Monday 15 th June, 2020
..... Chair	