

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the hybrid meeting of the General Purposes Committee, held on Monday the 16th October, 2023.

PRESENT: Councillor V. Perfect (in the Chair).

Councillors: M. Buckley, P. Cunningham, N. Davies, R. Davies, B. Goldsborough, C. Griffiths, E. Jones, M. Moore, M. Perfect, J. Stoneley and M. Whittaker.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors: D. Challenger and L. Leigh.

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Wood, Town Clerk and N. Thornton, Support Officer.

115. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM

There were no public enquiry items.

116. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest made.

117. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 18th September 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

118. FLINT RAILWAY STATION DEVELOPMENTS

Councillor N. Davies reported an update from Network Rail in relation to Flint railway station benefitting from a major accessibility upgrade, with plans for the new footbridge complete with a lift, designed to aid passengers with limited mobility. The work is scheduled to begin in November/December 2023, with all work due to be completed by autumn 2024.

Councillor N. Davies reported that in her capacity as Vice Chair of the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils, she had completed a survey on the North Wales Coast Line in August 2023. Passengers were also given surveys to complete during their journeys. The results of the survey will be published soon and made available to all Councillors.

Councillor M. Whittaker reported that Avanti West Coast have recently carried out testing on the North Wales coast main line ahead of the introduction of the new class 805 trains.

Councillor M. Whittaker proposed that the Council writes to Network Rail to attend a Council Meeting to present scheme and programme of the new bridge and also invite Avanti West Coast to request an update and presentation regarding the introduction of these new trains on the North Wales - London Euston route. Councillors agreed.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk will invite both Network Rail and Transport for Wales to attend a Council meeting to provide an update on the Flint Railway Station.

119. TREES ON OLD LONDON ROAD

Councillor B. Goldsborough reported that the trees on Old London Road are in a desperate need to be cut back, they are narrowing roads and pavements and causing issues for residents, including those on mobility scooters. Kingsbury Close Junction also needs attention.

Councillor B. Goldsborough said he is aware that County Councillor M. Perfect has been in contact with Flintshire County Council but proposed the Town Council write to the County Council to ask the trees are cut back urgently and especially before the winter months. Councillors agreed.

Councillor P. Cunningham added he is aware Flintshire County Council have contacted Nice-Pak to request they cut these trees back and that tree cutting is a County wide issue at the moment due to staff and budget constraints.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk will write to Flintshire County Council to request urgent cutting of the trees on Old London Road and Kingsbury Close.

120. HOLYWELL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Councillor C. Griffiths reported issues that had been encountered at Holywell Community hospital, lack of services being provided due to budget constraints.

Councillor P. Cunningham said this hospital is used by Flint residents and said Betsi Cadwaladr is responsible for its services.

Councillor R. Davies reported that he is aware individuals can complete a complaint form at hospitals and each complaint is investigated.

RESOLVED: That this report was noted and Councillor C. Griffiths will complete the relevant complaints form.

121. JADE JONES PAVILION – NAMING OF THE ROOMS

Councillor M. Moore suggested that the rooms within the Jade Jones Pavilion could be named after Leisure and Sporting icons within the Town.

Councillor M. Buckley said she agreed this was an excellent idea but believe the Leisure Centre is open plan and doesn't have separate rooms which could be named.

Councillor C. Griffiths said an honours board could be erected at the Leisure Centre to include all the names.

Councillor J. Stoneley said we should recognise the talent we have in the Town and proposed the Town should have an honours board. These people are important figures within our town, who have helped shaped the town.

Councillor N. Davies proposed the honours board should be in the Town Hall. Councillor R. Davies added we could have a digital honours board on the Councils website.

Councillors agreed to obtain a quotation for an honours board at the Town Hall and also consider a digital honours board on the Councils website and the Town Clerk to report back to Council with this information.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk will obtain costings for both an honours board at the Town Hall and a digital honours board on the Councils website and to report back to Council with this information.

122. REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The Town Clerk reported on Saturday 11th November, 11am, the Council will hold a small Service at the Cenotaph and on Sunday 12th November, 2.45pm, there will be a parade around the Town then a Service at the Cenotaph followed by refreshments in the Royal British Legion.

RESOLVED: That the Remembrance Service dates were noted.

123. FLINT'S GOT PRIDE

Councillor M. Buckley proposed that Flint holds Flint's Got Pride in June 2024. Pride is needed to celebrate diversity, educate and empower. Unfortunately, there are still hate crimes committed and many within the LGBTQ+ community self-harm and commit suicide. Holding this event in a small town will be a bigger impact on the community.

Councillor M. Buckley said in 2021 she was privileged to be the first gay Mayor to represent Flint and it would be an honour when I am Mayor in 2024, to hold this event and asked for Councillors support.

Councillor M. Perfect said she fully supports this event and is aware that there are a number of grants available to fund such an event.

Councillors supported this event and agreed this event will help combat hate and prejudice and raise awareness for respect and equality, helping our future generations and proposed the Town Clerk applies for funding.

RESOLVED: That the Council supported the Flint's Got Pride event, June 2024 and that the Town Clerk will apply for appropriate funding.

Date of Council Meeting	Monday 16 th October 2023
..... Chair	