

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the hybrid meeting of the General Purposes Committee, held on Monday the 15th April, 2024.

Before the opening of the meeting the Mayor invited Rev. R. Hainsworth, Chaplain to lead all present in prayer.

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

Councillors: M. Buckley, D. Challenger, N. Davies, R. Davies, B. Goldsborough, C. Griffiths, E. Jones, L. Leigh, M. Moore, M. Perfect, I. Roberts, and M. Whittaker.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors: P Cunningham and J. Stoneley.

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Wood, Town Clerk, N. Thornton, Support Officer, Mrs. M. Lawton, Transport for Wales - Community Rail Strategy Lead and Mr. S. Jones, Transport for Wales - Commercial Development Manager.

252. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM

There were no public enquiry items.

253. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest made.

254. FLINT TRAIN STATION IMPROVEMENTS

Mrs. M. Lawton, Transport for Wales - Community Rail Strategy Lead and Mr. S. Jones, Transport for Wales - Commercial Development Manager attended the meeting and gave a presentation on Flint Train Station Improvements.

Mrs. M. Lawton thanked the Councillors who attended the Station tour prior to the meeting.

Councillor M. Moore asked if the October opening date for the new bridge and lift had taken into consideration the 18 weeks that the contractors are behind in the works schedule. Mrs. M. Lawton could not confirm.

Councillor N. Davies offered to volunteer in the gardens at the station.

Councillor L. Leigh asked that if volunteers are needed, if they could consider ex-offenders, which would help them be introduced back in the workplace.

The Chair thanked Mrs. M. Lawton and Mr. S. Jones for a very informative tour and presentation.

RESOLVED: That the presentation was noted.

255. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 18th March 2024 be

approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

256. FLINT FESTIVAL & TOWN EVENTS

Councillor M. Perfect updated the Council on the success of the Easter Egg Hunt at the Castle, 90 children attended and again wished to thank Willmott Dixon Construction for donating all the Easter Eggs.

Councillor M. Perfect extended her thanks to the RLNI for opening the station for tours and serving refreshments, which helped them to raise nearly £80. Also thanked the Councillors who attended and helped on the day.

Councillor M. Perfect provided an update on the festival and reported Flintshire County Council has advised as the event is an established event, there is no need to attend the Safety Advisory Group. All details have been advertised on social media and once finalised information will be circulated in the Town. Thanks to Inside Flintshire, who have agreed to publish the festival in their magazine free of charge, this is excellent.

Councillor M. Perfect proposed following recent Audit recommendations, that an Executive Event Working Group that consists of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Chair of Finance & Policy could be established to authorise payments and make decisions about event planning and then any actions, will be reported to the next meeting. Councillors agreed.

RESOLVED: That the report was noted and that an Executive Event Working Group will be established.

257. TRANSPORT BRIEFING

Councillor N. Davies updated the Council in relation to the Transport for Wales future (TFW) timetable review in relation to Wales and borders services.

The most recent survey undertook in relation to the TFW service between Flint and Birmingham International stated that passengers have requested four-car carriages on all TFW services on the North Wales coastline due to the high numbers of passengers using the trains, especially between Prestatyn and Chester.

It was also reported about the lack of bicycles storage on the trains and how creating space would be good to entice cyclists to the North East Wales Coastal NCR routes which can be accessed from Flint.

Councillor B. Goldsborough shared concerns Avanti will use the drop in usage figures of our station as a reason to cut routes in the future. Logic dictates that people will move away from using the train if they can't rely on it turning up or being cancelled at the last minute.

Councillor M. Whittaker responded it was particularly regrettable the cancellations by Avanti West Coast, disproportionately affects North Wales significantly more than their other routes.

Councillor M. Moore reported that the 07.50 train from Holyhead to Manchester, does not stop at Prestatyn or Flint.

Councillor N. Davies added Mr. N. Smith, Avanti representative has been invited to all of the North Coast Transport Committee meetings but had not attended therefore for the next

meeting an invitation will be sent to Mr. N. Smith and another representative of Avanti, in the hope they will attend to address the issues.

RESOLVED: That the report is noted.

258. CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS

Councillor M. Perfect reported that due to the current Christmas Light display needing a number of repairs and the age, the Clerk sought to obtain three quotations, as well as a

quotation from Mega Electrical for the repair costs. All quotations had previously been shared with Members.

Councillor M. Perfect remarked that Flint Town Lights have always been an envy of many and draw crowds into the Town over the festive period and therefore proposed we accept a quotation from LITE, Option A.

Councillor M. Buckley asked we consider re-cycling the old lights. The Clerk advised this had been looked into and will seek to do this if possible.

Councillor I. Roberts added he supported this proposal as we need to ensure we have good quality lights and although this will impact the budget, the happiness the lights bring to our residents balances this.

259. NATURE LINK PROJECT LETTER OF SUPPORT

Councillor N. Davies reported Ms. L. Wakefield, Manager, Community Heart Productions contacted her to ask if the Council would provide a letter of support as they are applying for funding from Gwynt Y Mor Community Fund.

Councillor M. Perfect proposed that more information is given to the Council about this organisation before a letter of support is written. Councillors agreed.

RESOLVED: That Councillor N. Davies will request information and report back to Council.

260. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Councillor L. Leigh reported a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour in a particular area of the town and proposed a public meeting including herself, North Wales Police, Clwyd Housing Association and Councillor I. Roberts.

Councillor I. Roberts said he was disappointed he had not been previously informed of this and does not feel a public meeting is required and that matters have been reported and actions are currently being undertaken.

RESOLVED: That the reported was noted.

261. RATEABLE VALUES AND WATER RATES ON FLINTSHIRE PROPERTIES

Councillor C. Griffiths reported that she has been informed that residents living in Band D properties are paying more for water rates than those living in Band E properties and proposed that we write to Flintshire County Council to ask they review the ratable values as Welsh Water base their rates on this information.

Councillor I. Roberts confirmed that Flintshire County Council are not responsible for setting the ratable values, these are set by the Valuation Office Agency.

RESOLVED: That following a vote, the proposal was not carried.

NOTE: Councillor L. Leigh left the meeting

262. CORNIST CEMETERY

Councillor C. Griffiths reported that over 12 months ago, as a resident she reported the 'No Parking' sign on the turning circle outside the cemetery was missing, she has contacted the Flintshire Bereavement Manager on several occasions but to no avail.

Councillor C. Griffiths also reported that the grass verge is turned up due to Council vehicles accessing the cemetery and that when new graves are prepared, all the soil is scattered on older graves, to level the area, however, this soil contains rubble and needs to be cleaned.

Councillor C. Griffiths proposed we write to Flintshire County Council to ask they replace the 'No Parking' sign on the turning circle, they widen the footpath and they ensure the soil is cleaned prior to scattering on older graves.

RESOLVED: That a letter will be sent to Flintshire County Council to ask for a replacement 'No Parking' sign on the turning circle; the footpath is widened and the soil is cleaned prior to scattering.

<i>Date of Council Meeting</i>	<i>Monday 15th April 2024</i>
..... Chair	