

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

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

Before the opening of the meeting the Mayor invited Councillor P. Cunningham to lead all present in prayer.

PRESENT: Councillor N. Davies (in the Chair).

Councillors: M. Buckley, D. Challenger, P. Cunningham, R. Davies, C. Griffiths, E. Jones, M. Moore, M. Perfect, V. Perfect, I. Roberts, M. Whittaker and J. Stoneley.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors: B. Goldsborough and L. Leigh.

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Wood, Town Clerk, N. Thornton, Support Officer, Ms. B. Daly & Mr. J. McEwan, Aura Sports Development Team Officers and Mr. R. Roberts, Aura Play Design Officer.

49. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM

There were no public enquiry items.

50. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interests made.

51. AURA SPORTS DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY RUN SESSIONS

Ms. B. Daly & Mr. J. McEwan, Aura Sports Development Team Officers attended and gave a presentation on the community run sessions. They said that the sessions rely heavily on financial support due to recent budget cuts.

Councillor M. Perfect thanked Ms. B. Daly and Mr. J. McEwan for their attendance and for delivering a very informative presentation.

RESOLVED: That the presentation was noted.

52. PLAY AREA MATCH FUNDING 2024/25

Mr. R. Roberts, Aura Play Design Officer attended to present the plans for the play area improvements scheme at Albert Avenue and detailed the inclusive equipment that will be installed.

Councillor P. Cunningham asked if consideration could be given for inclusive swings, where by wheelchairs can be affixed to the swing so all children can enjoy. Mr. R. Roberts replied that these are very specialised pieces of equipment usually installed at special schools, however, this suggestion could be reviewed and considered for future implementation.

RESOLVED: That the presentation was noted.

53. MINUTES

Councillor M. Buckley proposed the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th June, 2024 be approved, which was seconded by Councillor V. Perfect.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 17th June 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

54. FLINT FESTIVAL & TOWN EVENTS

Councillor M. Buckley thanked all that attended Flint Pride and said the event was extremely successful and has received positive feedback. Next year, the hope is to set up a Flint Pride Committee, so the planning and organisation will not come under the Council's remit. The Committee will again be seeking funding to hold another Flint Pride event.

Councillor M. Perfect reported on all the events that took place in the past week as part of the Flint Festival, noting their success and enjoyment. The Festival will continue over the next two weekends, featuring Summer Cinemas at the Castle. Councillor M. Perfect added thanks to all those who helped with the Festival.

Councillor M. Perfect also reported that on Saturday 31st August, the Town Council will host a welcome home event for Miss. J. Jones, OBE after she has competed in the Olympics for her third Gold Medal in Taekwondo. Local venues will be showing the Fight on Thursday 8th August.

Councillor M. Moore proposed that the Council grants Miss. J. Jones, OBE with Freedom of the Town.

Councillor I. Roberts added this would be an Honorary Freedom of the Town and would recognise her as an inspiration to all our young people for what can be achieved.

Councillor M. Buckley seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: That the reports were noted, and arrangements would be made for granting Miss. J. Jones OBE with an Honorary Freedom of the Town.

55. TRANSPORT BRIEFING

Councillor N. Davies reported she was unable to attend the last Transport Meeting therefore had no report but will be attending the September meeting.

56. PLAYGROUND COMMUNICATION BOARDS

Following the previous resolution, the Town Clerk reported that the Specialist Speech and Language Therapist from Betsi Cadwaladr had offered a total of five playground communication boards free of charge for placement in playgrounds in the Flint area. Additional boards could be purchased at approximately £54 each.

It was previously agreed that a communication board would be erected at Cornist Park play area.

The Town Clerk added that she had consulted with Mr. R. Roberts, Aura Play Design

Officer, regarding the installation of these boards. Aura will undertake the installation free of charge where possible, but there may be costs if selected parks do not have suitable fencing for secure mounting of the boards.

Councillor P. Cunningham proposed that Councillors inform the Town Clerk of their preferred five parks to receive these boards. Powers to act are delegated to the Town Clerk and the Chair of the General Purposes Committee to agree on the final selection of parks. They will coordinate with Aura for the installation.

The Town Clerk can then report back to the September meeting and Council can consider if to purchase additional boards for the remaining parks within the Town.

Councillor M. Perfect seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk will confirm the Council's acceptance of the offer of five playground communication boards; Councillors will then inform the Town Clerk of the parks where they wish to have the boards installed; Powers to act is given to the Town Clerk and the Chair of the General Purposes Committee to agree on the final selection of the five parks and arrange for Aura to erect the boards, considering any necessary costs for installation where applicable; report back at the September meeting to discuss potential purchase of additional boards for other play areas in Flint.

57. CLOSURE OF TSB BANK

The Council discussed the response received from TSB Bank concerning the closure of the Flint branch, which had been previously addressed in a meeting.

Councillor M. Moore proposed the response is noted and accepted, which was seconded by Councillor P. Cunningham.

RESOLVED: That the letter from the TSB Bank is noted and accepted.

58. WAR MEMORIAL

The Council considered a quotation for the cleaning of the War Memorial on the junction of Aber Road.

Councillor E. Jones, representing the Royal British Legion, confirmed that they had agreed to cover 50% of the costs associated with the cleaning.

The Town Clerk reminded Councillors that following a previous request for the cleaning and restoration of the War Memorials at Trelawny Square. A quotation had been received and an application for a grant via War Memorial Trust was submitted, we are awaiting a response.

Councillor V. Perfect proposed we accept the quotation, which was seconded by Councillor M. Moore.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk will authorise the cleaning of the Aber Road War Memorial and liaise with the Royal British Legion regarding their contribution to cover 50% of the costs.

59. PEN GOCH PLAYING FIELD

Council considered the report from Ms. S. Slater, Flintshire Biodiversity Officer following a site visit with Councillors on Monday 1st July, to discuss a possible nature area/wildflowers site at Pen Goch Playing Field.

Councillor C. Griffiths said residents are not happy with the proposal and are preparing a petition. She also questioned how the County Council can fund this project when areas are not having the grass cut and disputed the bulb planting area indicated on the report and map.

Councillor D. Challenger provided an overview of the site visit, noting that residents attended and had their concerns addressed by Ms. S. Slater and residents were then giving suggestions for the nature area and for bulb planting along Charles Drive. It was also confirmed that the main field will remain as green space and that the project funding was secured through a grant scheme, not from County Council funds.

Councillor D. Challenger proposed we accept the recommendations of the report, seconded by Councillor E. Jones.

Councillor C. Griffiths proposed an amendment that no decision is made until further consultation with residents takes place, seconded by Councillor P. Cunningham.

RESOLVED: That the Council accepts the recommendations of the report from Ms. S. Slater, Flintshire Biodiversity Officer regarding the Pen Goch Playing Field nature area/wildflower site.

60. PARKING AT THE RETAIL PARK

Councillor M. Buckley reported concerns raised by residents regarding the parent and child car parking spaces in the newest section of the retail park near the Iceland superstore, noting that the spaces are very narrow and pose difficulties for parents assisting children in and out of cars.

Councillor M. Perfect added that insufficient dropped kerbs in the area are also causing challenges for users of prams, motorised scooters, and wheelchairs.

Councillor Buckley proposed that a letter is sent to the Hollins Murray Group requesting they address the concerns and including an expression of sincere thanks for their contribution to the town by bringing businesses to the town and providing employment opportunities.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor M. Perfect.

RESOLVED: That the Council will send a letter to the Hollins Murray Group, expressing concerns about the narrow parent and child parking spaces and the insufficient dropped kerbs at the retail park including an expression of sincere thanks for their contributions to the town.

Date of Council Meeting	Monday 15 th July, 2024
..... Chair	