

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the hybrid meeting of the General Purposes Committee, held on Monday the 18th November 2024.

Before the opening of the meeting the Mayor invited Ordinent Rob Dawson to lead all present in prayer.

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Wood, Town Clerk, N. Thornton, Support Officer, Mr. O. Butler, Flintshire Education Practitioner and District Inspector W. Williams, North Flintshire Area Police.

148. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM

There were no public enquiry items.

149. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor M. Moore declared an interest in Agenda item 5. Police Issues within the Town.

150. FLINTSHIRE SORTED - DRUG & ALCOHOL TEAM

Mr. O. Butler, Flintshire Education Practitioner, provided an overview of the Youth Provision team's services, which support children and young people aged 8 to 25 and aim to reduce drug and alcohol-related harm in the community.

In response to questions, Mr. Butler explained that the team collaborates closely with the Police, holding regular monthly meetings or engaging more frequently if needed. For children over 13, the service is provided confidentially, with information given directly to the child.

Safeguarding policies are in place, all conversations are recorded, and action is taken if a child is at risk or involved in illegal activities. He also offered to share the team's safeguarding policies for further transparency.

The team also works with primary schools, delivering talks on issues such as vaping. A suggestion for collaboration with Flint litter pickers, who often identify hotspots of substance misuse, was welcomed by Mr. Butler, who indicated the team would be happy to explore this further to target outreach efforts more effectively.

Concerns were raised about the potential for role confusion between the team and teachers. Mr. Butler clarified that while children are encouraged to talk to their teachers, the team makes their separate role clear.

RESOLVED: That the report was noted.

151. POLICE ISSUES WITHIN THE TOWN

District Inspector W. Williams, North Flintshire Area was in attendance.

The Inspector provided an update on local crime figures, noting an increase in police patrols and the recruitment of a new PCSO for the area.

The new Community Alert messaging service was highlighted as a tool to help prevent and detect crime and anti-social behaviour. To connect with those who cannot access digital services, officers engage with residents through community visits. Suggestions were made to leave information in public spaces like libraries and churches.

Concerns were raised about safety at Flint Train Station, particularly at night, due to overcrowding and anti-social behaviour. The Police will liaise with British Transport Police to address these issues and aim for greater officer presence on trains and at stations.

Questions about cyber and financial crime were addressed, with assurance that an Outreach Cyber Crime Team provides advice and support to businesses and communities.

Councillor I. Roberts proposed a letter is sent to Transport for Wales expressing concerns about the reduced ticket office hours. This was seconded by Councillor M. Buckley.

The Inspector hopes to attend future Council Meetings.

RESOLVED: That the report was noted, and a letter is sent to Transport for Wales raising concerns about the reduced ticket office hours.

152. MINUTES

Councillor M. Buckley proposed the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21st October 2024 be approved, which was seconded by Councillor E. Jones.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 21st November 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

153. FLINT FESTIVAL & TOWN EVENTS

Councillor M. Perfect reminded Councillor of the up-and-coming Christmas events and reported that the planning for the Flint Festival 2025 is already underway.

RESOLVED: That the report was noted.

154. TRANSPORT BRIEFING

Councillor N. Davies was invited by Gail Jones, Transport for Wales Stakeholder Manager for Mid and North Wales, to attend the Transport Liaison Group meeting in Cardiff on Wednesday, 13th November.

Accessibility and inclusion were key topics of discussion at the meeting. Councillor N. Davies met a wheelchair user, who is employed by TFW to travel across Wales during peak times to

gather data for reports including feedback on issues related to paths, platforms, lighting, lifts, and more, helping TFW to identify areas that require repair or replacement.

It was reported that Shotton Station is a priority for accessibility improvements, and further updates on these developments are expected soon.

RESOLVED: That the report was noted.

155. WINTER PREPARATIONS

Councillor P. Cunningham requested a grit bin for Lon Y Chwylfa, Flint Mountain. Councillor M. Perfect proposed that Councillors email the Town Clerk with areas requiring grit bins, with the Leader and Chair of Finance & Policy reviewing the list and making decisions at the budget meeting, as done previously and that the Town Caretaker ensures all the bins are filled with salt ready for the winter months. This was seconded by Councillor M. Buckley.

RESOLVED: That Councillors will email the Town Clerk with suggested areas for grit bins, and the Leader and Chair of Finance & Policy will review the list and make decisions at the budget meeting.

156. REMEMBRANCE DAY

Councillor P. Cunningham informed the Council that Flint Mountain residents had requested Silent Soldiers and Poppies for the area. He proposed that the Council purchase these for next year and also buy poppies for all other areas of Flint. This was seconded by Councillor E. Jones.

Councillor E. Jones, on behalf of the Royal British Legion, offered to provide the Council with some poppies.

Councillor M. Perfect suggested that this matter could also be included in the budget meeting.

RESOLVED: That Silent Soldiers and Poppies will be purchased in preparation for 2025.

157. SUMMER PLAYScheme 2025

The Council considered a letter from Play Flintshire. Councillors raised some questions, a query about the low attendance of girls from Flint Mountain, with only 9 girls attending compared to 147 boys, and whether there was a specific reason for this. Another question was raised regarding the accessibility of Albert Avenue, with a suggestion to explore if there might be a better location. Additionally, it was requested that the grass at Pen Goch Playing Field be cut and maintained during the playscheme.

Councillor M. Perfect proposed that the Council continue to fund a 6-week scheme at all five sites within the town, which was seconded by Councillor D. Challenger.

RESOLVED: That the Council will inform Play Flintshire that they will fund a 6-week scheme at all five sites within the town.

Date of Council Meeting	Monday 18 th November, 2024
..... Chair	