

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the hybrid meeting of the General Purposes Committee, held on Monday the 17th February 2025.

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

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

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor P. Cunningham, M. Hanson, D. Jones, V. Perfect and J. Stoneley.

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Wood, Town Clerk, N. Thornton, Support Officer, Mr. L. Shone & Ms. J. Wellstead, Flintshire County Council

202. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM

There were no public enquiry items.

203. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

204. NORTH WALES REGIONAL TRANSPORT CONSULTATION

Mr. L. Shone and Ms. J. Wellstead, representatives from Flintshire County Council, attended the meeting to provide an update on the North Wales Regional Transport Consultation. The consultation is open from 20th January until 14th April 2025. The officers encouraged Councillors to provide feedback and urged residents to do the same. They also mentioned that drop-in sessions will be held in Holywell and Deeside, with the dates to be confirmed.

Councillor M. Whittaker enquired about specific examples of what the consultation aims to deliver in Flint. Mr. L. Shone responded that the focus is on active travel measures, safer routes to schools, and a rolling scheme to improve footpaths, particularly in terms of access to schools, as well as building better public transport networks.

Councillor N. Davies raised the issue of integrated train times linking with bus services. Ms. J. Wellstead assured that this will be addressed at the local level within the broader regional transport plan.

Councillor M. Whittaker proposed that the officers be invited to attend the council annually to provide updates. This proposal was seconded by Councillor M. Buckley.

RESOLVED: That the report was noted and that the Flintshire County Council Officers will be invited to attend a meeting next year to provide an update.

205. MINUTES

Councillor M. Buckley proposed the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th January 2025 be approved, which was seconded by Councillor D. Challenger.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 20th January 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

206. CLERKS UPDATE ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Clerk reminded Council that following a matter raised by Councillor M. Moore several months ago regarding the Flint information boards, Mr. R. Jones, Flintshire Business & Tourism Development Officer, advised that a bid will be submitted to the Welsh Government's Brilliant Basics Fund to deliver new signage and interpretation along the coast in Flintshire. If the bid is successful, the funds could be used to update and relocate the totems in Flint. Successful projects are expected to commence in April 2025.

RESOLVED: That the report was noted.

207. FLINT FESTIVAL & TOWN EVENTS

Councillor M. Perfect provided an update on the progress of planning for Flint Festival 2025 and announced the introduction of some new events this year. The full programme is nearly complete and will be published soon.

Councillor M. Buckley updated Council on the arrangements for VE Day on 8th May. The day's events will include a proclamation reading at the Church, followed by a Fish and Chip lunch at the Town Hall, which will be decorated with memorabilia and local school children's artwork. Local schools will also entertain guests, performing songs and reading poems from the era. In the evening, the beacons will be lit to mark the occasion.

RESOLVED: That the reports were noted.

208. TRANSPORT BRIEFING

Councillor M. Whittaker asked Councillor N. Davies, as the representative for the North and Mid Association of Local Councils, if she could enquire about the Transport for Wales announcement regarding the 6% fare increases and request an explanation of how these figures were decided.

Councillor M. Buckley proposed that, as the transport meetings are held bi-monthly, this item could be added to the agenda every two months rather than each month. This proposal was seconded by Councillor D. Challenger.

RESOLVED: That, Councillor N. Davies will ask Transport for Wales for an explanation regarding the fare increases and that this item will be added to the agenda on a bi-monthly basis.

209. TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL REVIEW

Councillor N. Davies shared the review which she had received as the representative for the North and Mid Association of Local Councils and asked Councillors to consider the four questions and respond to her prior to the 26th May prior to the next North and Mid Association of Local Councils meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report is noted.

210. SALT BIN – EDWIN DRIVE

The Clerk reported on behalf of Councillor V. Perfect and Councillor P. Cunningham that they wish to request a salt bin be placed on Edwin Drive.

Councillor D. Challenger proposed that the Council agree to consider all salt bin requests at the September meeting, prior to receiving the Winter Preparation letter from Flintshire County Council in October.

RESOLVED: The Council will consider all salt bin requests at the September meeting.

211. CROSSING PATROL ON COED ONN ROAD

Councillor D. Challenger said he was bringing forward an urgent matter regarding road safety on Coed Onn Road, which has been raised by both Ysgol Gwynedd and local residents. The concern is clear: there is currently no safe crossing provision for children and families using this busy road, despite the fact that hundreds of pupils cross here daily to attend Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint High School, St. Richard Gwyn High School, Ysgol Croes Atti, and St. Mary's Primary.

For some time, Councillor D. Challenger, Ysgol Gwynedd and the governing body has been raising concerns about the lack of a school crossing patrol at this location and the patrol on Prince of Wales Avenue is also unavailable, leaving families with no safe way to cross. Traffic along Coed Onn Road has significantly increased due to The Oaks / Croes Atti development and the opening of the Llys Curig access point.

Parents who walk their children to school daily have witnessed first-hand how dangerous the road has become, and Councillors have received letters from concerned parents. Flintshire County Council has installed a pedestrian crossing outside St. Mary's Primary School, on a much quieter stretch of the same road, while completely ignoring the far busier section near Ysgol Gwynedd, a school with over 500 pupils which has no dedicated crossing provision at all.

Councillor D. Challenger proposed that Flint Town Council writes to Flintshire School and Road Safety team, urging them to install a zebra crossing, or a similar provision by the stones on Pen Goch field on Coed Onn Road as a matter of urgency. Councillor C. Griffiths seconded this proposal.

Councillor I. Roberts agreed with Councillor D. Challengers proposal but proposed an amendment to also write to Ysgol Gwynedd asking why, after thousands was invested in upgrading the paths on the fields via the Safer Routes to Schools Programme, is the top gate still not open onto Pen Goch field. Opening the top gate would allow pupils safer

access and exit to the site. Currently pupils exit the site onto the busy Allt Goch and Prince of Wales Avenue. Councillor M. Buckley seconded this amendment proposal.

A recorded vote on the amendment was requested by Councillor C. Griffiths.

A recorded vote took place.

Councillor M. Buckley	Support
Councillor D. Challenger	Support
Councillor N. Davies	Support
Councillor R. Davies	Support
Councillor C. Griffiths	Object
Councillor E. Jones	Support
Councillor M. Moore	Support
Councillor M. Perfect	Support
Councillor I. Roberts	Support
Councillor M. Whittaker	Support

The amendment was passed.

RESOLVED: That a letter will be sent to the Flintshire School and Road Safety Team to address the concerns relating to the lack of a safe crossing provision, and a letter will also be sent to Ysgol Gwynedd to enquire about the possibility of opening the gate on Pen Goch Field at the opening and closing times of the school day.

Date of Council Meeting	Monday 17th February, 2025
..... Chair	