

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the hybrid meeting of the General Purposes Committee, held on Monday the 28th April 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, P. Cunningham, R. Davies, C. Griffiths, M. Hanson, E. Jones, M. Moore, M. Perfect, V. Perfect, I. Roberts, J. Stoneley and M. Whittaker.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor D. Jones.

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Wood, Town Clerk, N. Thornton, Support Officer and Mr. M. Taylor, Flintshire Countryside Officer.

262. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM

There were no public enquiry items.

263. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor. I. Roberts declared an interest in Agenda item 11 – The Laurels Surgery.

Councillor. D. Challenger declared an interest in Agenda item 11 – The Laurels Surgery.

Councillor. E. Jones declared an interest in Agenda item 11 – The Laurels Surgery.

RESOLVED: That the declaration of interests will be recorded.

264. COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. M. Taylor, Flintshire Countryside Services Officer was in attendance and gave a presentation on the works completed and the future plans for the coastal path.

Mr. M. Taylor expressed his appreciation for the financial donation from the Town Council, noting that the support has enabled significantly more work to be carried out in the Flint area.

Councillor M. Perfect thanked Mr. M. Taylor and his team for their tremendous efforts and ongoing support at Flint Town events. She especially acknowledged their recent assistance in helping to develop the Park Run.

Councillor P. Cunningham noted that the A-frames were due to be removed from the coastal path and expressed his thanks, commenting that they cause difficulties for visitors with mobility issues.

Councillor M. Buckley suggested that bin installations along the coastal path could be improved by fitting guards to prevent seagulls from removing litter and spreading it in the area.

Councillor M. Whittaker asked whether Countryside Services had considered applying for funding through the Carbon Project to support the development of local cycle routes. Mr. M. Taylor responded that funding was not within his remit; however, he was aware that landowners had been consulted in relation to unblocking a footpath, and that funding from the Wales Coastal Path scheme was being used for this purpose.

Councillor M. Hanson enquired whether there is a Code of Conduct for cyclists, as the shared use of narrow paths can pose a danger to walkers. She also asked about the possibility of installing additional dog waste bins and whether there were any plans for public toilet facilities, particularly in light of the expected increase in visitors due to the Park Run.

Mr. M. Taylor responded that he is aware of the Country Code and will look into the possibility of adding more signage along the coastal path. Regarding dog waste bins and public toilets, he clarified that these are outside his remit but confirmed that he has previously requested Flintshire Streetscene to renew existing bins and consider installing more. He also mentioned awareness of a future plan for a visitor centre in the area.

Mr. Taylor expressed his sincere thanks to the Flint litter-picking volunteers, saying their work is invaluable and greatly supports his ability to focus on broader tasks.

The Chair thanked Mr. M. Taylor for a most informative and helpful presentation.

265. MINUTES

Councillor M. Buckley proposed the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17th March 2025 be approved, which was seconded by Councillor D. Challenger.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 17th March 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

266. FLINT FESTIVAL & TOWN EVENTS

Councillor R. Davies sought Council's approval to engage with local schools in support of Armed Forces Day. The proposal included sending out digital activity packs to schools for children to complete either at home or in school. A key feature of the initiative would be a badge design competition, with the winning design produced as badges by the Town Council for the respective school. In addition, the winning design would be customised and printed onto a flag to be flown from the Town Hall.

Councillor Davies advised that the estimated cost of the initiative would be approximately £400. While confirmation is awaited on whether grant funding can be secured, he requested Council's approval to proceed with the project, with the understanding that, if necessary, funding would be drawn from the Town Event budget.

Councillor D. Challenger suggested that the digital packs could also be distributed to local libraries to expand engagement.

Councillor M. Buckley proposed that the Council supports and approves the initiative, as a wonderful way to engage with local schools. This was seconded by Councillor M. Perfect.

RESOLVED: That the Council approve the proposal, including the estimated costs, and support the initiative as outlined.

267. TRANSPORT BRIEFING

Councillor N. Davies reported that she will be attending the upcoming Transport Meeting on Friday, 2nd May, where the North Wales Transport Plan will be discussed. She confirmed that she will report back to the Council following the meeting.

Councillor Davies also informed members that on 13th May, she will be travelling on local train services to conduct passenger surveys.

RESOLVED: That the report was noted.

268. MATCH FUNDING SCHEME – IMPROVEMENTS TO CHILDREN’S PLAY AREAS 2025/26

Council considered a letter from Gwella regarding an expression of interest in the match funding scheme – improvements to children’s play areas 2025/26. Gwella have identified Kiln Close Play Area as the park being in most need of investment.

The Town Clerk reminded Councillors that at the January Budget meeting, £10,000 was allocated in the budget for this scheme.

Councillor M. Perfect proposed the Council agree to express an interest in contributing £10,000 through the match funding scheme, should it become available, for the identified play area at Kiln Close, however with the assurance that the improvements will include inclusive play equipment for all children. This was seconded by Councillor P. Cunningham.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council agrees to express an interest in contributing £10,000 through the match funding scheme towards improvements at Kiln Close Play Area. This contribution is to be made with the assurance that the improvements will include inclusive play equipment.

269. WILDFLOWER MEADOWS AT ALBERT AVENUE & CORNIST PLAYING FIELDS

Councillor C. Griffiths proposed that the Council write to Flintshire County Council requesting that both Albert Avenue and Cornist Playing Fields be considered for the establishment of Wildflower Meadows.

Councillor R. Davies suggested that, in light of recent news regarding the decline in butterfly populations, the planting should focus on butterfly-friendly flower mixes, noting that butterflies are also particularly engaging for children.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor M. Buckley.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council write to Flintshire County Council to request the creation of Wildflower Meadows at Albert Avenue and Cornist Playing Fields, with a recommendation to include butterfly-friendly flower mixes.

270. THE LAURELS SUGERY

Councillor C. Griffiths proposed that a letter be sent to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board regarding ongoing issues at the local surgery, specifically the inability to book appointments due to problems with the telephone system.

Councillor E. Jones said she has personally experienced similar issues.

Councillor I. Roberts said that such matters should not be discussed in open session unless the Council has resolved to exclude the press and public. He requested that he not be associated with any of the comments made during the discussion. Councillor D. Challenger also requested that he not be associated with the comments made.

Councillor R. Davies noted that a complaints process exists at the surgery and shared his personal experience of receiving a prompt and satisfactory response from the Practice Manager when he raised an issue.

Councillor M. Hanson expressed that the problems are not limited to one surgery but reflect wider issues across all healthcare services in the town. She also recognised the pressures staff are under in these services. She proposed an amendment to the original proposal suggesting that the Council invites the Divisional Primary Care Manager to a future Council meeting to directly address concerns and provide clarification. This was seconded by Councillor D. Challenger.

As the proposal by Councillor C. Griffiths was not seconded, it was not carried.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council will invite the Divisional Primary Care Manager to attend a future meeting in order to discuss general concerns relating to access to healthcare services in the town.

Date of Council Meeting	Monday 28th April, 2025
..... Chair	