

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the hybrid meeting of the General Purposes Committee, held on Monday 21st July, 2025.

PRESENT: Councillor M. Buckley (in the Chair).

Councillors: 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: Councillors N. Davies and D. Jones.

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Wood, Town Clerk and N. Thornton, Support Officer.

60. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM

There were no public enquiry items.

61. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

62. MINUTES

Councillor J. Stoneley proposed the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th June 2025 be approved, which was seconded by Councillor M. Moore.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th June 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

63. FLINT FESTIVAL & TOWN EVENTS

Councillor M. Perfect reported on the recent Flint Festival, which took place earlier in the month and was pleased to report how successful the events were. Councillor M. Perfect informed the Council that there had been an overspend this year. While sponsorship had been hoped for, it did not materialise.

Councillor M. Perfect requested that, should the Council agree to grant authority to begin planning and booking for Flint Festival 2026, efforts would be made to secure sponsorship in advance. In addition, changes to the itinerary and amendments to ticket pricing for certain events would be considered to help avoid any overspend in future.

Councillor J. Stoneley suggested the Council may wish to consider not including fireworks at the Rock the Castle event, as this could assist with cost savings and he had also noted that there had been some negative comments online regarding the fireworks.

Councillor C. Griffiths suggested that fundraising activities could be organised in advance of the festival to help contribute towards its overall cost.

Councillor M. Hanson acknowledged the overspend but highlighted that local businesses benefit greatly from the increased footfall during the festival. She further suggested that it would be worthwhile to investigate how much local businesses benefit from the Town

Council's hosting of the event and that consideration be given to involving neighbouring local councils in the planning or support of future festivals, as the event attracts attendees from surrounding communities.

Councillor M. Buckley proposed that authority be granted to begin planning and booking the necessary entertainment and equipment for Flint Festival 2026. This proposal was seconded by Councillor D. Challenger.

RESOLVED: That authority be granted to begin the planning and booking of entertainment and equipment for Flint Festival 2026, with a focus on securing sponsorship, exploring fundraising opportunities, and reviewing the event structure to ensure cost-effectiveness.

64. TRANSPORT BRIEFING

This item was deferred due to the absence of Councillor N. Davies.

65. FLINT RAILWAY SCULPTURE 'FOOTPLATE'

Councillor D. Challenger reported that a resident had contacted him with a request to consider installing an information board next to the 'Big Foot' sculpture by Flint Railway Station. The resident suggested the board should explain how the sculpture represents travel through the ages and note that it was unveiled in 1999 by the Arts Council alongside Councillors T. Evans and T. Renshaw.

Councillor D. Challenger noted that, with increasing numbers of visitors arriving at Flint via the newly revamped station, it would be beneficial to provide information about the sculpture's history and significance, as it is one of the first landmarks seen by those stepping off the train, therefore proposed that the Council write to the relevant bodies to explore whether this could be undertaken.

Councillor M. Hanson seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: That the Council write to the relevant bodies to explore the possibility of installing an information board next to the 'Footplate' sculpture at Flint Railway Station.

66. COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Councillor M. Hanson proposed that the Council explore the creation of a community orchard in Flint and proposed that the Council agree to the submission of a funding application to the Local Places for Nature initiative, administered by Keep Wales Tidy.

Councillor M. Moore asked whether the Town Council would need to own the land in order to establish a community orchard.

Councillor D. Challenger suggested that local schools could be approached as potential partners or locations for the project.

The Chair noted that if Councillors can identify potential sites, Flintshire County Council could be approached to confirm land ownership and to seek permission where appropriate.

RESOLVED: That the Council agrees to submit an application to Local Places for Nature – Keep Wales Tidy for funding towards a community orchard project, and that Councillors are invited to email suggested land locations to the Town Clerk for further investigation.

67. CENOTAPH

This item was deferred.

68. KERBSIDE WEEDS

Councillor M. Buckley raised concerns regarding the presence of kerbside weeds in most residential areas. She noted that while some residents do take care of the areas outside their own homes, the issue remains widespread. She also reminded the Council that the Town Caretaker, appointed in 2022, continues to maintain the town centre areas.

While acknowledging the importance of pollinators in open spaces, Councillor Buckley proposed that the Council write to Flintshire County Council's Streetscene department to request information on their current weed-killing schedules.

Councillor D. Challenger requested that the Council also ask what products are being used for weed control.

Councillor P. Cunningham added that he was aware of the difficulties road sweepers face due to the number of parked cars in residential streets and avenues. He noted that in some areas, the height of kerbside weeds was now posing a visibility and road safety concern. Councillor Cunningham seconded Councillor Buckley's proposal.

Councillor R. Davies introduced a potential community project that had been discussed informally by several Councillors. In light of the limited resources and budget available to Flintshire County Council's Streetscene team, it was suggested that the Town Council could help address the issue while demonstrating its commitment to the local area. The project would involve collaboration with fellow Councillors, local businesses, volunteers, and potential funders or sponsors to provide equipment, high-visibility clothing, and information leaflets. Some initial offers of funding have already been received.

The project would involve leafleting selected areas to inform residents in advance that volunteers will be visiting their street to clear weeds. The leaflets would also invite residents to take part, explain the importance of ongoing maintenance, and provide useful information about weeds and environmental impacts.

Councillor R. Davies proposed that the Council support this community initiative with the aim of launching the project in late August. The proposal was seconded by Councillor M. Hanson.

RESOLVED: That the Council write to Flintshire County Council's Streetscene department to request details of weed-killing schedules and the products used; that the Council supports the proposed community weed-clearance project, and that preparations begin to seek volunteer support, external funding or sponsorship, and the necessary materials and equipment, with the aim of starting the initiative in late August.

Date of Council Meeting	Monday 21 st July, 2025
..... Chair	