

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the hybrid meeting of the Special General Purposes Committee, held on Monday 8th September 2025.

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

Councillors: N. Davies, R. Davies, C. Griffiths, M. Hanson, E. Jones and J. Stoneley. M. Whittaker.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors D. Challenger, P. Cunningham, D. Jones, M. Perfect, V. Perfect and I. Roberts.

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

84. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interests made.

85. FLINT – GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms. K. Whitney-Lang, Flintshire Regeneration Manager and Ms. S. Birch, Flintshire Project Development Officer attended the meeting to present proposals for a Community Garden at Flint Library.

Ms. K. Whitney-Lang explained that the UK Prosperity Fund had identified the Library for green infrastructure development. The library had previously raised funds for a community garden in 2022, but costs for development exceeded the amount available. The Fund has now agreed to cover the shortfall, subject to the project being completed by February 2026.

A consultation undertaken in 2022 by the Library, followed by a wider consultation by the Regeneration team in 2025, which received 278 responses and showed strong community support, particularly for new community spaces. Plans were presented to the Council, including fencing in keeping with the Llys Raddington scheme, durable seating, year-round planting, and Library-led maintenance.

The cost of the project was also shared with Council and Ms. K. Whitney-Lang said although the costs of the development are high, market testing has taken place and costs are competitive and in line with inflation.

Councillors' Comments:

Cllr. M. Hanson expressed concerns about high development costs, public contention, future maintenance, already having sufficient green spaces in Flint, and possible historic ground issues.

Cllr. R. Davies supported the scheme but asked for seating more suitable for older residents, lighting, bins, rainwater collection, sensory planting, insect hotels, and historical signage. He raised concerns over ongoing maintenance and requested a budget for repairs.

Cllr. N. Davies supported the inclusion of sensory elements and accessibility features, suggesting Llys Raddington residents may assist with upkeep. She also stressed the importance of fencing for child safety.

Cllr. M. Whittaker raised concerns about air quality and the garden's proximity to the road. He also asked about opportunities for local architects to contribute under social value, requested details of Flintshire County Council procurement rules, and suggested the design could be softened to better support neurodivergent users.

Cllr. J. Stoneley noted the scheme's positives but felt the space was restricted due to the position of the entrance and also limiting access to Library opening times.

Cllr. M. Buckley asked whether the library's financial contribution would remain safe if the Council did not support the scheme. Ms. K. Whitney-Lang confirmed it would.

Ms. K. Whitney-Lang advised that significant design changes would add costs and delay delivery beyond the funding deadline. She confirmed that the UK Prosperity Fund could not be redirected to other Flint projects, but future opportunities may arise.

Cllr. R. Davies proposed that the Council supports the project with amendments to include seating with backs for older residents. This was seconded by Cllr. E. Jones.

Councillor C. Griffiths requested a recorded Vote:

Councillor M. Buckley	Against
Councillor N. Davies	Abstain
Councillor R. Davies	For
Councillor C. Griffiths	Against
Councillor M. Hanson	Against
Councillor E. Jones	Against
Councillor J. Stoneley	Against
Councillor M. Whittaker	Against

The proposal was not accepted. The Council resolved not to support the Flint Library Community Garden Project.

The Chair, Councillor M. Buckley thanked both the Flintshire Officers for the informative presentation and in addition requested an update on Cenotaph improvements.

Ms. K. Whitney-Lang advised of an opportunity to establish a joint working group with Flintshire Council Officers and Flint Town Council.

Councillors M. Buckley, N. Davies, R. Davies, M. Hanson, E. Jones, J. Stoneley and M. Whittaker agreed to form part of the working group.

Councillor R. Davies proposed we set up this working group to include those Councillors. This was seconded by Councillor N. Davies.

RESOLVED: That the Council does not support the Flint Library Community Garden Project and that a joint working group on Cenotaph improvements be established with Flintshire Council Officers and the named Members of Flint Town Council.

Date of Council Meeting	Monday 8th September, 2025
..... Chair	