

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

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

Before the opening of the meeting the Mayor invited Mr. R. Dawson to lead all present in prayer.

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

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors D. Jones, J. Stoneley and M. Whittaker.

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Wood, Town Clerk and N. Thornton, Support Officer, Mr. M. Price, Water Operational Response Senior Manager, Mr. S. Youell, Head of Emergency Planning and Security, Mr. J. Grundy, Distribution Manager, Dŵr Cymru Representatives and Members of the Public.

151. PUBLIC ENQUIRY ITEM

There were no public enquiry items.

152. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

153. DWR CYMRU

Mr. M. Price, Water Operational Response Senior Manager, Mr. S. Youell, Head of Emergency Planning and Security, Mr. J. Grundy, Distribution Manager, Dŵr Cymru Representatives.

Mr J. Grundy provided an overview of the water incident that took place in August, noting it was the second largest incident Dŵr Cymru had dealt with. On behalf of the company, he offered sincere apologies to all those affected, which totalled approximately 22,000 properties.

He provided technical information on how and why the incident occurred and highlighted that the issue presented many engineering challenges, resulting in significant safety risks for workers. Water stations were established in various locations, including the Jade Jones Pavilion in Flint, and water was delivered to those on the priority list. However, he acknowledged that insufficient staffing created significant challenges and expressed thanks to all stakeholders who supported water distribution during this difficult period.

Councillor I. Roberts asked if representatives could share a map they had referred to in order to assist the Council in understanding the supply network. Councillors were invited to view the map, which showed where the burst had occurred.

Councillor I. Roberts also asked why alternative mains were not used. Dŵr Cymru advised this was not hydrologically possible. Ideally, a dual mains system would exist, but the cost of installing one would be extraordinarily high and could not be justified for such a rare incident.

They reminded members that Dŵr Cymru is not a profit-making company and all income is reinvested into its assets.

Councillor M. Hanson asked why her property was unaffected. Dŵr Cymru explained her home is at a lower level; therefore, water pressure reaches it sooner. They noted they had maximised supply from Bryn Edwin until the system pressurised. Councillor M. Hanson added that her property consistently experiences low water pressure. Dŵr Cymru agreed to investigate and report back.

Councillor M. Hanson also asked why water mains are so deep in the new estate. The representatives explained that the estate is not within Dŵr Cymru's service area, but due to recent issues, they are reviewing processes for developments outside their direct responsibility to avoid future problems.

Councillor I. Roberts noted that Dŵr Cymru had not acknowledged that many Flint residents were affected prior to the main incident due to a temporary repair in Broughton the previous Saturday. He also questioned why certain areas and reservoirs appeared to receive priority over others.

He further highlighted that Flint's three tower blocks, the only high-rise blocks in North Wales, were without water for additional days until Monday. This was because, during such incidents, Flintshire County Council must turn off the supply to allow the system to drain fully.

Councillor I. Roberts described the water distribution centre at the Jade Jones Pavilion as 'unbelievably chaotic', with cars collecting excessive quantities of bottled water and no monitoring taking place. He gave an example of a resident in his ward who is blind, with a partially sighted husband, who received no water delivery for many hours. He personally had to take water to them, and the official delivery did not arrive until 10.30pm.

Dŵr Cymru responded that they used a self-registration priority list, and also worked with Flintshire County Council, Police and Fire Service, making an additional 2,500 deliveries beyond those on the priority list.

Councillor I. Roberts noted that the explanation regarding the cost of a dual main was not acceptable and stated that alternative systems or mechanisms could have been put in place. He also said the Flint Mountain supply is repaired three to four times a year, and this urgently needs review.

NOTE: Councillor C. Griffiths entered the meeting at 7.00pm.

Councillor I. Roberts proposed that the Town Council write to Dŵr Cymru and the local Member of the Senedd, as the community of Flint deserves a second mains supply given this is not the first incident of this nature. The following key points should be addressed:

Request for an emergency water distribution plan for any future incident.

Need for a more effective and coordinated water distribution response.

Clarification on why certain communities and reservoirs are prioritised over others - whether this is an operational or policy decision.

Investigation into ongoing issues with the Bryn Edwin / Flint Mountain supply.

Councillor M. Hanson asked why water rates had increased by 50%, where the investment is being directed, and whether infrastructure improvements are keeping pace with the significant number of new houses in the town.

Councillor M. Buckley queried how up to date the priority list was, as some residents received five to six deliveries while neighbours received none, and water was sometimes left on doorsteps without a knock, leaving vulnerable residents unable to lift it into their homes.

Councillor I. Roberts proposed that all of the above issues and questions be formally raised with both Dŵr Cymru and the Member of the Senedd. This was seconded by Councillor M. Buckley.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council writes to Dŵr Cymru and the Member of the Senedd addressing the concerns and questions raised.

154. MINUTES

Councillor E. Jones proposed the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th October be approved, which was seconded by Councillor M. Moore.

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

155. TOWN CLERKS UPDATE

The Clerk reported that a response had been received from Ms S. Slater, Flintshire Biodiversity Officer, regarding the Council's previously raised concerns and request for advice on weed management.

RESOLVED: Noted.

156. FLINT FESTIVAL & TOWN EVENTS

The Clerk circulated a report detailing the proposed expenditure and income for the up-and-coming events. This enabled Councillors to make informed decisions regarding the authorisation and approval of bookings and payments for the town's events.

Councillor M. Perfect updated Council on the Christmas events dates and said if anyone was able to help as volunteers at the events, this would be much appreciated.

Councillor M. Perfect proposed that the Council accepts the proposed expenditure, and this was seconded by Councillor M. Buckley.

RESOLVED: That the Council approves the proposed expenditure for the town events.

157. TRANSPORT BRIEFING

Councillor N. Davies reported that she had attended a Transport Meeting on 28th October in Shrewsbury. Information relating to the British Transport Police was discussed, and this information has since been circulated and published on the Council's social media channels.

She further reported that timetables are currently being reviewed and improved. Issues relating to delays affecting connections to the Holyhead ferries were also discussed, with particular reference to the bus service linking the train station to the ferry terminal, which appears to be the main cause of disruption. This matter is now being considered.

RESOLVED: The report was noted.

Date of Council Meeting	Monday 17th November, 2025
..... Vice Chair	