

**MINUTES of a MEETING
of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held in the
Council Chamber, BUCKLEY
on
Tuesday 22nd January 2019**

PRESENT

Councillor A Woolley - in the Chair

Cllr V E Blondek	Cllr R B Jones	Cllr E L Preece
Cllr D Ellis	Cllr M J Peers	Cllr P G Shone
Cllr E J Hutchinson	Cllr I Peters	Cllr A Woolley
Cllr H D Hutchinson	Cllr N Phillips	Cllr A G Williams

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr M B Wright – Town Clerk & Financial Officer
Mrs L George – Personal Assistant
Mrs T J Reece – Personal Assistant

17408- APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons were received and approved from Councillors C A Ellis (family commitments), I D Howes (illness), J S Jones (family commitments), W A Lewis (illness), S Peers (work commitments), C M Preece (holiday) and M P Teire (illness).

17409- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Three Declarations of Interest were made by Councillor A Woolley in relation to the following Agenda items: 8 – Buckley CSW 2018 Annual Figures, 11 - Flintshire Citizens Advice Bureau Statistics and 13 – Visits to Town and Community Councils by Independent Members of the Standards Committee. It was –

Resolved – that the Declarations of Interest were noted.

17410- MINUTES

Resolved - that the Minutes of the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 11th December 2018, as now submitted, be signed by the Committee Chair.

17411- APPROVAL OF DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2019/20

The Committee was advised of its element of the Draft Budget for 2019/20. The Committee was requested to either recommend the Draft Budget, as presented, to the Finance and Economic Development Committee or to recommend an Amended Draft Budget to the Finance and Economic Development Committee. It was –

Resolved – that the Draft Budget for 2019/20, as presented, in the value for this Committee of £60,354.00 be recommended to the Finance and Economic Development Committee.

17412- TOWN CENTRE MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Committee received and considered the Town Centre Manager's monthly report for January 2019. It was –

Resolved – that the Town Centre Manager's report be received, noted and approved.

**17413- MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE ELECTORAL REVIEW –
FLINTSHIRE WORKING GROUP HELD ON 7th, 19th DECEMBER 2018
AND 8th JANUARY 2019**

The Committee received and considered the minutes/amended minutes of the Electoral Review – Flintshire Working Group meetings held on 7th, 19th December 2018 and 8th January 2019. Those Members of the Working Group present approved the minutes/amended minutes as a correct record and as the Working Group had delegated powers to act, it was –

Resolved – that the approved minutes/amended minutes of the above meetings were received and noted.

**17414- ELECTORAL REVIEW – FLINTSHIRE WORKING GROUP
RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee was advised that a Supplementary Agenda item was before it, the item related to the minutes of the final meeting of the Working Group on 15th January 2019. The Working Group's recommendations to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales were that two variations of the original preferred Option 4 were put forward. The first variation, which was noted as Option A was listed as the preferred Option, whilst Option C was the second preference. A third variation listed as Option B had been discounted. Those Members of the Working Group present approved the minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 15th January 2019 as a correct record. The Working Group had, forwarded a letter to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales, which enclosed a map showing the variations required, the name of roads, the numbers of electors in those roads affected and a spreadsheet showing how the variations affected the 1:1895 ratio of County Members to constituents. As the Working Group had delegated powers to act it was –

Resolved – that the approved minutes of the above meeting were received and noted and it was also noted that a letter with enclosures had already been forwarded to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.

17415- BUCKLEY CSW 2018 ANNUAL FIGURES

The Committee received and considered a spreadsheet from the Community Speed Watch. The spreadsheet showed that during the whole of 2018 120 deployments occurred

which required 915 individual members hours. 2,049 vehicles had been recorded and 1,926 of those vehicles were referred to the Central Ticket Office. In answer to questions, the Chair advised that motorcycles rear number plates could be identified and that the fact that vehicles had been observed travelling the wrong way down the new Knowle Lane one-way system, was outside the powers available for the Community Speed Watch Group to monitor. It was therefore –

Resolved – that the sterling job the Community Speed Watch Group performed be noted and that the 2018 statistics spreadsheet be received and noted.

**17416- WELSH GOVERNMENT POLICY APPROACH FOR THE
COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL SECTOR**

The Committee received and considered a covering email from the Welsh Government which provided an update on the next steps the Welsh Government would be taking in implementing its policy approach for the Community and Town Council Sector. The covering email also enclosed a Thematic showing immediate action and further consideration required. During the ensuing debate it was noted that the report issued by the Independent Review Panel would not be the subject of a detailed response from the Welsh Government and the former Cabinet Secretary was clear that the report was the start of a conversation about how an expanded role for Town/Community Councils could be achieved. It was –

Resolved – that the above correspondence be received and noted.

**17417- GROUNDWORK NORTH WALES – LOCAL ENERGY ADVICE
PARTNERSHIP (LEAP)**

The Committee received an email from Mr Adrian Thomas of Groundwork North Wales, which referred to a fully funded service, LEAP which provided a no cost support to residents to keep their homes warm, cosy and energy efficient. Mr Thomas requested permission to attend a future meeting of this Committee to explain and expand upon the service that LEAP could provide. It was –

Resolved – that the communication be received and noted and that Mr Thomas be invited to a future meeting of this Committee to make a presentation in respect of LEAP.

17418- FLINTSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU STATISTICS

The Committee received a copy of the usage statistics for the Citizens Advice Bureau, Buckley Outreach Office, for the period 1st October 2018 to 31st December 2018. The Committee was asked to note that of the 44 clients seen during the period, 38 came from Buckley. It was –

Resolved – that the Clerk's report and enclosed statistics be received and noted.

17419- CAR PARKING CHARGES IN BUCKLEY

The Committee received a comprehensive report from the Clerk, which provided an update on the above continuing matter, the update related to the period 28th November 2018 to 11th January 2019.

The report advised that following a meeting between representatives of this Town Council and the Chief Officers (Streetscene and Transportation and Governance), Flintshire County Council, certain assurances had been given at the meeting by the Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), which had not subsequently been delivered. Also the report to the Environment, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Flintshire County Council by the Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) had contained potentially inaccurate statements. The Clerk had written expressing the Town Council's concerns regarding the above and had received a response which indicated that the Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) had referred the Clerk's email to the Portfolio Cabinet Member and wider Cabinet and that the Cabinet had decided that any further dialogue would not provide any new information. The matters of the none actioning of the assurance given and the inaccurate information contained in the report to the Environment, Overview and Scrutiny Committee were not addressed.

During the ensuing debate it was noted that throughout the whole series of negotiations with regard to car parking charges going back over the previous 18 months, the Town Council was not questioning the decision of the County Council with regard to car parking charges, but was questioning the process followed throughout the negotiations and the decision by the County Council's Cabinet to not engage in further discussions. The Committee felt that it had every right to expect a response in relation to potentially serious questions and to decline to answer them by the County Council was not acceptable. The Clerk and Staff were applauded for their tenacious approach to trying to obtain answers to the many questions that had been raised and it was therefore –

Resolved – that the Clerk's report be received and noted and that the Clerk be instructed to correspond with the Chief Executive, Flintshire County Council, the Leader of Flintshire County Council and the Portfolio Cabinet Member expressing the Town Council's concerns with regard to the none response to questions regarding assurances given and the information provided to the Environment, Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the County Council held on 11th December 2018.

17420- VISITS TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS BY INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Committee received a letter from the Chief Officer (Governance), Flintshire County Council, which related to the recent visits to certain Town and Community Councils by Independent Members of the Flintshire County Council's Standards Committee. It was –

Resolved – that the information be received and noted.

17421- PUBLIC HEALTH (WALES) ACT 2017 – PART 8 – PROVISION OF TOILETS

The Committee received a letter from Flintshire County Council with regard to the above, the letter requested the completion of a survey. The Clerk advised the Committee that the survey was in the form of questions to individuals and not really organisations. It was noted that Buckley Town Council had owned and operated the public conveniences in Buckley since its creation in 1974. It was therefore –

Resolved – that the communication be received and noted and that Members be advised that if they wished to complete the survey as individuals they should do so and forward their response to Flintshire County Council.

17422- ITEM TABLED FOR MEMBERS' PERUSAL

The following item was tabled for Members' perusal: -

1. FLVC – Voluntary Voice Newsletter – Issue 3 - 2018.

Resolved – that the item tabled for Members' perusal be received and noted.

CHAIR