

**MINUTES of a MEETING
of the
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held in the
Council Chamber, BUCKLEY
on
Tuesday 25th June 2019**

PRESENT

Councillor H D Hutchinson - in the Chair

Cllr V E Blondak	Cllr J S Jones	Cllr C M Preece
Cllr C A Ellis	Cllr R B Jones	Cllr P G Shone
Cllr D Ellis	Cllr W A Lewis	Cllr J F Thornton
Cllr I D Howes	Cllr M J Peers	Cllr A G Williams
Cllr E J Hutchinson	Cllr N Phillips	Cllr A Woolley

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr M B Wright – Town Clerk & Financial Officer
Mrs L George – Personal Assistant
Mrs T J Reece – Personal Assistant
Mr A J White – Town Centre Manager & Technical Officer (Contractor)

17622- APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons were received and approved from Councillors I Peters (holiday), E L Preece (illness) and M P Teire (illness).

17623- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made in relation to this Agenda. It was –

Resolved – that no Declarations of Interest were noted.

17624- MINUTES

Resolved - that the Minutes of the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 28th May 2019, as now submitted, be signed by the Committee Chair.

**17625- PRESENTATION BY THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,
FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SOCIAL SERVICES**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Christine Jones (Flintshire County Council Cabinet Member for Social Services), Messrs Neil Ayling (Flintshire County Council Chief Officer Social Services), Michael Jones (Flintshire County Council) and Messrs Gary Thorogood and Steve Hellon (Willmott Dixon Construction) to the meeting and invited Mr Ayling to make a presentation. Prior to the presentation being made, the Clerk

advised all Members and in particular those Members who were also County Councillors of the wording that the Town Council provided to Flintshire County Council in respect of views issued by Members. Mr Ayling then explained that the plans in front of the Committee were in relation to the expansion of Marleyfield Care Home. He stated that the care currently provided by Marleyfield was of a high standard and that the expansion would increase the number of beds from 32 to 64. He also advised that the development would be in part partnership with the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB). Mr Ayling then invited Mr Thorogood to talk through the plans. Mr Thorogood outlined his company's profile and expressed the fact that the contract was an unusual challenge in that it was on a hillside, which had a 10m drop from top to bottom. The emphasis of the development was to ensure that all residents had a view over the Alyn Valley to the Clwydian Hills. The new development would also respect the views and amenity of other local residential properties. There was a consultation at the Marleyfield Care Home Hall from 2pm to 6pm on 27th June 2019 and Members were invited to attend. The timescale of the project was to have it operational by March/April 2021. The Chair then thanked those present for the presentations and opened the meeting up to a question and answer session.

A number of issues were raised during the question and answer session, these included:-

1. BCUHB had identified, through a review 3 to 4 years ago that there was a need for extra care facilities and the new development would serve all of Flintshire and not just Buckley.
2. The scheme was generally applauded in that it took account of other local residential properties.
3. It was noted that Flintshire County Council had three Care Homes that they operated and it was questioned as to the timescale for people using step down beds. The answer given was that there was no fixed rule for how long a patient occupied a step down bed, each case would be dealt with on its merits. However, the utilisation of step down beds was not designed to be long term.
4. In answer to a question about the size of the rooms and additional full time staff, the representative from the company stated that the room sizes would be bigger in the new wing and each room would have a wet room attached and would have wheelchair access. More full time staff (qualified and trained) would be employed.
5. In answer to a question with regard to the security of the lower level of the extension, the company's representative advised that the outside area accessible from the rooms was secured via a dwarf brick wall and railings. It was also stated that the building was as green in its credentials as possible and it was hoped to get an EPC grade of A.
6. With regard to the staffing, it was confirmed that the staff would be Flintshire County Council employees.
7. In answer to a question in relation to the specialised waste recycling, the company's representative stated that the bin store had been extended and that other improvements were being looked at.
8. In respect of step down beds, the Committee was advised that the BCUHB would be supporting the provision of those beds in part. Where specialised nursing was required the BCUHB would also support.

9. A comment was made that the Welsh Assembly Government was interested in the local agreement being formulated between Flintshire County Council and the BCUHB.
10. Discussion took place with respect to the entrance to Marleyfield and the company representative stated that he was aware that the entrance was shared with another property. However a transport assessment was being undertaken and traffic surveys would be conducted.
11. A few Members stated that they had personal experience of the care provided to relatives in Marleyfield and all were very impressed.

It was –

Resolved – that the representatives from Flintshire County Council and Willmott Dixon Construction be thanked for their attendance and their answering of questions raised and that the presentation be received and noted.

17626- TOWN CENTRE MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

The Committee received and considered the Town Centre Manager's monthly report for June 2019. The Town Centre Manager confirmed that the Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Flintshire County Council, had advised in writing that Precinct Way Car Park could be used for the Fairground, which came to the town during Jubilee week if Higher Common was not in a fit condition to take the large vehicles. The Town Centre Manager advised the Committee that the Fairground operator had been requested to provide a full risk assessment and method statement in respect of the use of the car park.

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

CHAIR